

RED FLAG



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



WORLD'S WORKING CLASS NEEDS COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

CHILE, Aug. 24-25 – After two months of massive, militant student protests for educational reform, a two-day nationwide political strike was called by the labor federation CUT (Central Unitaria de Trabajadores). In earlier marches, students united with striking copper workers from Escondida, the world's largest copper mine.

Students and workers fought police and erected barricades in Santiago, the capital. Public transit was seriously disrupted as transit workers walked off the job.

The strike supports the students' reform de-

mands. It also calls for higher corporate taxes, pension reform, more publicly-run health services, labor rights, and a new constitution.

A spokesman for the Chilean government responded to the students' demands for free and equal education by calling them "utopian." In a way he's right.

Global capitalism is in crisis, and to think that it can meet workers' needs is a dream. Capitalist education, in particular, exists to justify and reproduce capitalist exploitation.

The president of CUT said that the two-day

strike would push "the necessity of having a new economic model." But CUT doesn't promote the "economic model" that workers and students need: communism.

Communism isn't a utopian dream. It's the only realistic plan that can free workers from capitalist hell in Chile and everywhere.

Protests are expected to escalate around September 11. That's the anniversary of the US-backed coup that toppled the popular (but still capitalist) regime of Salvador Allende in 1973.

More next issue.

Industrial Insecurity, Factories of Death and Poverty

SPREADING RED FLAG MASSIVELY AMONG INDUSTRIAL WORKERS

EL SALVADOR—"Since there wasn't any electrical power at that moment in the factory, they ordered the worker to connect the auxiliary generator. According to firemen, at 1:30 pm the worker inserted the screwdriver into an electric panel, which provoked two power lines to join together generating the explosion that caused the flames. They think that at this moment, the power came back on and produced the explosion which severely burned the two workers and caused several other workers to suffer nervous crises," commented a worker near the location of the accident.

Now the bosses are saying that this worker didn't work for them and that they have no responsibility to him or his family. This has caused a desperate situation for the workers and their families, since they are left without work, burned and without a penny in their pockets. This kind of insecurity for industrial workers is part of how the capitalists increase their profits and show their complete contempt for the workers' lives.

In a meeting with a group of workers we discussed the conditions of insecurity in which they work in these maquilas and what work in the factories will be like in a communist system under the leadership of the International Communist Workers' Party. We also talked about how we'll collectively solve the problems of production since it will be organized to meet the needs of the working class, not the bosses' thirst for profits.

This is the kind of insecurity in which the workers labor for \$5 a day

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Capitalist education promotes oppression, not liberation

BRAZILIAN TEACHERS MUST LEARN AND TEACH TO FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM

Public school teachers in Brazil's Rio de Janeiro state (RJ) recently ended a two-month strike, getting a small raise. They were allied with firefighters, who also struck over wages in June. They got a 6% cost of living raise; this is pitiful in light of the rate of inflation in Brazil

Brazil's recent strike wave has also included Volkswagen and GM auto workers, Petrobras oil workers, subcontracted oil and fertilizer workers, and construction workers at the Maracana stadium.

Behind this is Brazil's striving to become a big power at the expense of the working class. This is part of the dynamic of capitalist development that can only be stopped by establishing communism.

A while back, some thought that Lula da Silva's "Workers' Party" would save Brazilian workers from capitalism-imperialism. But Lula's hand-picked successor, Dilma Rousseff, calls herself a "pragmatic capitalist."

Since taking office in January 2011, Rousseff has favored privatization of new power plants, roads, and airports. Reining in wage growth is part of her pro-capitalist anti-inflation policy.

Workers can only save themselves from capitalism-imperialism by mobilizing for communism with the International Communist Worker' Party (ICWP).

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From England to Syria to Chile:

AS CAPITALIST CRISIS IN DEEPENS, WORKERS' ANGER SHOWS REVOLUTIONARY POTENTIAL

"There's uprisings everywhere – the whole world," an activist in the recent rebellion in London said, "Everyone's fed up."

His internationalist viewpoint rings true. For two years now protests, rebellions and strikes have broken out across the globe. "It's War Against Capitalism" a huge sign read as it was carried in one of the mass demonstrations in Greece. "We are all Wisconsin," read another sign in Egypt's uprising.

These are the voices of workers who are more conscious of belonging to an international working class emerging in struggle against capitalism in crisis. This development is uneven, and many still have illusions in the stability of capitalism. Serious debates about communism – inspired by *Red Flag* and the International Communist Workers Party (ICWP) - in communities, shop floors and barracks will decide the future of the world in favor of our class.

We don't need money-capital

We don't need to be slaves to any other class, especially not a tiny class of capitalists with their money-capital. We don't need money to regulate the production and distribution of goods and raw materials.

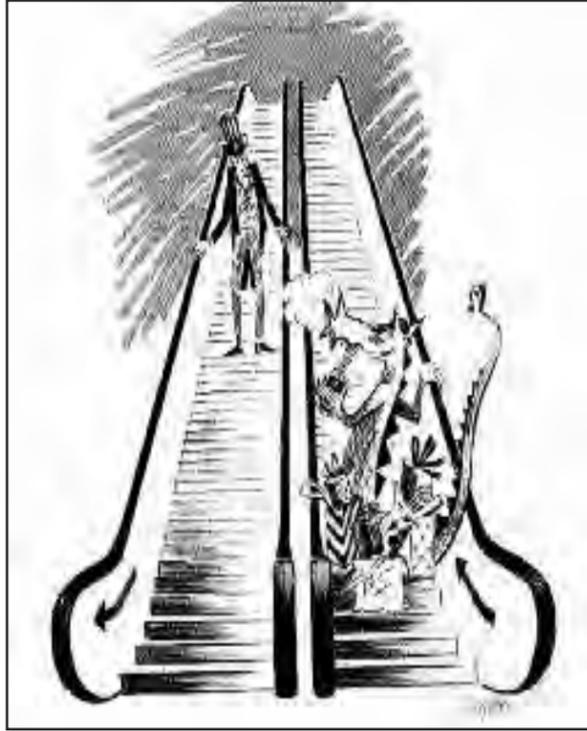
We need to get rid of the rule of money-capital. In this deepening crisis, as fascism and world war loom, we face both grave dangers and tremendous opportunities. The future is in our hands. Russian workers and Chinese, workers under similar situations, opted for revolution: Russian workers in World War I, Chinese workers in World War II.

We can do the same, but better. Thanks to them and millions of others before us, our class is preparing to rise victorious again guided by the most advanced political line in history: Mobilize the Masses for Communism. Fighting directly for communism, we will eliminate money, wages and markets, the very essence of capitalism that doomed socialism.

That's why we need to confront the bosses' racist fascist onslaught by massively spreading our fight for communism. For this, we need to build ICWP internationally. As we build it massively, we will be mobilizing and preparing our class to rule a communist society that produces for social need, not private profit.

Communism is not yet massively on the minds

of our class; but ICWP is putting it there, distributing our newspaper *Red Flag*, and our guiding principle *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*. From El Salvador to Mexico to the US, Spain and other countries - masses of workers, soldiers and students are responding to our communist ideas by taking and distributing *Red Flag*, joining ICWP and our study action groups.



Capitalist experts useless

European and US capitalists have poured tens of trillions of dollars and Euros into saving the Banks and they are still not safe. Not only are they still not safe but their economic experts – the 'brightest' products of their Universities – are despairing of ever finding an answer.

Listen to some leading US economists: Here's 2008 Nobel Prize winner, Paul Krugman writing in the *New York Times*, "It is impossible to deny the obvious, which is that we are not now and never have been on the road to recovery." Or hear Nouriel Roubini, an economist and professor at New York University: "Karl Marx (one of the founders of communism) had it right... We thought markets work. They are not working."

Markets, of course, have never worked by themselves. That's just a capitalist myth. Markets are the creation of a capitalist state, with its army on one hand and its Jails on the other. So, as the crisis deepens, three things happen. First, the

economists find themselves marginalized and the generals elevated (fascism looms). Secondly, it becomes clear that the crisis develops unevenly. In the US and Europe, the heart of the crisis, everything revolves around saving the banks. In China, where capitalism is still relatively strong, the crisis presents an opportunity to expand at the expense of its imperialist rivals. Third, the working class can no longer live in the old way and begins to rebel against the effects of the crisis.

Change is coming

In March of this year China issued its twelfth Five-Year Plan. An article in May's *Atlantic* magazine summarized it. "The economic blueprints focus on seven 'Strategic Emerging Industries' that Beijing aims to dominate on a global level: alternative energy, biotechnology, new generation information technology, high-end equipment manufacturing, advanced materials, alternative fuel cars and new energy technologies."

It's a comprehensive plan for world domination. It's a direct threat to the US imperialism's ability to "export" its way out of crisis and it could possibly threaten Europe's shaky recovery. Certainly it intensifies the rivalry between the two major imperialist powers. The US, of course, has its own comprehensive plan for world domination. It is in the wars of conquest in Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya. It is setting out to control the world's key raw material (oil) as well as save the US dollar as the world's reserve currency.

China's plan certainly intensifies the major contradiction that is propelling change in all our lives – the rivalry between the major imperialist groups - but as that struggle sharpens, a secondary contradiction is beginning to emerge more and more influential – the struggle between the working class and the capitalists, the struggle between producing for private profits or for social need.

If that contradiction continues to develop through the growth of *Red Flag* and ICWP, then this coming period will be characterized not primarily as a period of World War and domestic fascism, but as a period in which the working class, led by its Party, turned the imperialist world war into a revolution for communism. That will mean the liberation of workers and their allies from the domination of money-capital once and for all.

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and that keeps one of our class brothers who was burned in the factory on the brink of death. This is what motivates ICWP to take our struggle to establish the dictatorship of the proletariat and communism to these factories of capitalist death.

When a comrade in the meeting asked if the workers had ever imagined a world without money or bosses, the workers there answered, "No, we'd never thought about it." Another comrade asked them if they knew the cost of the shirts they make in the stores and a worker said, "Once we confronted the boss because he didn't want to pay us...with only one shirt that they sell, they

pay several of us and they sell thousands. How is it possible that they tell us they don't have money to pay us?"

Also the workers, readers of *Red Flag*, reported that they had distributed 20 papers in nearby factories and they were received eagerly. The creation of this club of workers who live in different parts of country has motivated them and us to be-

lieve more in building ICWP among the masses of workers who lay claim to their need for a better system: Communism.



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FARM WORKERS DISCUSS AND DISTRIBUTE RED FLAG

August 21—Today members and friends of ICWP returned to visit farmworkers in the San Joaquin Valley with *Red Flag* and to talk with them about the fight for communism.

One group spoke to two women farm workers who had worked for more than ten years picking grapes. The comrade said, “We’re with *Red Flag* and ICWP. We don’t just want to talk about the problems that affect us in the fields, but also ideas about how we’ll organize agricultural production in a communist society where we won’t work for a rancher or a company to make them richer, but for our class.” One of the farmworkers took five papers and the other took four, promising to meet with us again soon.

Another comrade visited the home of a young woman who was receiving 5 papers. She wasn’t home but her mother said she had left early with her packet of five papers that she had received the day before to distribute them to her friends



Russian farmworkers march to collective farms.

and relatives.

Another farm worker couple spoke about the dangers of pesticides and other chemicals. “In a communist society, workers will make all the decisions about how to do things. Do you think we’ll use all these chemicals?” a comrade asked. The workers thought it over.

“The chemicals are needed to make the grapes grow,” one said.

“It could be organic,” suggested the other.

“But people don’t like organics,” replied the first.

“Organics are expensive. Under communism we’ll produce to meet our needs. Organics would probably be better for the workers who grow the food and also for those who eat it,” the comrade suggested.

These workers took five extra papers, gave a

\$5 donation, and agreed they’d like to meet with us again.

Some other comrades approached a farmworker and offered him *Red Flag*. He told them he didn’t like to read any newspaper. A comrade told him, “This isn’t La Opinion or the LA Times. This paper is written by workers and it talks about the difference between the workers and the rich bosses. You don’t get this kind of information in any boss’ newspaper. If you don’t read this literature, you don’t understand the world around you.” After that the worker said, “Ok. You guys said you need a donation right?” Then he pulled \$10 out of his pocket, and gave it to us and took the paper.

Other comrades talked to several farm workers who had received the paper who like it and want to keep receiving it. Some want to meet with us again to talk about how to build a movement for communism. One man who hadn’t seen the paper before was very interested. We explained that the paper has an article about the militant struggles of farm workers in the 1960s and 70s when they won some reforms, all of which the bosses have now taken away. This shows that workers have to fight to destroy capitalism and build communism, to share what we all produce to meet our need without bosses, money or profit. He asked for five papers to take to co-workers in the fields.

In another conversation, when a comrade said that we’re fighting for communism, in which we won’t have money or bosses, like in olden times when people shared everything, but on a higher level, many of the workers nodded with understanding and took the paper.

Some comrades went to a commercial center and distributed 50 papers in an hour. Even though some of these comrades spoke little Spanish, they found people open to taking the paper, donating money and keeping in touch.

Before we began, we read an article in *Red Flag* about the farmworkers and also stressed the idea of thinking about the document *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*, and how we can put it into practice in our places of work or study. We plan to continue to visit the fields regularly as part of this struggle to mobilize masses of workers for communism and build a mass ICWP.

WHAT WILL TRANSPORTATION BE LIKE IN A COMMUNIST SOCIETY?

We talked with an MTA driver about what transportation will be like in a communist society. First he asked, “From the driver’s point of view, or the passenger’s point of view?” We said, “From both of these points of view.” He talked about comfortable, safe mass transportation available to everyone all the time which won’t cost anything and where transit workers help make and carry out the plan. “It can’t just be to get to work and home, like now. It must be plentiful and available for leisure time too, vacations, trips to the beach, etc.,” he said.

Then he said that the way cities are organized is all wrong. People should live near where they work and also near educational, cultural centers and places they go to get the goods they need to live. We discussed the need to reorganize cities to meet the needs of the workers, rather than crowding a lot of people into small spaces to be near factories that are only in a few industrial centers around the world. We said that industrial production can also be integrated with farming. Cities can be smaller and more plentiful—when production is planned for need, not profit.

We decided it would take the whole working class to plan and organize transportation and living spaces that accommodate to human need. This will need to be led by mass communist ICWP involving masses of workers in developing and carrying out such a plan.

We also started to talk about organizing a political strike against MTA and capitalism’s fascist attacks on the workers, a strike against capitalism. What will that mean? Upcoming articles and letters will continue this discussion and struggle.



STOPPING TO REFLECT - NEITHER A NOISY CELEBRATION NOR A DECLARATION OF DISASTER

We have covered a “first step” in our long march toward the elimination of wage labor. This required, in the first place, decisiveness and a great effort. We still need more.

We make plans in the middle of the battle. Our forces haven’t grown; this makes the struggle difficult. Someone said that my lack of participation in the reform struggle in the workers’ union as well as the teachers’ union for over twenty years is one of the reasons that we don’t have more new members of the Party.

Nevertheless, we started on the basis of our earlier influence. One or two dozen professors know us as fighters for communism. They let us distribute *Red Flag* in their classes. Some workers also accepted our paper because they know us as fighters.

In truth, they only know us because we have been in the struggles, unfortunately reform struggles, for over thirty years. We have demanded improvements in the conditions of study. We have denounced the careerists who put forward solutions to our problems if we support the Director’s position. We have supported the workers’ strikes and taken part in forming

the union of professors.

We have always opposed the legalistic strategies, calling always for confronting the whole system and building the Party.

Dozens of students have marched with us, but the priority was to win something for them immediately: a lunchroom, better classes, more opportunities to graduate, etc. Luckily, we never forgot to present the idea of communism, even though sometimes it was as an afterthought. That stood us in good stead.

Well, now we are in the process of improving. The new comrades are also learning to do the work better. We haven’t yet consolidated our base, but when we do, it will become a strong foundation for the elimination of alienated labor and the forms of private appropriation of its products.

Our plan is to develop our base for the distribution of *Red Flag* and to increase our distribution area, now emphasizing the factories.

We are optimistic. Let the criticisms come! They will be welcome and will serve to improve our activity and our dedication to the working class.

-Comrade in Mexico

REBELLION IN BRITAIN: OPENING FOR COMMUNIST IDEAS

THIS ARTICLE IS PRINTED IN THE WEBSITE IN FRENCH

“After British Riots, Conflicting Answers as to ‘Why’”. This was the Sunday New York Times (8/14) headline about the rebellions in London and other British cities.

Only communists explain that the real cause is capitalism and that the only answer is communism.

The ruling class worldwide is trying to paint this rebellion as just a lot of looting and thievery. It is important to them that workers in England and worldwide do not really understand what is happening in London, which is a world financial center.

But we are not fooled by the bosses’ media. We know the why, and it has to do with statistics such as these:

>First riots in Brixton in 1981 (police racist harass

>1985 riots in Tottenham started by the death of a black woman whose apartment was being searched by the police, leading to a heart attack

>Tottenham counts 113 different nationalities. Eighty-four languages are spoken there.

>For each job available in Tottenham there are 54 applicants

>Youth unemployment is 30 % in the Haringey district.

>According to a study by the London School of Economics, a black person in London is 26 times more likely to get arrested than a white person

The current government has made cuts of 90 billion Euros. For 2011-12 public expenses are being cut by 11%. In Tottenham, 75% of the youth programs have been cut.

There have been fightbacks in other developed nations including Greece and Spain, where workers are feeling the brunt of declining capitalism.

For the US ruling class, it is one thing for workers to see the so-called Arab spring, which they depict as workers fighting for democracy. However when workers in so-called democracies around the world rebel, the rulers use the might of their media to try to make us believe that these are just hoodlums, mainly black, who are “rioting.”

They don’t want us to see that the crumbling of capitalism and the misery that goes with it is behind this rebellion. This is not difficult to understand. It is not (as the New York Times said) “complicated and confusing.”

The picture the Times paints of the rebels is the same racist stereotype that we saw during the Harlem and Watts and Detroit rebellions in the US. But this rebellion was multiracial (as were the 1992 rebellions in the US), even though that is not what is portrayed (with few exceptions) in the British and American media.

In the aftermath of the rebellion, the so-called left- and right-wing (Labour and Conservative) parties continue to fight about how to make the masses more obedient to the ruling class. In the past, Western governments were able to gloss over these rebellions by throwing money at some of the problems.

However, because of the financial crises of the

US and the European Union, there is no longer any extra money to throw at any problem. It seems that the British government will take a very hard line, as they have already begun doing by putting 60% of those arrested (3000 people) in jail immediately.

But just understanding the “why” is not enough. In many cases the liberal media write about disparity and the kinds of problems that led to the anger we saw in London and other cities. Even the conservative Daily Telegraph declared that the young rebels were inspired by the bankers who bilked their clients of billions and the Members of Parliament who fiddled millions in their expenses.

Every day it becomes clearer that capitalism cannot meet the needs of the masses of humanity. Only communism is able to truly end the horrors of capitalism – racism, starvation, disease, and more.

We will do this by eliminating money, the basis for class divisions, and substituting communist morality where each person works according to his or her ability and receives according to his or her needs. This is the world we’re fighting for. In this world there will be no need for so-called rioting, as people will know they determine how their society is run.

This is one of many excellent opportunities for the ICWP to bring communist ideas to the masses. We are planning to get **Red Flag** to as many people in Great Britain as possible. This is an opportunity for all **Red Flag** readers to share these ideas with their friends, families and co-workers. Join the ICWP and share **Red Flag!**

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Capitalist Sports, Schools, and Culture Serve the Ruling Class

Both RJ and the Brazilian federal government are spending millions on the upcoming World Cup (2014) and Olympics (2016). The World Cup stadiums alone will cost \$2.8 billion.

The union of RJ teachers and staff (SEPE) has made an issue of the money spent on hugely expensive prestige events like these versus spending on education.

On July 9, union demonstrators traveled to the upscale Paraty resort to protest the lavish funding of the Paraty International Literary Festival. A major festival theme was the “Cannibal Manifesto” of Brazilian nationalist poet Oswald de Andrade, saying that Brazil’s strength is its ability to appropriate foreign cultures. The Brazilian government announced at Paraty that it will spend \$7.5 mil translating Brazilian literature into foreign languages.

Teachers and other workers should be protesting the nationalism of this propaganda campaign, not just its expense.

SEPE doesn’t attack nationalism. It doesn’t attack the content of capitalist education. One of the signs at the Paraty protest was “Education is liberation.” But capitalist education promotes workers’ oppression, not liberation.

Some criticize SEPE for allying with armed firefighters and the police unions who supported them. They correctly note that the police are an arm of the capitalist state.

But public schools are another arm of the capitalist state!

Capitalist schooling separates “mental” and “manual” labor to justify the bosses’ rule. It promotes elitism, patriotism, and other anti-worker ideas.

Communist education won’t be a better-funded version of capitalist schooling. Instead it will serve the working masses by uniting work and study, “mental” and “manual” labor, politics and production.

It will mean sharp, constant struggle to increase active mass participation in transforming social relations, abolishing money, wages, markets, and borders.

Teachers must school themselves in the mass mobilization for communism. They must teach their students – and learn from them — how to become leaders in this real struggle for liberation.

Brazilian Capitalism, Inter-Imperialist Rivalry, and World War

Brazil will soon have the world’s fifth-largest economy.

The Brazilian ruling class is a huge regional power. It’s making its bid to be a major player in global imperialism. It’s campaigning for perma-

nent membership on the UN Security Council.

But it isn’t relying on sports and literature. The current Brazilian military build-up includes nuclear submarines and an expanded satellite program. It’s trying to keep pace with Venezuela’s arms build-up, and prepare for regional wars.

Brazil-China trade soared from \$2 billion in 2000 to \$56 billion in 2010. China has surpassed the US as Brazil’s main trading partner. It is Brazil’s biggest source of foreign direct investment.

But Brazilian capitalists worry that skyrocketing Chinese imports threaten Brazilian manufacturing. They are resisting Chinese capitalists’ attempts to buy huge tracts of land, and restricting China’s ability to grab Brazil’s mineral wealth. They want more access to Chinese markets for Brazilian companies like the aerospace giant Embraer.

So Rousseff has improved ties with the US, trying to play the US against China. A Council on Foreign Relations report (July, 2011) recommends that US rulers “recognize Brazil’s standing as a global actor [and] treat its emergence as an opportunity.”

But this alliance is very unstable. Brazil-China economic ties will probably expand. Conflicts between Brazil and the US will probably arise.

A report to the US Congress (7/29/11) notes that Brazil is expanding its influence into Central America and the Caribbean. This, and Brazil’s independent foreign policy in the Middle East, “will inevitably lead to disputes with the United States.”

US-China tensions are escalating toward World War III. Whichever side the Brazilian capitalist class takes, workers and soldiers must understand that our task is to turn the guns around for communist revolution.

Until that happens, capitalism in Brazil will only provide tremendous inequality, poverty, and racism.



Capitalism is starving the children of Somalia

COMMUNISM WILL ELIMINATE FAMINE

In the Horn of Africa, capitalism is starving to death 300 children a day in Somalia. The worst drought in 60 years is a natural phenomenon—it didn't rain. But capitalist agriculture, civil war and inter-imperialist rivalry, which makes food a weapon of war, are what's killing the children of Somalia.

In a communist world, drought will not equal famine. Although we can't control the weather, the Party can and will guarantee that society is organized to produce and distribute enough food to feed everyone. We can build irrigation systems and desalinization plants that use sea water for agriculture. We will eliminate money and production for profit. No longer will land which can grow food be converted to the production of qat (a plant similar to coca grown in East Africa) for sale. No longer will the anarchy of capitalism stockpile food in one part of the world while people are starving somewhere else. And no longer will cynical politicians use food as a weapon of war.

Somalia has been in chaos with no effective government and devastating civil war for the past twenty years. Before that, during the Cold War, the US and Russia jockeyed for control of the Horn of Africa, a key strategic area at the mouth of the Red Sea, where US aircraft carriers protect tankers bringing Middle Eastern oil to Europe. Since 1991, Ethiopia has been ruled by a US client government, and Somalia has been consumed by clan warfare, and more lately by Islamic insurgency.



In December, 1992, Bush Sr. sent in 30,000 US troops to try to take control of Somalia, using an earlier famine as an excuse. Clinton continued this policy, but US troops were seriously outmaneuvered. After the 1993 "Black Hawk Down" incident in which clan warriors shot down a US helicopter, the US has not had troops on the ground in Somalia.

In the past ten years the clan warlords have been joined by a new insurgency, that of Islamic fundamentalists, similar to the Taliban in Afghanistan. In 2006, the US-backed Ethiopian government invaded Somalia and set up a toothless Transitional Federal Government (TFG) which relies on the military support of African Union (AU) troops from Uganda and Burundi. The AU troops are trained by a US mercenary company named Bancroft, paid for by the Pentagon ([NYTimes](#) 8/11/11). The C.I.A. also has a secret prison compound near the Mogadishu airport and has trained the Somali National Security Agency, which has become a government within a government.

Since 2006, the Islamic Courts Movement has splintered and the main insurgent group that has been fighting in Somalia is al-Shabab (Arabic for the youth). Although the Obama administration likes to say that al-Shabab is linked to al-Qaeda, the ruling class's own think tank, the Council on Foreign Relations, says that al-Shabab has no organizational links to al-

Qaeda. Up until recently, al-Shabab has controlled major parts of the capital city, Mogadishu, and at least 60% of the land in southern Somalia.

When the famine began, al-Shabab refused to allow Somalis to accept food aid from the UN and NGOs and reportedly kept Somalis from fleeing to the TFG areas to get food. While Obama's Secretary of State Clinton blamed al-Shabab for denying food to starving Somalis, the US government is worse! The US has refused to send food aid into the al-Shabab areas and threatened to prosecute anyone feeding starving Somalis in those regions under the Patriot Act. Now the famine is being used as a pretext for an escalation of the US-backed AU war against al-Shabab, and on August 4 al-Shabab withdrew from Mogadishu to pursue guerrilla tactics.

Control of Somalia is a long way off for anyone. Tribal divisions are strong in Somalia, and while US support for rival warlords has made it difficult for al-Shabab to unify the country, these divisions have also made it impossible for the US puppets, the TFG, to do so. Until communist ideas unify the working class to fight for our own interests, the masses will continue to die of famine and civil war. It is the responsibility of communists in East Africa and around the world to unite the working masses to fight for a communist future. Bad experiences in East Africa with nationalist movements and governments which used communist rhetoric to impose fascism make it urgent that we explain our line of mobilizing the masses for nothing else but communism. Part of our job in ICWP is to translate *Red Flag* and our key document, *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* into Somali, Amharic, Swahili and Arabic, and spread our ideas to East Africa where they are sorely needed. We urge readers who can help with that task to contact us.

Bitter Lesson From Libya:

FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM, OR CAPITALISM WINS!

As the most recent carnage in Libya shows, the imperialist butchers' struggle for world domination is sharpening and their oil wars are becoming more lethal and destructive. More than ever, as they prepare for global war, controlling the world's major sources of oil, while denying them to their rivals, is a life and death question for them, no matter how many workers' lives are destroyed in the process.

So much misery, suffering and destruction to empower and make rich a handful of millionaires: eleven million – out of a human population of over 6 billion people! We the 6 billion – workers, soldiers, students and our allies – mobilized for communism can put an end to this murderous profit system and build a different world.

In a communist world no amount of oil or natural gas will be worth even a drop of workers' blood. Under communism we won't have money or wages or markets. All we will ever need to produce for our needs will be our labor power which is the creator of all social value.

Collectively, our labor power resources are infinite. Billions of us, idled today because capitalism can't employ us profitably, will be liberated to creatively use our labor power to produce what society needs. Free from wage slavery, billions more who today toil to produce the bosses' profits will be freed to contribute to further improve our class' wellbeing. Producing only the best of everything, nothing needed will ever be too "expensive" to produce.

Collectively we can and will create a commu-

nist world without borders - free of exploitation, wage slavery, sexism, racism and imperialist wars. But for this we need to organize a revolution and massively build our International Communist Workers Party. In this struggle, we will steel ourselves to govern and administer every aspect of the world we will wrench from the capitalists.

Conquering and governing the world requires our class to have an international outlook. It requires us to understand past and current world events. Without this understanding we will never break the chains that bind us to the capitalists. This understanding is more crucial than ever, because we are at a critical point in history where our class needs to and can change history forever.

However, we must keep in mind that only a communist understanding of past and present history gives us the power to consciously change history. As the world's bosses lurch from local wars, to regional wars to world war, history tells us not to fall prey to their deadly traps of racism, patriotism and nationalism. Our class has no nation to defend and no boss to side with in their imperialist bloodbaths. Races and racism are creations of class society. We are one class internationally and our fight is to turn the guns around and fight for communism.

Without this understanding, and a communist party that fights for communism, we will always be pawns in the bosses' mortal games for world domination. The butchery of our class brothers and sisters in Africa by the imperialists' fight

over its natural resources and strategic geographic location is a case in point.

Gaddafi might be on his way out but the Libyan working class will have nothing to celebrate. Capitalism has been left intact in Libya. The biggest imperialist butchers seemed to have prevailed over small butcher Gaddafi.

The rebel leadership is salivating and planning how to share or fight over the \$50 billion of Libya's yearly oil revenues. Meanwhile, with workers bodies still piling up on Tripoli's streets, the "humanitarian" imperialists began their scramble to secure access to Libyan oil wealth, the largest reserves in Africa. France, Italy, England, Spain and to a lesser extent the US, are the main investors in Libya's oil industry.

On the world chess board, the US-NATO block seems to have prevailed for now over the China-Russia axis, which will be denied access to Libya's oil fields. This in no way, however, ends their dogfight over Africa and the world. If anything, it will just sharpen the rivalry and accelerate the imperialists drive to war.

Although the Libyan workers have lost a battle, they haven't lost the war. Both they and the international working class will learn from this bitter experience. It will steel and prepare our class to eventually stride victoriously on the world's stage vanquishing the bosses and sweeping them and their imperialist chess board into the trash bin of history. History is on our side. History shows we can turn the bosses' looming world war into a war for workers power.

This time it'll be for communism. Join us.

FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM, DOWN WITH REFORMISM!

This is the last excerpt from a reader's long letter:

As inspiring as the advances in *Red Flag's* politics are, much more of the struggle against reformism remains. In several MTA articles, for example, there has been excessive reporting of the corruption of the union leaders and the takeaways that are being absorbed by the workers.

To me, despite the concluding "communist" analysis, the excessive space devoted to seniority and wages and other trade union issues reveals old political habits. If we must talk about the other workers' concerns about seniority and wages and job security ...then we need to use this opportunity to expose and attack the philosophy of trade unionism, which is and has always been primarily about watching out for one's self.

We are communists whose ideological core is about concern for others, right?

The articles seem to imply that pensions and seniority and all the other ways we were bought off over the years were a good thing while they lasted, but now we need a better idea to take care of ourselves and our families, and – so the opportunist pitch goes – that's why we should be communists. But those days when capitalism handed us crumbs were never a good thing. They bought us wage slavery and racist divisions. They bought the capitalists more time.

We are not in this for our own comfort and security. We are joining the fight for the benefit of others and the children of the future.

What is communism? Or, maybe a better way to put the same question is, "What is life about?" Some of us think it's about self-interest, and some think it's about others.

Reformism (i.e., selfishness) is not just a bad plan. The divisiveness of this outlook is our enemy. This opportunist, self-serving trade union ideology, which has caused so much mistrust and bitterness, is probably as responsible for our dismal tactical situation as anything else.

The MTA articles seem to miss this point and opportunity. I think we can win equality by expressing and unleashing the power of our most basic impulse, love for our fellow humans! It will be necessary to ask people and ourselves to do many things that may not be in our "self-interest." But I think workers are waiting for a movement that gives them the chance to think of others!

I don't think many workers consider being shot and left in a ditch to bleed to death to be in their self-interest. Aren't we depending on the likelihood that this kind of conscious sacrifice and loyalty from many communist cadre and supporters will be necessary for us to win? This is a fundamentally different approach philosophically from the reformist, self-interest based one.

Many of us desperately want to know how to do communist work. We must give more examples and specific guidance and feedback and planning as to how to carry out revolutionary work.

How to build the communist movement needs to be a "mass issue." The workers need to be politicized, even if most do not agree at this point. We must plan how the global fight for equality must become the number one issue on the tips of the tongues of the masses of workers, replacing today's right-wing obsessions with personal welfare and money and wages. And the problems and difficulties of doing this work need to become the heart of this reporting.

Other workers must help shape plans for winning communism in order to feel the "ownership" that is necessary. We must welcome disagreement as an opportunity.

A sample headline from a recent MTA article might look like this:

"ICWP Transit Club Plans to Recruit Two Revolutionary Organizers by 2014

MTA Comrades and Friends Argue Over Need for Political Strike against Imperialist War"

—Retired transit worker

Red Flag comments:

We thank the friend for his/her helpful letter. The struggle against reformism and for communism is a protracted, key struggle for the working class. The question is not whether or not to participate in reform struggle. Communists must participate in them because that's wheremany workers are. The question is how to do so.

Participation means that our articles need to show the workers' concerns and demands in these struggles. This requires some details. We can't make a scientific assessment of what our communist position, tactics and strategy should be without this information. Complete knowledge of the workers' struggles and conditions is needed to show workers involved that only communist revolution and a communist society will meet our needs, that trying, however militantly, to reform capitalism is a dead end.

The writer says, "We are not in this for our own comfort and security. We are joining the fight for the benefit of others..." Capitalism tries to drill into us that the interests of individual workers are opposed to the interests of all workers, to pit workers against workers. Our own comfort and security depend on the comfort and security of the whole working class worldwide. Workers everywhere have the same interests: to get rid of capitalism and build communism. The bosses tell us otherwise to divide us and to try to keep us on the reformist tread mill.



Our choice is whether to fight for our class interest, communism, and to make that fight the center of our lives—or not. Putting our class interests first, building our lives around our collective interests is the way for each of us to fully develop and contribute to the collective. History is full of many who have selflessly fought against racism, but sought to reform capitalism.

We agree with the writer that how to build the communist movement must be a mass issue. Our recent summer projects help illustrate this in practice. But we have a long way to go. We have to make it clearer that we are asking workers to spread communist consciousness to their fellow workers and their families, become conscious organizers for communism, through *Red Flag*, political struggle and action against capitalism.

British Youth and Workers Burn with Anger

There were four riots in Britain in the beginning of August. Our immediate response must be to ask: **What should we do now to prepare for when those same types of riots break out here?**

The four riots were: a racist police riot; an anti-racist protest and rebellion, secondary riots (some opportunistic, some anti-racist), and magisterial riots (with the courts working 24 hours a day to put away, for example, a single mother of two for five months for receiving one pair of [looted] shorts from her flat mate). The cops and the courts were aided, abetted, and cheered on in all this by panic-stricken politicians. These parasites rushed back from luxury vacations in Mediterranean Italy and similar places. to legalize the occupation of London by 16,000 cops. The politicians and prepared to use, if necessary, the deployment of troops, using all that they have learned from occupying Basra, Iraq (where they were caught disguising themselves as Iraqis in order to assassinate their enemies) or, more recently, what they'd learned when occupying Afghanistan.

Perhaps most chilling of all were the neo fascist ravings of the popular press. Papers like the Daily Mail have a circulation in the millions. They had columnists calling for the cops to feel free to beat the rioters "like baby seals" (they are beaten to death). Another called them 'feral beasts.' It is a familiar tactic of warfare to demonize the enemy, but it is rare for the capitalist media to admit, even in a back-handed way, that class war is in fact a daily reality.

Spontaneous rebellions or riots have their limits but they do highlight a reality we tend to underestimate. Beneath the calm appearance of everyday life seethes a burning anger at this or that aspect of the capitalist system. No doubt at the height of the rebellion it would be a stretch to think we could win the youth to go leaflet industrial workers, but it wouldn't be hard to imagine the youth trained in our Summer Projects doing so.

The same masses that the rulers today attack as a "dirty mob" will be the ones who make history as they mobilize to wipe the arrogant sneers off the bosses' faces, destroy capitalism and build a communist society to meet our own needs and those of workers worldwide.

--a comrade

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To win communism, workers need a Party

EL SALVADOR.—“The electoral Parties are useless.” “In those parties, the politicians are only there to become rich.” These workers’ statements can be heard every day. This is due to the enormous deception that the working class has had with the electoral parties and that’s the case with the fmln. This has meant great disenchantment of the population who voted “for the change,” but only got a change of executioners.

A person with whom we’ve had serious debates and who has been in the fsln (Sandinistas) military with the rank of lieutenant in the Sandinista Popular Army (ESP) of Nicaragua, is very strongly questioning the leadership of the fsln and fmln. “Look, I consider myself as part of the common class, a free thinker, a seeker of justice and truth. I studied in the UACA, UCA (universities) and I’m a published writer in Central American newspapers. I’m also a true fighter for justice and liberty. From 1978 to 1982, I was in the front lines of the war against Somoza’s guard and the contras in Nicaragua. Then I came as an internationalist to fight with the fmln since 1983. What I demand is less of the shady political maneuvering of the fmln, which is following the script of the right wing parties when they were in power.”

In El Salvador there’s a massive debate right now about whether or not parties are needed or if they are a burden for the working class. There are those who are promoting themselves as “independent candidates,” militants against the leadership, mainly of the fmln, organizations like the Revolutionary

Tendency led by their messianic leader Dagoberto Gutierrez demanding that the parties disappear .

What is behind all these attacks on the political parties? We organized communists cannot waste this opportunity to confront the contradictions that are generated in these historic moments, when the capitalist crisis is at its peak. Why does the working class need its own Party? What role does the working class play in the massive construction of ICWP?

To be able to destroy the capitalist system and build a new communist society to meet the needs of all workers, the working class needs to join, develop and spread massively the International Communist Workers’ Party as our form of organization and struggle. Only such a party can galvanize the collective power and understanding of the working class to fight for and build communism.

For the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP), understanding the significance of the communist Party for revolutionaries must be an immediate task. We have to sharpen the contradictions and read in collective study groups the book What Is To Be Done, one of Lenin’s key works (that has to be read). This book explained the division between the Bolsheviks and the Mensheviks. This made the victory of the Bolsheviks possible by exposing the traitors of the working class and the need to take power. We need our Party to serve the working class, to fight for and build communism

One of the ways to build our Party is to massively build networks of readers, distributors, and supporters of **Red Flag**.

—Comrade From El Salvador

Students need communism, not reform of the capitalist state

EL SALVADOR—Recent protests in Chile and the US have shown that in the capitalist system the electoral parties will always serve capitalism and never serve the masses. Reforms can never solve the problems at their root.

Students have shown their capacity to organize and fight for a common objective. They fight for a quality, prestigious education for all and struggle against racist cops, but these struggles have a reformist character. We are the ones who must organize these youth against capitalism. Capitalism is only interested in training these youth through a psychological war to serve as workers uninterested in reality and politics or as intellectual fighters for democracy.

And we already know, through analyzing the history of class struggles, that Democracy is just a dead end full of lies. Only Communism will solve the problems of workers around the world through communist education and struggle.

In a communist society, there won’t be any more struggle for power since this will be shared by every-one. There won’t be money that so destroys and divides the masses. We’ll all work together arm in arm for a communist system in which the sons and daughters of the workers get a real education to serve the working class.

Fight for the Change that is Communism.

Read, analyze, and discuss Dialectical Materialism in **Red Flag**

--Red Youth

WORKERS’ POWER from page 16

spread as widely as possible. Even after winning in some countries, military attacks by capitalists from other countries are sure to come, until communism wins everywhere and finally ends war.

Counter-Revolution

Experience of previous revolutions shows that defeated bosses won’t give up trying to get back into power. Counter-revolutionaries will engage in assassination, sabotage, conspiracies, racist or nationalist propaganda, etc. Criminal gangs will be a serious threat to workers, and are likely to ally with the counter-revolution.

Protecting the working class requires destroying both counter-revolutionaries and criminal gangs. Much of this can be carried out by mass mobilization of workers. The workers’ army can destroy some of these scum directly. Since criminals and assassins can hide and run away, however, some people will need to specialize in tracking them down, with the help of wide publicity and mass involvement. Investigating crimes and gathering evidence, including scientific evidence like fingerprints and DNA, will require some of that kind training and experience. This training should be widely available, and not the monopoly of a few experts.

Punishment

When communist relationships are well-developed, anti-social or unsafe behavior or serious disputes can be dealt with in communities and workplaces by collective criticism and persuasion, before it leads to serious harm. While pro-capitalist forces still exist, however, serious punishment for crimes against the working class will be necessary. Punishment for leading criminals and counter-revolutionaries should simply be execution. Punishment for lesser crimes should aim at rehabilitation, but this must sometimes involve isolating serious offenders from the rest of the population, in other words, some kind of jail.

As communist relationships develop, there should be few cases like this, but we can’t say there won’t be any cases at all of murder, for example. We know from the experience of pre-class communist societies, which have no institutions for punishment, that murder is not handled well. Either the murderer is expelled from society, or he is killed by relatives of the victim. The first isn’t possible when the whole planet is communist and the second leads to more trouble. Thus we probably can’t do away with jails completely, even if they eventually contain few people.

Communist Mass Mobilization is Primary

Although some rules or laws and some enforcement of them by the party are necessary, no rules can accomplish the most important jobs that the working class will have after capitalism is overthrown. Organizing new, communist social relationships, defending them against pro-capitalist forces, and preventing the rise of a new exploiting class can only be done by the mass mobilization of the working class and its allies. But mass mobilization for communism can only happen when most people have a deep understanding and commitment to it, a commitment brought about by mass political discussion and struggle.

Organizing this struggle on a mass scale and putting communist consciousness into practice will be the main job of the Party as it leads the development of communism as the future of humanity. The communism of pre-class society that still exists in a few places on globe allows people to live in relative harmony and equality, but only in groups of a few thousand. With modern scientific and political knowledge that exists and will be greatly expanded as millions of workers join the party, however, we have for the first time the capability to unite the whole planet under communism. The key idea for doing this is the mass mobilization of the working class.

COMMUNIST PRINCIPLES from page 16

against the international working class and its rule. Punishment will be a secondary aspect of enforcing our communist principles. Eventually it will be eliminated completely.

We will apply our principles based on advanced criticism and self-criticism. That means criticism and political struggle (including punishment) to change the individual’s anti-social behavior. It also means self-criticism for the Party. What is the Party doing wrong, or how can it improve, in eradicating anti-social behavior? Mobilizing the masses for communism is key for accomplishing this.

As we organize to overthrow capitalism, we know that we need to destroy the rulers’ state apparatus. Most of us agree that after overthrowing capitalism in one region, we must keep a standing Red Army. We will need it to defend our communist revolution and spread it worldwide. It must be massive and that it must be fully integrated into a massive ICWP.

This combination will be the main aspect of the state our class will need, for a long time. It’s how we will rule society until all the capitalists, their lackeys, and many of their poisonous ideologies have been eliminated. In time, as we spread communism worldwide, there won’t be any need for wars, weapons, and class violence. The standing army will then disappear.

The Party will encompass the whole of humanity

We will be free and highly organized workers, guided by the principles of communist centralism and dialectical materialism. The Party will be, at a much higher level, the kind of organization that existed in pre-class stateless societies to collectively produce and distribute their material necessities and to guarantee their scientific and cultural advances.

WORKERS' POWER IN A COMMUNIST SOCIETY:

ICWP is now engaged in discussion and debate about how to work out concretely the idea that the mass communist party replaces the state after capitalism is overthrown. Here is a debate about this.

WORKERS' POWER AFTER THE OVERTHROW OF CAPITALISM NEEDS LAWS

An article in a recent issue discussed the concept of the state, which uses armed force to maintain the rule of one class over others, and the abolition of the state under communism. After overthrowing capitalism, the Party will lead the mass mobilization of the working class to carry out those functions of the state that are still necessary to protect the working class and prevent the return of capitalism. Eventually, extensive protection and enforcement will not be needed. Without capitalist exploiters and wages, money and privileges, the material basis of anti-social behavior will be gone, and political discussion and struggle will resolve most disputes and correct most anti-working class behavior. This situation will not come about overnight, however. Until communist relationships have been established for a while, we should expect that pro-capitalist forces and the corrupting effects of capitalism to continue in the form of drug use and drug dealing, murders, rapes, thefts, etc.

The Workers' Army

In order to seize power, the working class will need a powerful military force. This army will be a large part of the Party, not separate from it. Units will be commanded by those who prove themselves capable, but without ranks or privileges. Winning requires that the majority of the workers' mass communist party learn how to fight effectively and teach others what they know. Special skills, like piloting aircraft or commanding tanks, should be

[See WORKERS' POWER page 15](#)



A Chinese woodcut showing workers in a communist society struggling with someone who doesn't want to work that he should be part of the collective.

GROUP DISCUSSION ABOUT THE STATE

We discussed a *Red Flag* (July 21, 2011) article, "Class Rule and the State," concerning the need for the state, its laws and its institutions in communist society. Everyone agreed that some rules should remain enforced to ensure that modern society functions safely and particularly in a way that secures communist social relationships.

However, the rules in communist society need not be oppressive, like capitalist laws. Traffic rules while driving, for example, are the type of rules that communist society will inherit. But should workers follow principles to maintain communism? We find such capitalist principles in our society, such as property laws, trespassing laws, corporate rights, always oppressing us. These capitalist principles serve to preserve capitalist social relations and to protect capitalists' dominant position over the working class.

Communist society should enforce principles

that preserve communist social relations, but how do we enforce these principles? Someone suggested that a communist society establish a clear set of rules that applies to all communities. One concern is that communities differ a lot. Another person said that if people's needs are met, they will no longer be trapped in their particular community. Cultural differences will be rich and varied but there will be a global commitment to communist social relations

We spoke about the role of correctional institutions, like prisons, in communism. In capitalism, prisons are systematically racist and brutal institutions that punish and scare marginalized workers. Prisons are not intended to rehabilitate the inmates. In communism, workers won't be caged up like animals as an ironic solution to antisocial behavior. Communists rely on community pressure to win socially underdeveloped individuals to join the team. However, in rare cases of serious crimes of murder or rape, a more stringent form of reeducation may be necessary.

COMMUNISM WILL BE RULED BY PRINCIPLES, NOT LAWS

Private ownership of the means of production gave rise to the state. Its first expression was an organized armed group that defended the property rights of the rising ruling class. As society divided into exploiters and exploited, laws, courts, cops, and jails were developed to forcibly impose exploitation on slaves, serfs, and now proletarians. As part of the state, religious and educational institutions developed to "legalize" this exploitation and justify it ideologically.

After communist revolution, most of us seem to agree, we will eliminate courts, city halls, White Houses and Kremalins. Our state will be based on a huge network of Party committees that will decide and administer all aspects of society.

We Don't Need Jails

There seems, however, to be some disagreements on the question of jails and on the use of "specially trained" individuals to track and capture criminal elements and bring them to "justice." Some say we will need jails, at least for some time.

"Specially trained individuals" sounds like a police force in disguise. The masses can be mobilized and trained to deal with counter-revolutionaries and criminal gangs without the need of specialized individuals.

Jails – where human beings incarcerate other human beings – are dehumanizing to both. There are plenty of places in the world to isolate (not jail) serious anti-social offenders. They'll be free to move around within those places and will work to help produce what they need to survive. If they remold themselves, they can rejoin society. If not, they will live out their lives there. If they "escape" to continue their anti-social behavior, depending on how serious it is, they might be executed.

Laws Serve Capitalists

The biggest disagreement, however, is on the question of laws. Some of us think that the working class will rule society based on communist principles, not laws. What is the difference between principles and laws (or rules)?

As a veteran farmworker comrade wrote recently, "rights" developed with the state. Only the rulers have rights: rights to their private property, rights to exploit the working class. The comrade correctly pointed out that workers have no rights under capitalism, or under communism. We have only needs. Similarly, laws are an invention of class society to serve the needs of the rulers. Pre-class society was ruled by principles, not by laws.

In a recent discussion, someone stated that the capitalists' "rule of law" hides their exploitation of the working class. "Breaking the law" is a form of rebelling against the capitalists and their state. But the rulers create the illusion that transgressions are against a mystical "law." Their solution is punishing or eliminating the offending individual.

Under communism, anti-social behavior will be understood as an attack

[See COMMUNIST PRINCIPLES page 15](#)

While in these cases some action is needed, we weren't sure exactly what action to take and how to enforce it.

We agreed that communism must abolish all private property, but one person was concerned about how to deal with personal property. He didn't like the idea that the Party may kick his family out of their home. We discussed this and found that the real concern here is that he did not want the Party to have arbitrary power to kick him out of his house. For example, he had no problem sharing his home with those who may need housing while the community built adequate housing for the entire community. We also pointed out that many of our worries about running a future communist society stem from our fears produced in capitalist society. But communist solutions to social problems are not limited to the narrow scope of capitalist solutions. In communism, we'll solve problems like communists.

-A Reader