



RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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



SOUTH AFRICAN PLATINUM MINERS CONFRONT BOSSES AND COPS, SEE PAGES 2, 6

MASSES IN MOTION: POTENTIAL FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

“EVERYTHING FOR EVERYONE”: BRIGHT FUTURE OF COMMUNISM

SEATTLE, WA—During the final weekend of our summer project, the International Communist Workers' Party participated in the “Everything For Everyone” Festival, which included organization booths, a music stage, several workshops and panels organized throughout Jefferson Park.

In particular, we took part in the largest panel discussion, “Overthrow Dictatorship or Perfect Democracy? A Discussion Between the Commons and Get Money out of Politics.” About sixty people attended.

The first panelist defended democracy saying it could work if money were kept out of politics

He also said the U.S. faced crises like the present one and got out of those crises with “New Deal” policies. He added that he would work with anyone as long as there was no violence.

Another panelist countered that

capitalism does not work and it needs to be replaced. Nevertheless, he was ambivalent as to what should replace it.

He talked about the material basis of exploitation and racist, sexist violence. “Capitalist democracy hides the class exploitation that capitalism requires. Elections won't change that,” he insisted.

A third panelist baited the left. “You can't get to the society you want,” she asserted. “What's your plan for after the revolution? All the other revolutions failed.”

The final panelist spoke about worldwide social unrest, from Egypt to Greece, from the *Indignados* to Occupy. He emphasized that mass movements need to mobilize the broad masses around the most radical basis. However, he failed to fully elaborate on what that basis should be.

See FESTIVAL, page 4

SALVADORAN WORKERS HAVE NOTHING TO WIN IN BOSSES' FIGHT

EL SALVADOR—The conflict between the Legislative and Judicial branches of the Salvadoran government took weeks to resolve. This is part of the struggle among the different capitalist sectors of the Salvadoran bourgeoisie who, influenced by the fights among the imperialist powers, want to take control of the reins of the country.

Two groups of judges, one pro-ARENA and one pro-fmln, claimed to speak for the Supreme Court in a dispute about who was and was not legally elected to be a judge. The fight was temporarily resolved with a pro-fmln judge being made head of the Supreme Court and new elections for judges planned. Neither side in

this fight represents the interests of Salvadoran workers!

The party in the government, fmln, which follows the tendencies of countries like Cuba and Nicaragua, has as its goal to separate from the political-economic domi-

In communism, there won't be courts or judges to send people to prison because of poverty, racism and discrimination. The workers will determine the norms by which the individual will function in society.

nation of the US and look for stronger ties with the Chinese and Russian imperialists. On the other hand, the ARENA party

together with ANEP (National Association of Private Business) seeks to maintain loyalty to US imperialism. The real interests behind these disputes are hidden from the Salvadoran people and are presented as a conflict of the Supreme Court of Justice and the Legislative Assem-

See EL SALVADOR page 3

GARMENT WORKERS FIRED: WORKERS NEED ICWP PAGE 3

TRANSIT WORKERS SEE THROUGH BOSSES' TRICKS PAGE 3

BOSSES PUSH RACIST, ANTI-WORKING CLASS LIES PAGE 4

HUMAN BEINGS HAVE & WILL LIVE WITHOUT MONEY PAGE 5, 8

South Africa: Racist Rulers Murder Striking Miners

MILITANT MASSES IN MOTION DEFY COPS, FAKE-LEFT GOVERNMENT

“There are many questions hanging over the global financial markets, but none more pertinent than the following: will the global economy rebound in time to quell rising discontent among millions of workers who have turned—violently, in some cases—against capitalism?”

--Bank of America strategist Joe Quinlan (2010)

“The masses have woken up.”

--Boeing worker (after hearing about the South African mine rebellion)

The violent murder of 40 Lonmin platinum mine strikers by the South African police had been brewing for a while now. The wildcat of 3,000 rock-drill operators launched on Aug. 10 follows years of building dissatisfaction among the vast majority of South African workers.

Rock-drill operators at other platinum mines had for years led militant strikes where the union leadership has been stoned and police stations burned. If these platinum miners had the outlook of mobilizing the sympathetic masses for communism, they could build a movement to bury capitalism.

This latest rebellion has spread to at least two other platinum mines, threatening 75% of the world's platinum production, sending platinum prices through the roof.

Ironically, there was a crisis of overproduction in platinum just before the wildcat. The slowdown in automobile production had sent the price of platinum, used in catalytic converters, to new lows, making the Lonmin bosses unyielding. *The Globe and Mail* reports that the British-controlled mine will need an immediate infusion of nearly \$1 billion dollars in new investment if it hopes to avoid bankruptcy.

Capitalist Reformers Sabotage Workers' Revolution

Platinum miners have deserted the long-dominant National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) in droves, joining the more combative Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union. (AMCU) This is significant considering the NUM's long alliance with the governing African National Congress (ANC) and the South African [fake] Communist Party.

The ANC under Nelson Mandela led the struggle against racist apartheid. Millions fought the fascist apartheid regime, sometimes with their bare hands, for decades. Many more millions around the world looked upon the ANC and the NUM with respect and admiration.

The NUM has long been the largest union in the Congress of South African Trade Unions and was deeply involved in the fight against apartheid. But at the key moment during the last days of Apartheid, the Congress and the NUM leadership sabotaged the struggle.

Violent overthrow of the government was on the agenda at that time. The union leadership played a key role during those fateful days, channeling workers' anger into a negotiated settlement, rather than revolution.

So the ANC, the unions, and the Communist Party gave the new bosses a great cover, preserving capitalism after defeating apartheid. And capitalism must preserve racist exploitation.

The bosses may yet be able to contain this rebellion, but not because their system is so strong. Within a generation the South African bosses' cover was blown.

“Workers around the world are tired of these bosses coming away with fortunes, while they come away with broken bodies,” continued our Boeing friend.

Masses in Motion;

Communism Must Be the Goal

From South Africa to Bangladesh, from Europe to the Mideast and around the world, capitalism's crisis has moved workers into action. But taking power requires a mass communist party and years of patient mobilizing for communist revolution. Only communism can eliminate racism and its evil twin exploitation.

Unfortunately, for the moment the workers won't be doing the taking. The new South African trade union movement will give the bosses a second lease on life because it doesn't aim to destroy capitalism.

The AMCU has organized the rock-drill operators, who do the hardest work at the bottom of the mines. It criticizes the NUM for “sleeping in one bed with the bosses.” Its demands, however, are

limited to negotiating the terms of exploitation.

The AMCU calls itself “apolitical and anti-communist.” The South African Communist Party's betrayal of the struggle may have led some workers to reject communism altogether. Nonetheless, the truth is that only communism can free the working class from racism and exploitation by eliminating the ruling class and the wage system.

Capitalism is a dog-eat-dog system. Each capitalist competes for market share and investment dollars. Individual capitalists can only survive by superexploiting one group of workers to lower the wages of all. Racism justifies this process. A boss who tries to eliminate racism and exploitation would be eaten alive by his competitors.

Communism is based on cooperation. By eliminating money and production for sale, and by producing to meet the needs of society, we will eliminate exploitation. This lays the material basis for final victory over racism.

Sexist or racist ideas and practice must be met with principled collective struggle now and after the revolution. This struggle must smash the most insidious capitalist lie of all -- that these things can never change and capitalist exploitation will go on forever.

We must fight at every job site, in every classroom and barracks to bring the lessons of this heroic miners' struggle to the masses. We must build solidarity by fighting in every arena available to us, in every mass organization in which we participate. Expanded *Red Flag* networks will lead the way. The growth of ICWP will mark our progress.

We must build solidarity, fighting in every arena available to us, in all the mass organizations in which we participate. Our message should be clear: One class, one flag, one political line, one Party! Let's build ICWP, the new international communist movement.

As the examples of the Marikina Lonmin miners and millions around the world teach us, the masses are in motion. When they mobilize to fight for communism, a new world is possible.

WHAT WAS APARTHEID?

After World War II, the white-ruled government of South Africa instituted a policy of racial separation and white dominance called Apartheid. Like segregation in the US South, it mandated separate facilities such as restrooms, transport, and parks for whites, Africans, mixed-race people, and Asians.

Worse, it established “homelands” for Africans. Sixty-nine percent of the population was forced onto the undeveloped 12% of the land. African workers had to migrate to the white areas to work, where they were forced to carry “passbooks,” and couldn't bring their families with them.

The US and its allies supported Apartheid. US, French and British corporations reaped huge profits from investments in South Africa. US corporations such as Ford, Kodak and IBM collaborated with Apartheid policies. The US ve-

toed all UN sanctions on South Africa.

Resistance to Apartheid was often led by high school students and miners. In 1960, police fired on a crowd of black protesters in Sharpeville, killing 69 people. Also in 1960, the government banned opposition movements such as the African National Congress (ANC) and imprisoned their leaders. Around the world, economic sanctions and protests increasingly isolated South Africa.

A reconciliation process ended Apartheid in 1994. Nelson Mandela and the Communist Party were unbanned. An officially “non-racial” capitalist state was established. The legacy of Apartheid, and the nature of capitalism itself, however, have made South Africa the most unequal country in the world for all racial groups. While there are now poor whites, there are also rich and powerful, cops



Protest against Apartheid
Soweto, 1976

and politicians, who are black

Cyril Ramaphosa, founder of the National Union of Miners and president of the ANC from 1991-1994, is now a multi-millionaire. He owns McDonald's in South Africa and is on the Board of Directors of platinum mining giant, Lonmin.



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Fired Garment Workers: **NEED TO JOIN ICWP**

LOS ANGELES, CA. August, 2012—"More than 100 workers have been laid off at the garment factory New Fashion. The bosses say that the workers were fired because of lack of new orders. For years, we've worked for labels like Levi's, TRUE RELIGION, Emporio-Armani and others," said a worker.

The bosses of New Fashion started in 1974 with a few men and women workers. With the exploitation of these workers, they amassed wealth which enabled them to buy luxurious industrial buildings and a factory in Aguascalientes, Mexico. Meanwhile, hundreds of workers on both sides of the border survive on a miserable minimum wage and no benefits.

The General Manager of the factory angrily insulted some workers, telling them, "You didn't help me, [produce more and better quality for lower wages]. I've been paying you a lot of money in overtime. With what I've paid you, I could have bought a house." He's blaming the workers for the temporary closure of the factory.

Last year, the owner of New Fashion said, "We're in a crisis and we're going to close, unless you workers put forth more effort, produce more, and don't waste time." She continued, "I don't care if I fire people, even those with most seniority. Those who don't work harder will be fired." In a joking tone she referred to a worker who had worked for the company for 35 years. "Look at this worker, she can barely move. She can't produce any more." It's possible that the factory would continue operating by hiring youth to work fast and earn less.

These disgusting parasites exploited these workers for years and now they throw them in the street like old rags. The current crisis of overproduction forces the capitalists, including the garment bosses, to keep a high level of profits, speeding up the workers for more production,

and cutting wages and thus increasing the rate of exploitation.

Under the capitalist system this is the daily reality for millions of workers around the world. But should things be like this? NO! We know there's an alternative: a world with no exploitation, money, or borders, and where we workers and our families have everything necessary to live. In a communist system all workers will be appreciated for their contribution to society, from working to having and raising children, who will be the future. The oldest members of society will be treated with respect and affection.

For many years, some of these workers have participated in marches, May Day celebrations, and communist dinners of the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP). Many read with pleasure our communist newspaper *Red Flag*. Today we workers should see the need to join ICWP. Wherever we go to work we should organize more workers with communist ideas for revolution. We should develop networks of readers of *Red Flag* and participate in study groups about the communist ideas of ICWP.

Recently LA Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa announced plans for an online guide of resources for manufacturers and suppliers for the garment industry. This is part of an effort, supported by the US Dept. of Commerce, to bring garment jobs back to the US. "My message is simple. If you want to say 'Made in the USA,' you should say 'Made in LA.'" he said. It's a plan to help the garment industry compete internationally, creating poverty minimum-wage jobs in LA. In time of war, a local garment industry would produce clothes, uniforms, backpacks and tents for soldiers.

If this plan takes effect, we encourage our friends who were just laid off to work in the new factories to build ICWP and to fight to eliminate wage slavery forever.

EL SALVADOR from page 1

bly, a smoke screen.

Electronic newspapers from Cuba followed the conflict, signaling the interest of Moscow and Beijing in looking for more client countries and seeking to increase their influence over Latin America as they face the search for new markets for their exports. At the same time, some US Congressmen threatened to cut aid to El Salvador unless the dispute was resolved.

Both groups of imperialists also want to secure allies for the eventual World War III in which they intend to send workers into bloody battle to fight over markets and for control of the world's economy. This kind of bloody massacre can only be destroyed forever with the steel fist of the working class organized through ICWP, a party that was born in the working class in response to the endless horror of capitalism.

These bureaucratic struggles don't benefit any-

one in the working class. Instead, they lead it to be divided as is happening in El Salvador where the "left" party, the FMLN, and its allied block of right wing parties GANA (split from ARENA), PES (Christian Democrats) and CN (historically fascist National Conciliation) is calling on their base to protest against ARENA-ANEP. They also say they will fight so that the Supreme Court of Justice is in the "hands of the people." However, we should understand that the State is the apparatus with which the bourgeoisie administers its profit system and at the same time launches their repression against workers' struggles.

On the other hand, the ANEP forced the workers in its factories to leave the factories and threatened them with firing if they didn't go out to "protest" against the violations against the Constitution.

The bosses want to create a toxic ideology of nationalism and fanaticism among the masses of workers to lead them to fight for capitalist

Transit Workers See Through Bosses "Tricks" **BUILD RED FLAG NETWORKS**

LOS ANGELES, CA. In the middle of a sharp economic crisis in an atmosphere of rabid attacks on the working class, tens of millions of workers are in a life and death struggle due to unemployment, foreclosures of their homes, lack of medical care, and wars.

Under this avalanche of oppression, super exploitation and repression of the capitalist system the workers of MTA, mechanics, service attendants, and others went to vote to decide about whether to accept or reject the new contract. This will be valid for ten months, after several years with no contract.

What was negotiated, as in the past, is a joke in terms of the workers' economic situation. It included a 36 cents an hour wage "increase" implemented pennies at a time over the course of ten months. However, this isn't the worst betrayal by the sellout leaders of ATU. The serious thing about this whole circus is the political damage that they inflict on the working class. They want to make us think that the important thing in these moments of crisis is to stay passive and to thank the bosses for giving us a job.

These traitors consciously develop their work, which is destructive to workers' solidarity, instigating hatred and lack of confidence in other workers. For example, they blame the drivers for acting dishonestly and for sticking a knife in our backs, without mentioning that this was the leadership of the drivers' union who also

play the bosses' game, and not the drivers like they want us to believe.

These sellouts are ready to denounce other workers but they never raise their voice to condemn the capitalist system which day-by-day is dragging us into a worldwide catastrophe. They also never denounce the abuses that other workers suffer, as well as students and soldiers. They keep a cowardly silence when militant strikers are killed as in the case of the miners in South Africa. However, ICWP is discussing these attacks with the workers. They are also guilty of not organizing the workers to be prepared to take power and give the final blow to a decaying, putrid system. However, not all workers believe or follow their reformist politics.

Many understand that it's ICWP and *Red Flag* who represent the interests of our class. Day by day more workers are asking for copies of *Red Flag* for their co-workers. And as a worker from Division 1 said, "Give me four papers and in the end we'll see who laughs last." There's a lot of discontent. It's up to us, the members of ICWP and *Red Flag* readers inside MTA, to give a form, a cohesion, to this discontent through organizing clubs in the different divisions integrated with mechanics, drivers, and service attendants. And like another worker said, they screwed us again, but we must organize to get kick these traitors out and organize new methods of struggle.



Garment workers on strike in Bangalore, India.

"democracy."

In communism, there won't be courts, judges, the accused, or Judicial centers where the result is to send thousands of people to prison each year because of poverty, racism and discrimination against those who commit "offenses." In communism, the workers will determine the norms by which the individual will function in society. These norms will be reinforced in the new educational system that won't be linked to the interests of any elite or group of bosses, who won't exist.

Real workers' power will only come with communism, where the masses organize production to satisfy our needs for housing, health, and education of all human beings.

We must read and spread *Red Flag* so that every day we improve our philosophical understanding and adopt critical thinking that leads us to free ourselves from the propaganda of the bosses' mass media.

CAPITALIST MORALITY STINKS!

“If you’re not careful the newspapers will have you hating the oppressed and loving those doing the oppressing.” – Malcolm X

True or False: Virtuous behavior lies with the elites.

Capitalist defender and mouthpiece Charles Murray says “True” in his much-publicized book *Coming Apart: The State of White America, 1960-2010*. We say: “False!”

Murray argues that the upper-middle class and the elite running the country have been “coming apart” from the rest of us (the working class) on key moral values: Family, Religiosity, Honesty, and Industriousness. Carefully crafting his biased statistics, he notes that working-class people marry at lower rates, are less likely to attend church or participate in the workforce, and working-class children are less likely to live in two-parent households.

Murray blames the victims for many capitalist-created problems. He goes out of his way to defend the capitalist ruling class. In earlier books he attacked black and latin workers. Now he’s gunning for white workers, too.

“Family”

“Family” resonates with the working class, but factors affecting our ability to maintain two-parent households are beyond our control. For example, families are broken by the racist incarceration of latin and black young adults, and the racist social control enforced by “Child Protective Services.” This doesn’t mean that workers prefer the current state of being. One day soon we will smash the capitalist ruling class and reunite our families.

Moreover, dig into the lives of these highly-educated elites and you will find a picture not as “pretty” as Murray portrays. The Justice Department recently raided a high-end prostitution ring that catered to at least ten thousand high-end Wall Street clients, including investment bankers and top executives from Lehman Brothers, JP Mor-

gan, Merrill Lynch, and Deutsche Bank USA. They used corporate credit cards and falsified invoices to purchase cocaine, hookers, and booze. The Justice Department declined to pursue further action against the Wall Street executives even when offered “client lists.”

These highly-educated elites may be married, but not all is well within their families.

“Religiosity”

A recent study found that atheists are more motivated by compassion than church-goers (Journal of Social Psychological & Personality Science, July 2012). Researchers found that atheist and less-religious people are more motivated by internal factors, like emotions. In contrast, frequent churchgoers are more motivated by external factors such as “doctrine, a communal identity, or reputational concerns.” It’s not surprising that uncompassionate highly religious elites were capable of the lying, cheating, and stealing that worsened the current economic crisis.

In a communist society we will rely on the many benefits of internal rewards from sharing as we eliminate the external rewards of money and organized religion.

“Honesty”

Murray’s defense of the capitalist ruling class becomes outrageous with the claim that these “highly esteemed” elites should be working-class role models. These same folks paying \$10,000 a night for drugs and prostitutes fraudulently sold their losses to anyone they could swindle into buying them.

Their scheme started with orchestrating changes in banking rules. This enabled them to bundle high-risk loans, convince rating agencies to award them the highest AAA ratings, and lure large investors, such as public pension fund trustees, with all-expense-paid lush resort holidays. These investors lost \$trillions of pension fund assets.

Workers were the victims of these “highly ed-

ucated elites” who received \$millions in bonuses even when our tax dollars were bailing out their companies.

“Industriousness”

Lastly, Murray talks about the good ol’ “American work ethic.” He points to high unemployment and underemployment. Never mind the jobs and pensions lost, debt piled up, lives and communities left in tatters by the capitalist elites. Murray tries to convince us that the working class is not working more because we lack a good work ethic! He claims that elites work more hours. Perhaps he’s counting the hours they spend with prostitutes.

Why has Murray’s book of lies received so much publicity?

Capitalism is in crisis. The working class is increasingly rebellious. The re-emergence of class-consciousness cannot be buried despite rulers’ attempts. Capitalism’s wage slavery is more blatant, forcing workers into longer hours and multiple jobs without benefits even as unemployment skyrockets. Capitalists tremble as they have few options other than worldwide war to resolve their crisis, while they lack workers’ support for their exploitation and bloodbaths.

Charles Murray’s lies portray workers as “irresponsible,” “lazy,” or “unambitious,” telling us to “trust” the elite rulers because they are “good” people. However, workers won’t be fooled by cooked statistics that contradict our own experience.

Join us in ICWP to bury capitalism’s racist system of super-exploitation worldwide! Together we’ll build a communist system in which all will be valued and valuable to the collective. There won’t be any unemployment because everyone will be needed to meet the needs of the working class. Communist values of collectivity and solidarity will guide us all.

FESTIVAL from page 1

“I can’t say exactly what our society will look like after the revolution, but to me it’s like having a bear at your door,” he said. “You can’t wait to be sure what your yard will look like after the bear is gone. You just have to get him out of the way.”

Comrades lined up with others during the question and answer period after the presentation. We identified ourselves as members of the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP).

“Some of us are from Los Angeles as part of the ICWP’s Summer Project,” one speaker said. “We’re visiting Boeing workers and Fort Lewis soldiers. We believe that the strategy of organizing industrial workers and soldiers is a winning strategy for communist revolution.”

An ICWP industrial worker questioned whether it was the New Deal that ended the great depression. “In fact, it was world war. That’s what we’re heading for today. Talk about violence!”

Initially, the panelists were asked to address the short term, medium and long term. “The short term, medium and long term goals are to mobilize the masses for communism,” another comrade answered. “We’re for getting money out of everything! That means we’re for a revolution that leads to a society with no private property, no privilege, no wages and no exploitation. That is communism.”

“Communist revolution did not fail. It was socialist revolution that kept money, wages and production for sale that failed.”

Another added, “The most radical basis to unite and rally the masses is around mobilizing

for communism.” We ended with, “The future is bright!”

Many came to our table after the panel, liking what we had said. Throughout the day, scores took our newspaper *Red Flag* and our manifesto *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*. More than a dozen gave us contact information.

The young workers and students who argued for communist revolution were particularly impressive. You couldn’t miss them as they visited each booth wearing their ICWP red t-shirts.

“I never heard of an organization organizing in the military,” said a participant. “That’s interesting.” He wanted to know if we had been successful.

“Yes!” we answered. “Soldiers are open to communist ideas; they are really our working class brothers and sisters.” We pointed out two articles in the current *Red Flag* about organizing in the military.

We continued the discussion with some of the panelists. A young comrade suggested to one that he should have been clearer that he was talking about a communist future. “Maybe you’re right,” he considered.

Another young worker on the panel wanted to continue the discussion after the festival. He was particularly interested in building a communist collective at Boeing among the new hires. “Our movement lacks strength at the point of production,” he admitted.

We caught up with old friends from Seattle Occupy and met new ones. Everyone, young and old, got a chance to discuss and debate the prospects and strategy for communist revolution.

A new friend from Spain accompanied us back to our Summer Project BBQ. Indeed, the future is bright.



ICWP Seattle Summer Project



Communism is Our Heritage and Future – Part I

HUMANS HAVE LIVED WITHOUT MONEY – AND WE WILL AGAIN

In the early dawn hours of May 24, 1796, members of the Conspiracy of Equals stood on the Bridge Notre-Dame in Paris. They boldly distributed pamphlets to the masses rushing to work, urging the overthrow of the government. In the following days, women agitators took the lead in urging the troops to join in an insurrection to abolish bourgeois rule and private property.

Seventy-five years would pass before Paris workers could seize power and establish (briefly) the Paris Commune. But we are the descendants of the Conspiracy of Equals, and to us falls the world-historic task of mobilizing the masses for communism.

Early human societies existed for tens of thousands of years without money, exchange, or private property. This was once called “primitive communism,” but the word “primitive” wrongly suggests that such societies were simple and rudimentary. Actually they often had complex, stable social relationships and cultural practices. Some, but not all, of these social systems developed into the class societies of recorded history.

As class society and exploitation emerged, so did the movement to abolish them. The communist slogan “No privilege - From each according to ability, to each according to needs!” has been expressed in many forms, for thousands of years. It has inspired and motivated people on every continent.

The manifesto of the International Communist Workers’ Party, *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*, describes our roots in the communist-led revolutions from the Paris Commune of 1871 through the twentieth century. This article is the first in a series about the early history of communism, the red thread running through the tapestry

of human history.

Non-Class Societies Survived into the Twentieth Century

Sometimes we incorrectly speak of “early communism” as though it disappeared long ago, as it did in some parts of the world.

The !Kung San people of the Kalahari Desert

in Africa maintained egalitarian society almost to the present, though in a steadily decreasing area.

Much work in !Kung San society is collective (gathering expeditions, hunting large animals). The products of such work are shared according



Communist members of Conspiracy of Equals try to incite soldiers to mutiny.

to definite rules. In a hunt, the owner of the poison arrow decides how to divide the meat, even if the owner wasn’t present at the kill. When a woman lends her sack to others to carry back nuts, she shares out the nuts. In contrast, we mobilize for a communist society where nobody “owns” the means of production. We will collectively decide how to share according to need.

Men and women do different work, all of which is valued and valuable in their harsh environment. However, !Kung San society does not exist at a bare subsistence level. Women can often gather enough food in three days to feed everyone for a week. They probably could accumulate surpluses, but these would be a disadvantage in a highly mobile society. Music, dance, and joking around are all-important to the !Kung San: they solidify the social relationships at the heart of their system.

In !Kung San society there is no “exchange”

in the sense of barter or trade. Instead, gift-giving strengthens community ties. This gift-giving differs from disguised trade, for example among the Iroquois, where someone who isn’t satisfied with a return gift may take back the original gift.

Anthropologists call societies like the !Kung San “gift economies,” in contrast with (and in conflict with) market-based economies. Many Pacific Islanders had gift economies until the 19th century and some such practices remain today. People of Tokelau, for example, share all food resources in each atoll based on egalitarianism (*inati*). People of Anuta call a similar practice *aropa*. Reciprocal gifts (although now distorted by the dominant market economy) remain important culturally to Samoan and Tongan people in New Zealand, Australia, and the United States.

The Raramuri people in the Sierra Tarahumara of northwestern Mexico still honor the custom of *kórima*: each person must share his or her wealth with anyone who needs it. Within living memory, however, Mexican capitalism has almost destroyed traditional Raramuri life.

Globally, class society emerged some 8,000-10,000 years ago (in different regions, in different ways). It enabled the mobilization of labor and other resources that would let it overpower gift societies wherever the two social systems clashed. However, the long-term persistence of gift societies reminds us that communism is possible. Indeed, scientific evidence suggests that the ability to cooperate and share was fundamental to human evolution.

The mobilization of the masses for communism is based on an ever-deepening scientific understanding that prepares us to unite the whole world into one interconnected communist society. Mass communist consciousness will prevent forever the re-emergence of private property and class society.

Next article: *Egalitarianism against slavery in ancient China*

DEATH OF ETHIOPIAN DICTATOR REVEALS IMPERIALIST CONTRADICTIONS OVER CONTROL OF AFRICA

Ethiopian ruler Meles Zenawi, one of the most brutal despots to serve the US ruling class, bit the dust on August 20, 2012. For twenty years, he ruled Ethiopia with terror and repression.

During the 1980s, Meles led the Tigre nationalist-separatist movement against the fascist military junta of Mengistu Hailemariam (a puppet of Russian imperialism). Although Meles used leftist rhetoric to win the support of young Marxist-Leninists, he took power in 1991 with the aid of the US CIA.

Meles received \$billions to implement US imperialist interests. In 2006 – 2007, he invaded Somalia to oust Islamists who had gained control of most of that country. More recently, he sent Ethiopian troops under UN cover to mediate a dispute between Sudan and US client South Sudan. Hillary Clinton praised his personal commitment to US imperialism.

More than 200 demonstrators were killed protesting Meles’ 2005 re-election. There were more journalists in prison under his regime than in any other African country. His two decades of repressive rule were overlooked by US rulers until now, when this tyrant is six feet under and had begun making deals with China. (*NY Times*, 8/21/12)

US and Chinese imperialists have made Africa a battleground.

In January 2012, the African Union opened its

new headquarters in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa. The facility was built by Chinese companies and paid for with \$200 million of Chinese capital.

Speaking at the dedication ceremony, Meles Zenawi said that Africa, for the first time in almost fifty years, was beginning to make its own decisions. But sitting behind him on the stage was China’s senior political adviser, Jia Qinglin.

Chinese capitalists’ goals in Africa emphasize extractive industries, infrastructure, and exploitation of African workers. In Ethiopia, they opened a cement factory outside Addis Ababa in February, 2012, with \$600 million financing by a multinational consortium. They are rebuilding the aging highway network built by the Italians in the 1930s.



Masses of workers are enslaved in these factories, working for nickels and dimes for their Chinese masters. The highways and high-rise buildings sit side-by-side with the tin shanty towns that house the oppressed masses of Ethiopia.

US capitalists’ goals, in contrast, are mainly military. Since 2008, their AFRICOM command has existed to protect US “national security interests” by “strengthening the defense capabilities of African states and regional organizations.” That means sending Ethiopian soldiers as cannon fodder to serve the interests of US imperialism.

Many students and workers saw through the lies of Mengistu Hailemariam, who proclaimed Ethiopian socialism, but who exploited the masses for his Russian masters. Meles Zenawi jailed so many opponents who saw through his lies as well.

We have confidence that Ethiopian workers and oppressed masses will seize the alternative: to build a communist movement to get rid of the local capitalists and all their imperialist masters once and for all.

We are working to make it possible for them to contact ICWP and work with us to end famine, ethnic and tribal division, and religious dogma and to build a communist society where production will meet the needs of all instead of maximizing profit for a handful of capitalist parasites while the masses starve to death.

COMMUNIST "OPEN LETTER TO MINeworkERS" MOVES STUDENTS INTO ACTION

ICWP wrote an open letter to the mineworkers at Lonmin Marikana mine in South Africa. It expressed solidarity with the miners and their families and stated that we "have learned from the errors of the past that we can't allow capitalism to limit the fight against racism, wage slavery or police terror. We have to destroy the material base of these evils. That's why we call on the militant workers at the Lonmin mine and all workers to join ICWP in mobilizing the masses directly for communism."

This open letter has been an excellent tool to start conversations. After high school students watched a YouTube video about the miners' struggle, some students were aghast. Many had questions such as, "Why did the police kill forty miners?" "Have they paid for what they did?" "How can the police get away with stuff like

that?" They got background information about the situation at the mine.

Then students read the open letter. "What does mobilizing the masses for communism mean?" asked a student. The question led to a big discussion about communism and how it would work.

"We talked about how the miners are working to make the owners richer, while they get very low wages," reported a participant. Three Lonmin executives earn the same as 3600 rock drill operators!

"We spoke about how garment workers transform the cloth into pants and make the owner richer," he continued. "Before the cloth was made, cotton was grown on the land and workers transformed the cotton into cloth and made the landowner richer."

In the end, a comrade said, communism will eliminate all ownership. The factories, land, and mines will be operated and controlled by workers who will organize production and distribution committees in each area to meet their needs.

At the end of the conversation, students felt that they could explain to people who were signing the letter not only the miners' situation but also what mobilizing the masses for communism meant. Fifty students pledged to

circulate the letter.

"I'll read this paper"

Some community college students first learned about the platinum miners' strike in class. "Why wouldn't the president raise their wages since 75 percent of the world's platinum is located in South Africa?" one asked.

"President Zuma decided to go and actually try to show some type of concern, even though I feel he doesn't care," remarked another. "It was really unfair that the police were so brutal and mean towards the strikers."

An older person reminded the class that South African miners and other workers and youth had fought hard to end the racist Apartheid system. "But when Zuma's party came to power they kept capitalism," she explained, "and now they are killing workers just like the Apartheid government did."

Other community college students responded enthusiastically to the open letter. Comrades went to the campus to tell students what happened and to explain that the struggle must be to end capitalism with communism. About sixty students took our literature and many signed the letter. They look forward to reading more in *Red Flag* about this struggle.

One student said he supported democracy. When a *Red Flag* seller explained that democracy was invented by Greek slave-owners to justify class society, the student laughed heartily and said, "I'll read this paper!"



Wives of Lonmin miners protest police massacre.

HARD-FOUGHT LESSONS TEACH US HOW TO WIN & KEEP COMMUNISM

During this year's summer projects our Party met thousands of young (and older) workers, students and soldiers who hate capitalism. Most want to know what went wrong with the old communist movement before they dedicate themselves to a new revolutionary struggle. That seems reasonable.

We often saw reformists fail to convince these potential new recruits that capitalism has a chance. Eventually, every one of these reformers resorted to the same old bait:

"You got no choice but to try and make this system work because that's all there is," they whine. "Communism hasn't worked."

As we started to discuss in the last article, it is socialism that failed, not communism. In fact, knowledge of the specific features of socialism that prevented it from reaching communism is key to confidence that we will succeed. We continue this discussion.

The old movement thought socialism would be a halfway house to communism. That didn't happen because socialism still follows the basic "laws of motion" of capitalism, particularly laws about money and the market.

It preserves not only money and markets, but also trade in commodities, the wage system and private appropriation of wealth. History has shown that this leads to destructive conflicts even in societies with no classes.

The indigenous peoples of North America

fought an endless series of wars over resources and trade routes even before Europeans arrived. But communist mass mobilization of production and distribution, aimed at meeting needs of the workers, will give us the means to overcome inequalities and prevent conflicts between different regions of the world.

We will need a standing army after the revolution. We can expect every capitalist power in the world to attack any new communist beachhead.

The development of a new capitalist class is inevitable under socialism. The old bourgeoisie-style armed forces can defeat workers' struggles against the new capitalists, as happened in the Cultural Revolution in China. Hence there must be no armed force separate from the masses under communism.

Mass communist political consciousness (that is, understanding of and agreement with communism by most people) is a critical factor in winning and keeping communism.

It is certainly not enough, however. Socialism in China used the idea that the party and the government should be "supervised by the masses." This meant that the masses were supposed to keep the Party and government honest by protesting when these institutions did not serve them.

Mass struggles in China showed, however, that the masses could never "supervise" from the outside. Only the actual participation by masses

of people who are committed to communism and led by the Party can do this. Only mass participation inside all institutions of communist society can prevent those institutions from being turned against the working class.

This means that communism cannot succeed if the masses of workers don't participate. We can't "elect" or "appoint" a representative who will fight for our needs in some stuffy parliamentary body miles away in a huge stone building.

The job of the Party is to organize debate, discussion and action at every level of our society. Facts and results of practice will be available for all. We will have honest criticism and self-criticism. That's how the international working class can rule.

Knowledge of specific features of socialism that prevented it from reaching communism is fundamental to our strategy for fighting for communism now. Mobilizing the masses for communism is the program for creating and keeping communism that specifically rejects the socialist ideas and practices that led to working class defeat. This knowledge shows us the way forward to communism.

Our final article will discuss what we know and what we don't know about the laws of motion of communism. The sacrifices of millions to build this movement were not in vain. We learned a good bit about how to make communism succeed.

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PLANNING AND FIGHTING FOR THE PRESENT AND THE COMMUNIST FUTURE

I knew the Salvadoran Communist Party, reformist like the fmln. In both I lived the moment of my political awakening, but it's been in ICWP where I understood the revolutionary drive of the International Communist Workers' Party in which I was re-born and to which I belong. Yes, this is a real change.

In my club there are two youth and three adults and we have ten readers. We distribute two *Red Flags* each and here I'm also bringing together an organization of struggle. Three of us are workers, and two are university students, who are struggling internally because they are bogged down in the mud of capitalist education. To become detached from these illusions means that they need to carry out a true internal revolution to take a communist leap in development. At the beginning I had 20 readers. I talked with some, including having club meetings that looked more like a committee. I felt that I wasn't making major advances so I concentrated instead on the comrades who were the most interested, which I consider

a qualitative change.

We live in a complicated capitalist system in which fewer and fewer benefit from it every day. I try to imagine how a world without money will be. It's easy to say. The problem comes when you start to delve into things. In agriculture, you have to buy the agricultural supplies, because there isn't a class or institution that serves to provide research to farmers. If we were sensible, little by little we would be creating experimental laboratories to serve those who grow the food.

But what about our need to clothe ourselves? We'll need a group to gather natural resources and to make clothes. Those who are working making clothes and food (for free) now have experience doing these things. What would we do with the machines? Who would process the material? There are workers who know how to do it. How would we make the machines? Who will make or process the material? There are workers who know how to make thread and make the cloth, who've done

it as individual work. They could maintain these machines and for them food would be guaranteed. They themselves would clothe themselves and the rest of us. We've discussed all these questions in my club.

Now from here we need the masses won to communism to spread this process and leave greedy capitalism behind. We have to go on finding ways or developing methods, we have to have some exercises as a test.

For the moment we can't because we're faced with impending World War III. While we're in that process, we can't make this leap, because this plan of production will require that all us workers must be in a state of true peace as all human beings should be. That is, we'll have another, different, life. This other epoch is possible.

Meanwhile I continue to look for more *Red Flag* readers and friends, who will become organized communist leaders in the International Communist Workers' Party

--Comrade in El Salvador

Declining Rate of Profit Makes War Inevitable

The series on political economy is very helpful in explaining communist theory. An historical example of the declining rate of profit might be useful. At the end of World War II, the US became the top imperialist power. The US produced many tanks and other weapons for the war in US factories, but suffered many fewer deaths than workers in Russia, Europe, Japan and China. Also, US industry was left intact while most of Russian, European and Japanese industry had been destroyed by war. The US built factories using the latest technology at home and throughout Europe producing the most advanced cars, washing machines, airplanes, etc. The deadly World War reset the rate of profit to be high, and the amount of profits for the US bosses was high. They controlled 50% of the world market.

By the 1970's, Germany and Japan were building modern factories that successfully competed with the US bosses. The US bosses were bogged down in the war in Vietnam. The rate of profit for the US bosses began to decline. The US bosses faced a dilemma: they could completely rebuild their industries to better compete with Germany and Japan (requiring huge capital outlays), or they could concentrate on militarily defending their empire primarily through control of oil and gas in the Middle East. They chose the later, which the "Carter Doctrine" codified (any nation threatening the Middle East was to

be considered directly threatening the US).

The rate of profit has been declining since the 1970's most rapidly in the US, but also world wide, as all the bosses fight for market share and to attack workers' wages to try to impede the declining rate of profit. The US bosses have lost markets to their rivals in China and Europe who produce more for lower cost. The US share of world value added by manufacture is about 20%, down from 35% in 1970. The US and China are now locked in deadly competition for markets, resources and control of oil from the Middle East to the South China Sea to Africa. This is leading to WWII. The declining rate of profit makes world war inevitable. Only Communist revolution will end it.

A Reader

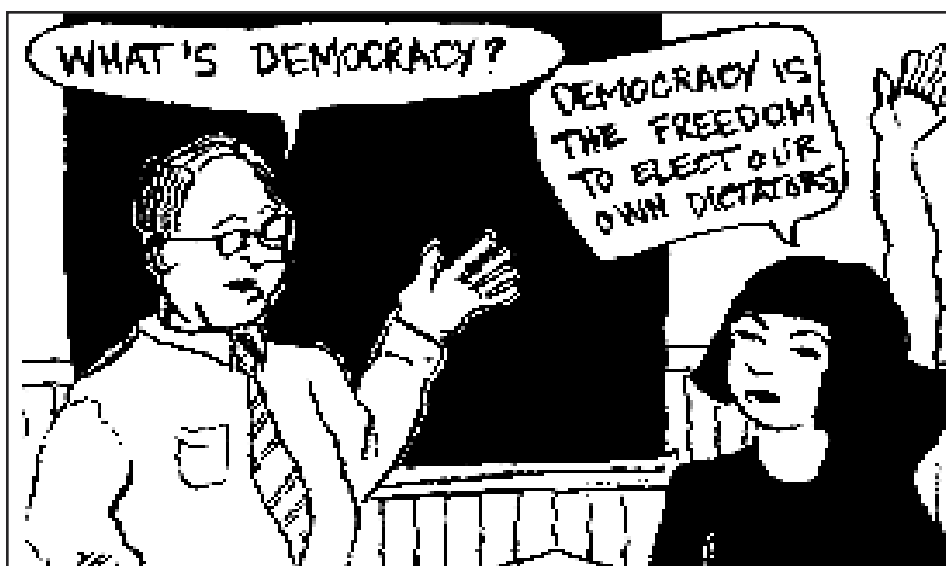
Destroy Capitalist Sexual Predators

Division 8 women operators are feeling a sense of relief since the transfer of Assistant Manager Ralph Gray. Ralph Gray was sent to Division 7 after rumors of sexual misconduct in the women's restroom of Division 8. A similar

incident occurred involving his ex-wife, Lillian Ford, a supervisor at Division 8, who was sent to Division 15 recently for charges of sexual misconduct and battery against a Division 8 Assistant Manager. Nevertheless, operators are now feeling safe knowing that both are gone. Women of Division 7, Beware of Ralph Gray!

--An MTA reader

Red Flag comments: Thank you for your letter. We're glad that workers at Division 8 feel a sense of relief that Ralph Gray is gone, but unfortunately, no worker is safe as long as racist, sexist capitalism exists. That's why we urge you and all workers to spread *Red Flag* and to join the fight to get rid of the capitalist system that produces and promotes predators like Gray and Ford. Let's not forget that the biggest predators are the capitalist bosses themselves. After we get rid of them, we workers will collectively build a communist world where our safety and wellbeing is the main purpose of society, where all workers are safe and free from exploitation, racism and sexism— forever.



US Democratic and Republican party conventions are consolidating their mass base to mobilize support for capitalist dictatorship over the workers. Both parties claim they'll do the best job for their capitalist bosses. We don't need "democracy." We need communism. More next issue.

WITHOUT MONEY, from page 8

Eliminating money, communism will eliminate wage slavery

make profit. If not they squander our labor power and practically condemn us to die of hunger.

That's why many workers believe that we can't live without money. But if we abolish the bosses and their money, we have our labor power to produce everything useful that we and society need.

Money in the form of wages chains us to capitalism. Eliminating money, we'll break these chains and our labor power will only produce for use.

We'll burn paper money because nothing will be bought or sold. Gold, silver, and "precious"

stones like diamonds won't have the "great value" that the bosses give them. In reality, these have very little use value.

All we need - once we take over all the means of production from the bosses - is our labor power to produce everything that society needs. Understanding this is indispensable to make a communist revolution and build communism.

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

Falling Rate of Profit is a Disaster for Workers:

COMMUNISM WILL ABOLISH PROFITS, MONEY & EXPLOITATION

In the last issue of *Red Flag* we explained how capitalist bosses' relentless pursuit of maximum profit forces them to invest in machinery. In this process, as machines replace workers, fewer workers produce more commodities and therefore the value of commodities falls. Since only workers' labor can create value, fewer workers now create less new value. At the same time, the bosses' costs for machinery go up, so the rate of profit falls. This is an important law of capitalism. Unless the bosses take measures to counter this tendency of the rate of profit to fall, serious crises develop.

Suppose that the socially necessary labor time to produce 100 loaves of bread is 1 hour. There are two companies, A and B, producing bread and they each have a certain market share. If company A makes a heavy investment in machinery and now produces 500 loaves of bread an hour, the value of one loaf of bread is now less than before because it requires less labor time to produce.

In order to make profit, Company A now must produce a lot more bread, to recover the cost of the machines, and also to capture part of the market of Company B. Company B, which is still producing 100 loaves an hour, can't afford to sell its product as cheaply as Company A. It must also invest in the newer machinery or it will go out of business.

Both companies are locked in a battle for survival. They attack the workers harder to extract more surplus value from them.

In real life, there are more than two companies. There are many capitalists spread over many countries in different segments of industry desperately trying to maximize their profit. As the example shows, the very action of individual capitalists to increase their profit causes the rate of profit to decline over all.

An aspect of the law of value - that capital must self-expand, that money must make more money by stealing the value that workers produce but aren't paid for - can only operate if the capitalists resort to coercion and class violence to lower workers' wages and benefits.

Forcing the workers to work longer and faster

increases the surplus value, causing the rate of profit to go up. Reducing wages has the same effect. As fewer workers are employed, the rising army of the unemployed puts downward pressure on wages as workers are forced to accept lower paying jobs. The use of immigrant workers, es-

pecially undocumented people, racism and sexism, and moving jobs to countries where workers are paid even less, are all used to lower wages.

Lowering workers' living standards involves coercion and violence.

The bosses threaten loss of jobs or use the police, militia, and army against workers who go on strike to force them to go back to work. Recent massive strikes in Europe, the miners' strikes in South Africa, Spain, and Australia show how the working class fights back in the face of bosses' violent attempts to increase the surplus value extracted from the working class.

This series on the political economy began by looking at the contradiction between use value and exchange value. Starting from this contradiction we have seen how this leads to class violence.

In the next article, we'll show how crises of overproduction and world war are the inevitable outcomes of production for profit. Coming articles will show that communism is not only a necessity for the international working class, but the only way to put an end to this bloodthirsty society based on profit. As the 40 miners in South Africa are laid to rest, let us recall Marx's words written over 150 years ago: "Capital is dead labor, that vampire-like, only lives by sucking living labor." The international working class must put an end to the reign of terror of capital by spreading the revolutionary ideas outlined in *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*.



HOW CAN WE LIVE WITHOUT MONEY?

“How can we live without money?” many garment workers and others ask when we tell them that in a communist society there won't be any money.

Many agree that it is possible to share everything according to need. “The problem,” they conclude, “is that without money there won't be anything to share because without money we won't be able to produce anything.”



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

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The question is good; however, the conclusion is wrong. We can and will live without money because our future depends on it. Explaining this is not easy. Nevertheless, we need to learn to explain it because it is indispensable for mobilizing the masses for communism on which our future depends more than on anything else.

Workers' labor power: Only producer of value

The solution is to understand that the only producer of value in the society is our labor power. Money doesn't produce anything. We can put a million workers with billions of dollars, or more, in the desert, and they'll die without doing anything.

However, if we put them there without money, but with supplies and adequate machinery, they can transform this desert into an enormous food garden.

Who produces wealth?

We workers produce value, use value, that is, things that are useful for society, like clothes to cover us from the elements, food to feed us and houses to shelter us.

We don't produce wealth—even though we sometimes wrongly call it that. The bosses—who produce nothing—also don't produce wealth. So, where does wealth come from?

In the beginning, we human beings collectively only produced use value and we barely produced enough for our daily consumption. But with the discovery and development of agriculture and domestication of animals, this changed.

From then on, we've produced much more than needed for daily consumption. This surplus laid the basis for exploitation and divided society into classes: exploiters and

exploited. The exploited produce this surplus and the exploiters steal it for themselves.

The capitalists appropriate it because they own the means of production and have their state apparatus: security guards, laws, police, judges, courts and jails to impose their will on us. We can't take home pants that we've just made or food we've just harvested—they call that stealing.

However, they call the accumulation of the real robbery “wealth,” and under capitalism the rich aren't called thieves—they're called “intelligent.”

The capitalists express this “wealth” as money

In capitalism, everything revolves around money. But money only represents the things we produce: the clothes, the food, the cars, etc. That is, that it's only a representation of all the use value we produce which the bosses have stolen, minus the small portion they give us as wages.

The bosses convert the things we produce into commodities because they add another value—exchange value—that is, they exchange, or sell them for money.

For the capitalists, exchange value is what determines everything. Without money no one can enjoy the use value that commodities have. That's why many of us die of hunger while food rots in stores.

If there's no profit, capitalism squanders our labor power

Under capitalism, our labor power is one more commodity, which we are forced to sell for money. But the bosses only employ us if they can

See WITHOUT MONEY, PAGE 7