

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

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Factory Workers Organize:

"ALL WORKERS NEED COMMUNIST EDUCATION"

EL SALVADOR—Representatives from three factories from different parts of the country attended our last workers' meeting. This meeting was proposed by the comrades at the factory where we have our main base. They took responsibility for inviting the other workers. Three workers and a youth who participated are now new fighters for communist revolution through the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP).

"My co-workers invited me to this meeting. Being there inside, seeing everything that happens in the factory, encouraged me to learn more about communist ideas," said a young worker who attended his first ICWP meeting with his wife, who works in another factory.

Before formally starting the meeting, there was a very pleasant chat, in which workers told of all the problems in their workplaces, and how the supervisors constantly threaten them, saying that the boss will close the factory because of the workers. The union representative, an unconditional ally of the bosses, does the same thing. Every worker told stories about

being accused of theft to justify firing them, about confronting the supervisors, and about anti-communist leaflets put out by the sellout union charging that the bosses will close the factory because of the communist comrades' idea.

"One thing we should know about these people who line up with the bosses and think wrongly that they won't be fired: the bosses don't have these factories because they are good-hearted and want to help our class. They have factories to get their profits, and when they see that they aren't getting enough profits for themselves, they simply close up shop and move to another country. A boss has never put up a factory to help the workers," a comrade pointed out very emphatically.

Then we welcomed the comrades and, since we had already discussed the horrors of capitalism, "Now we'll talk about communism," said a comrade. This comrade went over the main points of the agenda: first, the history of the International Communist Workers' Party; second, a report about the international youth work in the

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Chicago Teachers, School Workers Walk Out

NEED POLITICAL STRIKE AGAINST CAPITALISM AND ITS RACIST EDUCATION

CHICAGO, IL, Sept. 10 – Thirty thousand teachers and other school workers are on strike for the first time since 1987. Almost all parents and students are honoring the spirited mass picket lines at 675 schools citywide. Tens of thousands of teachers and supporters surrounded the CPS offices downtown in an afternoon rally.

"A former student called to support us," said a teacher excitedly. "I taught her daughter, too. Cars and trucks stopped by the picket line. A parent came by selling tamales. We asked to buy all her tamales, but she just gave them to us."

This striker, a *Red Flag* reader, told us that "Chicago has the most corrupt politicians. All the schools are messed up. When will our kids

get water fountains and air-conditioning? Our pensions are messed up, too. How come other states have it better?"

"They don't," we replied. "The capitalist crisis is affecting schools and workers everywhere."

Chicago teachers demand a "better, not just longer" school day with art, music, nurses, social workers and libraries in every school. They oppose an evaluation system that could fire 30% of teachers based on student test scores. And they are fighting back against the attacks on compensation and benefits that are raining down on workers in the US as elsewhere.

This nationally-significant strike confronts Obama's "school reform" program on its home turf. Chicago

Mayor Rahm Emanuel was Obama's Chief of Staff. Obama's Education Secretary, Arne Duncan, is the former CEO of the Chicago Public Schools (CPS).

Under Duncan and his predecessor, CPS has served US imperialism as a laboratory for school reorganization. It was among the first to institute mayoral control, to "reconstitute" schools by firing all the teachers, and to partner with the Gates Foundation.

CPS brags that it's the "national leader" in mainstreaming military training into middle- and high schools, mainly for black and latino/a youth. Six entire high schools are military academies, and

58 other schools have military training programs. The main purpose of "school reform" is to tighten the bosses' control as they gear up for war on the cheap.

The strikers thus confront capitalist rulers who intend to force them to push patriotism, preparing students for the army and war industries. Obama's "pivot to Asia" accelerates US imperialism's rush on its collision course with China. We urgently need to prepare to unleash the power of our class to build a new world – a communist world — on the ashes of World War III.

Will the commitment and courage of the militant Chicago teachers help build such a movement? Or will it

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DON'T CHOOSE EVIL: A BETTER WORLD IS POSSIBLE!

“Osama bin Laden is dead and General Motors is alive,” bragged US VP Biden at the Democratic Party Convention. We’re supposed to feel safer. We’re supposed to feel that the Democrats care about the working class.

Don’t believe it.

You wouldn’t know from watching the political conventions, but we’re living in times of growing crisis. Masses of youth and workers in the US and worldwide are in motion, fed up with the bosses’ attacks. The US rulers are planning for more war—possibly against Iran and surely for all-out World War III against China. The Democrats pushed their “inclusive” patriotism from start to finish, trying to psych us up for that war.

“For Barack, there is no such thing as ‘us’ and ‘them,’” Michelle gushed. The Democrats scripted a story about a caring, collective America where we all, rich and poor, help each other—under their leadership. That’s not reality.

Bin Laden is dead because someone fingered him to the CIA and a Navy Seal sniper shot him in the head. Bin Laden was an enemy of the working class who wanted to secure Middle East oil for rival Saudi millionaires. He was a pipsqueak compared to the US imperialists who have murdered millions for control of this same oil.

GM is alive because Obama used US workers’ tax money to rescue it. They are hiring young US workers for \$15 an hour, driving down wages of all workers. Further, Clinton bragged that Obama

has defied Republicans to continue his “welfare to work” program. This program also lowered wages for those forced to work for their welfare checks, as well as for all workers.

Obama and Romney vied with each other over who would bring more jobs back to the US. Both reflect the needs of the top imperialists for low wage, slave labor jobs in war factories in the US. The rulers want us to work proudly and patriotically for slave wages. But it makes no difference who exploits us. Our struggle must be to get rid of ALL exploiters and their bloodthirsty capitalist system. Capitalism in crisis is clearly incapable of meeting the needs of workers anywhere on the planet.

There’s only one way we’ll ever have a caring, collective society that meets the needs of the masses of workers, students and soldiers and that ends wars for profit, exploitation, and racism. That way is to mobilize the masses for communism.

Many of those who supported Obama in 2008 are now less than enthusiastic for a lot of good reasons. So the Democrats concocted reasons to lure people to the polls. They stressed that they won’t lower the taxes of the super rich, as the Republicans will. But this is part of the top imperialists’ plan to have millionaires (as well as workers) pay more taxes to raise more money for war preparations.

The latino Mayor of San Antonio was cheered

when he called for the DREAM Act and praised Obama for temporarily (for two years) halting the deportation of undocumented youth who came to the US as children and graduated from high school. But Bill Clinton let the cat out of the bag when he pointed out that these youth can fill the ranks of the military.

The Democrats stressed emphasized Obama’s support of keeping abortion legal while the Republicans don’t. They are launching a huge “Half the Sky” campaign to make us think they have women’s interests at heart. But Obama’s drone attacks are killing increasing numbers of women in Afghanistan, as they murdered families in Libya. They praise the super-exploitation of women workers in sweatshops worldwide. There’s no lesser evil in this Presidential election—only evil. We shouldn’t vote for any of them.

Many youth and workers vote even though they don’t really like any of the candidates, especially this year. But they hope one will be a little less bad. We must help them see that a completely different world is possible, a communist world which eliminates imperialist wars, exploitation, borders, racism, profits and money. Then, choosing between two capitalist parties will clearly be understood as the serious error that it is. Let’s use this “election season” to expose this capitalist system in crisis and mobilize the masses for communism.

Soldiers’ and Vets’ Reality Exposes Democrats’ Lies

NEED TO TAKE ANGER TO A REVOLUTIONARY LEVEL

At the Democratic Party Convention, Michelle and Barack Obama and Jill and Joe Biden all spoke about how much the Obama Administration is doing for military families. Obama said, “When you take off the uniform, we will serve you as well as you’ve served us because no one who fights for this country should have to fight for a job, or a roof over their head, or the care that they need when they come home.”

Obama is a big liar. The only way to have the society that really cares about the well-being of the working class, especially its brave fighters, is to have a communist society without bosses, where our health, safety, and present and future well-being are the most important things.

The facts show the opposite of what the politicians preached. Soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen/women have been deployed in wars for the benefit of the imperialists. We have been lied to about the reasons for going to war. We have been

mistreated while being deployed, putting us in danger and forcing us to kill our fellow workers for the interests of the rich bosses.

The military and VA refuse to meet our medical needs. Suicide rates in the military are rising. Nearly one active duty soldier, sailor or marine commits suicide everyday—more than those killed in combat. At the same time, about 18 veterans of the more than 10 years of war in Iraq and Afghanistan kill themselves every day. The number of US soldier and veteran suicides is greater than the number of those killed in combat in those two wars.

As more military personnel return from the wars, fewer get desperately needed treatment or compensation for PTSD or other problems because of budget cuts. Once home, we reflect back on the service we provided and realize the world is not safer. But the most daunting is that our fellow soldiers, friends and family members have given their lives and sacrificed to perpetuate this capitalist system that wages wars for the interests of the bosses.

We are forced to join the unemployment lines along with our other working class brothers and sisters. From November 2010 to November 2011, unemployment among younger veterans (18 to 24 years old) rose from 18.4% to 30.4%, nearly double the rate for non veterans of the same age. Almost one third of young veterans are unem-

ployed!

Everywhere we turn, we witness the racism, sexism and oppression that we all hate. It’s time to direct this hatred against the real enemy, which includes Obama and Biden. We need to take our anger to a revolutionary communist level to organize soldiers, sailors, workers and students to wage a communist revolution for the benefit of the entire international working class. It’s a difficult task, but we all must guarantee that soldiers in the barracks, trenches, tents and motor pools are discussing communist ideas, and exposing the politicians’ lies. As communist soldiers, workers and students, we urge all military personnel to join the fight for a communist future, where the well-being of every worker and soldier will be our main goal. Our class will be free to build a society to meet our needs.



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HOW DO PEOPLE RESPOND TO COMMUNIST IDEAS?

MEXICO—Recently, we had a very fruitful meeting in which ten people got together—members of ICWP and readers of *Red Flag*. Our objective was to openly present ICWP to them and have them tell us their concerns about communist ideas. The friends who were invited have received communist literature related to “race” and racism, economy, religion, and *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*. After a rich meal, we presented ICWP and its political line and we invited them to comment about their concerns. Here are only some of the most important questions and comments.

The concern of a person who read MMC is the word “revolution.” He said, “I agree with all the rest, but why does it have to be an armed movement? Why not exhaust all the other possible means before resorting to violence?”

We said that it would be difficult for the bosses to give up the means of production in a peaceful manner and we expanded on the role of the army at the moment of revolution.

Someone commented, “If someone is rich by inheritance, strictly speaking he’s not exploiting anybody: they inherited their wealth. What would that

person have to do to be a communist or to put a communist line into practice?”

So we explained how wealth is generated only by the exploitation of the working class and that it’s not enough for a rich person to donate money to workers—he needs to turn over the means of production to the working class.

Another comment was that “Communism didn’t work in Russia and China.”

We explained that had been state capitalism and that it maintained the wage system.

The part of the discussion that took the longest was thinking about how communism will be, and the question arose, “If there won’t be money, so how will we organize—through barter? Will there be jobs? Will I do the work for others who won’t work?”

In the discussion, it became clear that there won’t be money and that we’ll all contribute according to our capacities, having the security that we’ll receive what we need and that the rest of the people will contribute as we do. There won’t be any privileges attached to mental or manual work: we will all carry out both activities. We reflected

that in Mexico alone, we could sustain 115 million people through the work of 8 million workers.

Three things that made this meeting so successful were: 1) the friends had the confidence to bring forward their concerns, which allowed us to have an interesting and useful discussion, 2) the presence and enthusiasm of a comrade we know from the old party, and 3) that a new comrade joined ICWP.

To end the meeting, the new member spoke with much clarity inviting the friends to join ICWP. He said that we don’t have anything to lose and everything to win, that fighting for communism is best for the working class. He commented that in ICWP everything isn’t already written, that we all have to contribute, to think and to build this society that we want.

The people are open to communist ideas. Sometimes we put limits on ourselves, and we have to break them.

We’ll keep working, inspired by the line of ICWP, to achieve a communist society.

ONLY COMMUNISM, NOT REFORM, WILL MEET UNIVERSITY WORKERS’ NEEDS

The struggle for reform demands in the capitalist system already in decline creates false expectations and deception for the workers. A group of 120 workers who worked for a subcontractor cleaning company at the University of California at Irvine started a campaign to work directly for the university and thus to break with an abusive company, but instead they found the same abusive tactics and firings.

ABM (American Building Maintenance) is a cleaning company, infamous for fierce exploitation of the workers, for its tactics of intimidation and constant abuse. This company pays poverty wages without benefits and without the right to sick days. As a product of the workers’ struggle and the bad publicity against the university, the workers achieved a pay raise. The company used this to buy off some workers and tell the workers that they better end the struggle because the company was changing and if they kept up the struggle the company would take back the wage increases. The workers, knowing the company’s tricks, continued

organizing until they achieved their objective.

The workers, organized by the public employees’ union AFSCME, and supported by different student organizations, had the idea that once they had achieved their objective of working directly for the university, all their problems would be resolved and their living conditions would change dramatically. The process extended for about three years. The struggle was long and difficult. Many workers got disappointed because of internal problems which were the product of the university’s tricks and the differences among the students, the workers and the union. But in the end, they were able to force the university to hire them directly.

The workers thought that now that they worked directly for the university, all their problems had ended. Now they had better wages, better benefits, and paid sick days. The problem was that a few months after beginning to work directly for the university, they began to be abused by their supervisors, who increased their areas of work. Since they couldn’t complete all this work, they were given disciplinary letters. The abuses to which they were subjected were worse than the ones they suffered at the other company. Thirty workers received disciplinary letters in the first two months. The union

couldn’t do anything for them.

What’s worse, six workers were fired and now they have trouble maintaining their families. The struggles didn’t do any good when finally they ended up without work and have a boss who is more brutal and fierce than the last one. The reformist struggle in the union didn’t do any good if in the end they couldn’t keep their jobs and their families are in poverty.

The reality is that these workers have fought for years to change bosses. It’s the same exploitation but the henchman who exploits them is changed. It doesn’t matter what reforms are made in the capitalist system, in the end all workers live in poverty and exploitation because that’s the nature of the capitalism. Only a communist revolution can put an end to exploitation. Only a communist revolution can guarantee the workers their class needs. In a communist system the workers don’t need to fight to change the bosses who fiercely exploit them. In a communist system each will work according to their capacity and commitment and receive according to their needs.

The main task of the workers is to mobilize the masses for communism. Help to distribute and read *Red Flag* and join ICWP. Only communism can resolve the problems of the international working class.



September 12—Hotel workers went on strike at the Embassy Suites in Irvine, CA in protest against intensifying harassment from the new management. That same day, a group of warehouse workers walked off the job in the San Bernardino-Riverside area. They began a weeklong march to dramatize the brutal conditions faced by some 80,000 workers who load and unload merchandise mainly for Wal-Mart. With workers in the US and around the world on the move, the opportunity and urgency grows to spread *Red Flag* widely. Please contact us to find out how you can help.

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Summer Project; and third, social activities for the end of the year.

We talked about a mass, international party, in which we organize the working class to mobilize for communism, and of the importance of more workers from the factories joining this effort. They, as well as soldiers, are strategic sectors for communist revolution. “The only ones who don’t have any place in this communist effort are the capitalist exploiters,” pointed out a young comrade.

A worker got everyone’s attention, saying “I think that

those of us who work in the factory have little academic education and that’s why we don’t organize.”

“You are professionals in what you do,” answered a comrade, “and what all of us workers need is *communist* education.”

We gave out *Red Flag* and our manifesto *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*, and commented that reading and distributing them is essential to help put an end to capitalism. “Can you give me two more to take to my parents?” asked a young worker. “They have been organized for many years and they like communist ideas. When they see this newspaper they will like it.”



TOO MANY YOUNG PEOPLE ?? OR TOO MANY BOSSES!!

“In planning documents, the Pentagon and the National Intelligence Council warn of a looming ‘demographic crisis’ in parts of Africa and Asia, where rapid population growth and climate-related disasters could help trigger famines, wars and revolutions.”—*Los Angeles Times*, 7/22/2012

A recent *LA Times* series blamed “overpopulation” for global warming, Arab Spring rebellions and revolutions. This is part of the increasing publicity about supposed worldwide “overpopulation.”

The capitalist system in deep crisis cannot profitably employ billions of people in the world. The bosses correctly fear that these workers, especially the youth, are potential revolutionaries.

They try to justify starving workers from the Middle East, Africa, Asia, and Latin America by denying them needed resources, and also killing them in imperialist wars, with the lie that it is the masses of people in Africa, the Middle East and Latin America who are causing shortages.

All the unemployed youth and workers around the world who strike fear in the bosses’ hearts are indeed potential revolutionaries. The International Communist Workers’ Party asks your help to invite and welcome more workers and youth to join the fight for a communist world.

Malnutrition caused by capitalist inequality, not too many people

Nearly a billion people are malnourished and chronically hungry. At least eight million die every year of hunger-related diarrhea, pneumonia and other illnesses. A child dies of hunger every 11 seconds. (U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization)

The real cause of malnutrition, starvation, and rebellion is the capitalist system. The means of production are owned by capitalists who produce for profit, not human need. In the current capitalist crisis of overproduction, the bosses destroy goods that the workers of the world desperately need but can’t afford to buy.

The fact that millions worldwide die of hunger while enough food is produced to feed them shows that capitalism is incapable of meeting workers’ needs.

Even the *LA Times* (8/1) admits that “In raw vol-

ume, the world’s farmers produce enough food for everyone. People go hungry in developing countries because they can’t afford to buy food and can’t grow enough on their own. Inadequate transportation and storage aggravate shortages.”

The workers of the world collectively have the know-how, labor power and ingenuity to turn sea water and wind into useful resources, to irrigate and cultivate vast stretches of land that now lie fallow, to produce enough food, shelter and clothing for all of humanity when society owns the means of production.

In a communist system, we’ll produce and distribute to meet the needs of the world’s workers. Communism will incorporate all those who don’t now have jobs to produce plenty of the healthiest food for everyone. Nobody will go hungry. Nobody will have to buy the food they need and the working class will guarantee that the food is transported to all who need it.

By mid-century, predicts the *LA Times*, world population will top nine billion people, with one in three living in an urban slum. The Times quotes global agricultural experts who say that world crop production will have to double.

But that can be done! Norman Borlaug, an American plant breeder, won the 1970 Nobel Peace Prize for working with David Rockefeller and the Ford Foundation to develop high-yield, disease-resistant grain varieties, making it possible to triple worldwide harvests.

That “Green Revolution” didn’t always benefit workers. It made them dependent on companies like Monsanto that sold the fertilizer these new varieties required.

Under communism, these profit-hungry companies won’t be around to make scientific research



Tahrir Square, 2011

serve the needs of their class. Instead, workers can and will collectively figure out how to produce enough of the best quality food to feed increased populations, sustainably.

Bosses’ Real Fear: Rebellious Youth and Workers Mobilizing for Communism

The bosses aren’t worried about starving workers. They admitted their real fear: “In many developing countries, runaway population growth has created vast ranks of restless young men with few prospects and little to lose. Their frustrated ambitions can be an explosive force, as shown by the youth-driven uprisings that toppled autocratic regimes in Egypt, Libya and Tunisia in 2011.”

The *LA Times* worries that similar “youth bulges” have emerged in Iraq, Pakistan, Yemen, Sudan, Somalia and the Palestinian territories — part of what security experts call an ‘arc of instability’ reaching across Africa, the Middle East and South Asia.”

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, reports the *LA Times*, “says it is in America’s national security interest to ‘pay attention to the special needs of women and girls’ by improving access to family planning, among other steps.” Her fake concern for these women can’t hide the bosses’ fear of a communist-led working class.

Capitalism has long outlived its usefulness. Let’s make the bosses’ worst nightmares come true by mobilizing the masses for communist revolution.

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be channeled by Chicago Teachers Union (CTU) officials into narrow legalistic reforms that build the Democrats’ credibility?

The Chicago situation cries out for a political strike against capitalist education and the capitalist system itself. Unions, however, by their very nature, work within the legal framework of wage slavery and class dictatorship—the chains that bind us. That’s why students, teachers, and all workers need to join and build the International Communist Workers’ Party.

Take Control of Our Future

“There are too many factors beyond our control which impact how well some students perform on standardized tests,” whines CTU President Karen Lewis, “such as poverty, exposure to violence, homelessness, hunger and other social issues beyond our control.” Nothing is beyond our control when we mobilize the masses for communism!

Mass communist consciousness will direct our violence against the capitalist-imperialist exploiters and war makers, instead of our class brothers and sisters. In communist society nobody will be hungry or homeless while others stuff themselves in fancy restaurants and live in mansions.

Communism will abolish markets and money, bosses and borders. We’ll produce for and care

for each other from cradle to grave.

Communism won’t “improve” or “equalize” schools, which are capitalist institutions that exist only to reproduce capitalist ideas, capitalist inequality, racism and exploitation.

Instead, communism will break down divisions between education and work, between “mental” and “manual” labor. We’ll all work and learn throughout our lives. We’ll all help make and carry out all important decisions.

Contrast this outlook with the pleas of the CTU leadership for a “fair contract” and an elected school board! With its rush back to the bargaining table, willing to settle for crumbs because of “fiscal woes!” With Lewis’s call for teachers to march in an August, 2012 parade themed “Education: Built to Last; A Tribute to President Barack Obama!”

Chicago teachers are proving their willingness to mobilize and fight for our class. Let’s not squander this energy in a vain struggle for reform. Step it up to revolution!



Communism is Our Heritage and Future – Part II

ANCIENT CHINA: “KINGS SHOULD PLOW THE FIELDS”

Slavery developed in China over 4000 years ago, as it did at other times and other places from India to Greece to the Americas. Few if any slaves in these ancient societies left written records of their ideas and aspirations. The rise of class society divided manual labor from mental labor such as reading and writing. However, we know that there were slave revolts. And egalitarian movements arose again and again in opposition to slave systems.

Slavery (or chattel slavery) meant that some people “owned” other people in the same way that they “owned” oxen or goats. That is, the legal system (including armed bodies of soldiers or police) enabled the “owners” to use and abuse the “slaves” 24/7, in almost any way they wanted. In China, slavery existed at least by 2100 BCE (the

Xia Dynasty) and lasted thousands of years. Most slaves did back-breaking work in the fields, the main form of production. Sometimes slaves were buried alive with their dead masters.

The Nongjia movement (Agriculturalism or Agrarianism) arose in the 8th century BCE. It advocated a form of peasant communism. It celebrated the folk-hero Shen Nong, a king who was portrayed as “working in the fields, along with everyone else, and consulting with everyone else when any decision had to be reached.”

The best-known Agriculturalist was the philosopher Xu Xing. One of Xu’s students reportedly criticized the Duke of Teng in these words: “A worthy ruler feeds himself by plowing side by side with the people, and rules while cooking his own meals. Now Teng on the contrary possesses granaries and treasuries, so the ruler is supporting himself by oppressing the people.”

In other words, the “king” should be a leader, not a boss or exploiter. Today, communists understand that our revolution will sweep away all bosses and exploiters. There won’t be one “leader,” even one who “consults with everyone else.” Instead, one mass communist party will reach, carry out, and evaluate all the decisions that af-

fect our lives. The role of this leadership, now and in the future, is to mobilize the masses for communism.

Agriculturalism was limited by its individualistic peasant outlook. It assumed that each family unit could and should be self-sufficient, instead of advocating collective work for the common good. And it didn’t criticize money or a market economy, which made inequality possible. It called instead for fixed prices for similar goods.

As far as we know, the Agriculturalist philosophy remained the property of an educated elite. We have no evidence that Xu and his followers ever tried to mobilize slaves, or any other elements of the masses, around their ideas. Their movement looked backward, not forward. However much they wanted an egalitarian society, it was impossible for them to attain it.

Agriculturalism died out in China around the 3rd century BCE. The dominant ideology became Confucianism, a philosophy that openly justified class society and its gross inequalities, including slavery. Any slave rebellions that occurred in China during this period have been erased from the written records.

Slavery in China survived the rise of feudalism and even of capitalism. It was smashed by the communist-led revolution of 1948-49. Sadly, remnants of slavery still exist under capitalism in the 21st century – even in now-capitalist China.

Next article: The fight for equality in ancient Greece



WHAT WE KNOW NOW AND WHAT WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT COMMUNISM

This article concludes our series on why communism can win. It is, however, not the last word.

We began by listing new things that happen in history: from inventions to new social movements and systems. Slavery, feudalism and capitalism were new developments in history. The communist movement based on scientific economics and dialectical materialism originated around 1840.

Although truly new things happen, some events occur over and over. Wars between capitalist rivals and economic crises have existed as long as capitalism has.

Noting that these patterns repeat is not the same as knowing why or whether they must happen. The “laws of motion” of capitalism answer these two questions.

A law is different than a mere pattern. A law of nature exists when natural causes force things to happen according to a general pattern. Things that are not compatible with the law are forced not to happen.

A law is universal. It occurs in a specific system or under specific conditions, a pattern that must occur or can’t occur.

A natural law is different from legislation. In a law of nature or economics, the constraint is not imposed from the outside like the cops or the courts. The constraint results from internal causal factors.

The “laws of motion” of capitalism are still primary in socialism, especially laws about money and the market. These laws won’t allow us to “do socialism right.” Despite the best intentions of past revolutionaries, socialism could never evolve into communism and had to revert back to open capitalism.

Knowing the specific features of socialism that prevented it from reaching communism is fundamental to our strategy for fighting for communism now. *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* is a program for creating and keeping communism

that specifically rejects socialist ideas and practices that led to working class defeat.

We published *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* a year ago. We’ve already run through three editions and over 20,000 copies, not to mention web hits. Comrades around the world have asked for more translations other than the original two: Spanish and English. As you read and discuss the conclusion to this series, keep in mind that we have to raise funds to print more and we need translators.

All knowledge is ultimately derived from practice. Since communism has never existed under modern conditions, there is a lot about it that we don’t know yet, knowledge that has to be derived from future practice.

We can already identify some laws of motion of communist society, however. We know that communism is impossible without the mobilization of the masses for communism, and that the laws of materialist dialectics apply to all systems.

Generally speaking, however, communism will not have the severely restrictive laws of motion that capitalism and socialism do. In particular society will no longer be limited by the need to maximize profits or base planning on money.

Marx and Engels argued that under communism the “realm of freedom”--that is, the areas of social life where people can collectively choose what they want to do--will expand, and the “realm of necessity” governed by laws of motion will be much smaller.

Our movement is bound to run into things we don’t expect now. But the practice of millions of workers and peasants who have already fought for communism, like the Chinese Red Army, the People’s Commune movement and the Cultural Revolution in China in the 40s, 50s and 60s, provides a wealth of information about communism as a mass phenomenon. (Read, “The Great Revolutions Teach Us How to Win” in *Mobilize the*

Masses for Communism) We stand on the shoulders of giants.

Beyond this, long experience of the communist movement shows the enormous capacity of the working class for creativity, determination and self-sacrifice--experience that tells us the amazing things that workers can accomplish. Knowledge of these capacities of the working class is a key reason for our confidence that the working class can win communism and keep it by communist mass mobilization, now that we are finally on the right road. Join us in creating this momentous new stage of history.



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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LETTERS

LETTERS

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CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

THE ILLOGICAL LOGIC OF THE UNION OFFICIALS

In faithful loyalty to their very convenient way of "operating," the leaders of the mechanic's union absurdly and irresponsibly blame the drivers for the latest economic disaster. They use as their dirty trick a very old, well-known tactic of divide and conquer. In this way, they don't take responsibility for their bad actions and can continue maintaining their positions and their economic well-being: as always at the expense of the sweat of the mechanics, drivers, service attendants, and the rest of the workers.

Now as a result, in agreement with these fore-mentioned leaders, we drivers are called "traitors" for having signed the current contract. They don't mention that this contract was precisely imposed on the drivers in a very astute and subtle, but very immoral, way. We remember what happened in the vote in Pasadena, when the great majority including many veteran drivers voted with a resounding "NO!"

The union leaders very conveniently opt for not mentioning this topic. Because when we talk about traitors, the real TRAITORS are James Williams, John Ellis and Neal Silver (top union leaders) to name a few. Then, it seems to me a very good idea that the theme of traitors be brought out into the open so that it becomes very clear who are the traitors and who are those who were betrayed. In such a way whoever reads this article can be clear who is who.

Now I ask all the workers: Does a driver have the power to betray a mechanic or visa versa? Or, are so-called leaders the only ones who truly have this power in their hands, and who then simply wash their hands by blaming us? We all know the answers to these questions. Therefore the discussion, even though necessary, is secondary given that it doesn't represent a true solution.

The solution will come only when we workers liberate ourselves and take power over our lives and our destinies. Only in this way can the workers be able to begin to dream of a better world in which the defenders of the current capitalist oppressive system have no space to be who they are and do what they do. The call has been, is, and will be to fight for communist revolution. I invite all transit workers to join the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) and help spread *Red Flag* to the masses to accelerate the coming of the change we need.

--MTA Driver

KARACHI, PAKISTAN, Sept. 12
– At least 314 workers burned to death in two garment factory fires today, trapped behind locked doors and barred windows.
Full story next issue.

MTA WORKERS BLAST UNION OFFICIALS WHO CHAIN US TO CAPITALISM

Every first and second Friday of the month the UTU (union of MTA drivers) meets at the divisions. At the recent meetings, it was obvious that at most meetings, there were plenty of disgruntled members. All the Chairmen got an earfull... but the meeting where Ulysses Johnson presides was a special one. He has shown his colors, his arrogance and his complete disregard for the members. There were about to be fist fights at his Local. The President at Lisa Arredondo's meeting lost it. At Eddie Lopes' meeting, the President has mental problems. At Robert Gonzalez's meeting, the members were controlled. John Ellis' meeting is coming up but there, between James Williams, John Ellis and Gary Spivack, the members are subdued.

Throughout the district, the common issue was Health Care. It was amazing how the membership was bamboozled from the beginning of the negotiations of the Contract. It was initially orchestrated in such a way that nobody was told anything. It was presented at Pasadena as "There is no Change." You will get a bonus for signing. Right side mirrors and flat tires will be "incidents," not accidents charged to the driver. Yet, the ink was not even dry on the contract when Richard Hunt went to James Williams and asked him to sign a "Side Letter, giving up the mirrors and the flat tires as incidents.

It took the General Committee over two years to negotiate the contract and they gave us only about 20 minutes to consider it. At the Pasadena meeting, the G.C. expected us to make a decision on the spot. The Contract was rejected at Pasadena. In collusion with the International, the G.C. circumvented the process to have the contract ratified.

The International did not want to pay the strike funds. The G. C. lied at the Pasadena meeting, saying that the strike benefits were only \$600.00 a month but the UTU Constitutions says \$1200.00. With a sense of arrogance, the man

from the International Office told the membership, "You cannot go on a strike without our permission." Eventually, some of the members who received the ballots by mail accepted the contract considering the "ME TOO" clause. To our understanding, it means that if any one of the Unions gets anything, then the other unions will get it too. The mechanics got a 36 cent/hr increase and an increase in medical contribution. We got hit with a 150% fee increase for medical, on top of co-payment increase and so many other increases.

--From many MTA drivers who constantly inform us

Red Flag Comments:

We were also informed that Lillian Ford went the other night to Division 8 to take pictures of the letter which workers had posted up from the last *Red Flag* explaining why she was transferred to Division 15. We thank all MTA workers who give us information and write letters and articles for *Red Flag*.

About the union officials, we would like to comment that they are less than worthless: they are plain treacherous. But let's not waste our time organizing to replace them or the union. Unionism is the problem. It is a dead end street. It strives to reform capitalism, not destroy it. The union "leaders," no matter who they are, end up making their peace with capitalism and becoming corrupted.

MTA workers and all workers need to join ICWP and become leaders in the struggle to liberate the working class from the curse of capitalism. By eliminating the corrupting influences of money and privileges, and mobilizing the masses for communism, we will create millions of true incorruptible working class leaders. This is the only way.



May Day in Pakistan, 2008

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Talking with Workers at Atomic Denim

The other morning I went to distribute the newspaper at a garment factory called Atomic Denim. I struck up a conversation with several women workers. As I came up to a group waiting for the factory to open, they told me, "We already have the paper."

"Yes, I know," I said, "but she doesn't because she just got here." I offered the paper to this worker and she took it from me.

I told them that we're fighting to end the bosses' exploitation with a communist revolution. They agreed that the bosses keep the major part of the fruits of our labor. "They accumulate millions. We accumulate debts," concluded one of them.

"A little while ago a millionaire bought his daughter a mansion for \$80 million. It is 70 thousand square feet because she and her two dogs need a lot of space," I told them, adding, "And we, at most, barely have enough to buy a chic-

ken coop."

"And its not ours," intervened another, "because we never finish paying the bank for it." "Yes," said another, "and if we pay it off, the taxes are always there. If we can't pay them, or if we forget to when we're old, the government takes it away."

Then we talked about how the capitalists treat the veterans after sending them supposedly to fight for "their country." We all agreed that we workers have no country. The countries belong to the capitalists. When the veterans come back from the wars they don't have jobs or medical care and that's why many end up in the street. When they die, if they don't have money to buy the hole in the ground, the bosses don't bury them, they burn them.

Almost at the end of the conversation, the worker who came up last told the others, "I've known them for thirty years," and seeing the sur-

prise of some, she added, "more than thirty years because then I wasn't even pregnant with my daughter, and she's just turned thirty."

She didn't know me personally, but some of our comrades. She told us briefly that she had participated with us in a very sharp struggle against the boss of a factory where she worked. She asked me about the comrade who led the struggle in this factory. I told her that she is still active and that I would tell her that she sent her greetings.

Unfortunately I had to end the conversation because many workers were coming and there were only two of us distributing the newspaper. The distribution at this factory is excellent. The workers gladly take the paper. The factory has about 250 workers and about 200 of them regularly take the paper. Many sit or stand and read it as soon as they receive it.

--Red Flag Distributor

In the Military: Fight Against Sexism & For Communism

I read attentively the letter written by a sailor. I thought a lot about his last sentence: "Now man is outside himself while he works, and feels at home when he acts like an animal." I have a friend who is a soldier with whom I've had a couple of encounters. He's serious and a little nervous and weary for his young age. He asked me to have a romantic relationship. I've told him that I wouldn't agree because relationships need time to be consolidated. That's why I paid attention to what the sailor friend wrote, "All we look forward to is eating and sleeping, the animal pleasures, and we feel at home when we act like an animal."

I'm struggling with my soldier friend politically. I don't want us to be a couple. For me this is a great opportunity to start to build the Party in the army. I told him that my goal with him is to be friends and to talk about the Party, but he wasn't interested in that. I emphasized that it is vital for us to organize in the army and that we need conscious, communist soldiers. He continued to push for a relationship, but I remained firm and told him that I didn't want that.

Now he texts me about it. Honestly, I feel harassed. I consider that there's a lot of work to do in the army, but not this way.

I've learned to be more cautious in the relations that I establish with soldiers, because when I've tried to get to know them, the first thing they look for is a romantic relationship. We should struggle against sexism in the army just as in other sectors of society.

That's why, rather than feeling like an animal at home, we should feel human. Animals are what the bosses turn us into: animals who only respond to our physiological needs for food,

sex, etc. But in communism we'll elevate human beings to our maximum humanity, capable of seeing ourselves as a collective and developing our abilities.

That's why we need to unite to fight for communism, where we'll guarantee dialectically the development of human beings passing from the animal to the human.

I add congratulations to the comrade sailors who are dedicated to fight for communism.

—Young Red in Mexico



Religious People Open to Communist Ideas

During the Seattle summer project I eagerly attended Occupy Seattle's all-day "Everything 4 Everyone" festival. I have friends in Occupy Los Angeles and was interested in seeing similarities and differences within this mass movement. I took part in a discussion group on religion.

I wanted to "convince them" that communism and religion are not incompatible because we basically want the same things for humanity. Our connection and love for one another (camaraderie) will help drive and motivate our communist share-and-share-alike system. Communism will enhance love, kindness, and compassion, allowing us to fully develop as humans capable of loving and being loved unconditionally. Capitalism promotes individualism, selfishness, and greed, trying to keep us divided.

However, I had no one to debate with! Everyone there, including people of various religions, all agreed and welcomed me to the group. A pastor added that we should question who benefits from the divisions. Another person added that if we want real change we'll have to fight for it. The group said that fighting for social justice and equality have been defining characteristics of most religions (when they aren't controlled by those who oppress and exploit us) and that to do this they will have to dispel the myth that pacifism can lead to this change.

Nobody objected to the idea that communism would be the optimal society. But several had questions as to what went wrong with old communist movements and why communism was not achieved. I invited them to read our analysis in *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*. Several took copies, and two gave me their contact information.

We are living in exciting times. It seems that growth and development are occurring more quickly than I am realizing. People are waking up to the fact that capitalism is destroying humanity and Earth and that this is a battle we'll have to fight together to win.

—LA Comrade

CAPITALIST CRISIS from page 8

ciety is expanding. This process can go on as long as the value created (or profit made) goes back into the circuit of capital to make more money. However, the same process of capital accumulation creates obstacles to the circuit of capital. As the rate of profit falls, it is harder for the capitalists to find a place to invest and make a profit. So they have to invest where the risks are higher, like speculating, which eventually leads to financial crisis.

Crisis of Overproduction

Thus, the very process which creates value begins to restrict the creation of value. Competition makes the capitalists build up more productive capacity and products than can be sold in the market. This is a crisis of capitalism: credit freezes, factories go idle, workers are laid off, their homes are foreclosed, businesses fail, banks go bankrupt, devaluing capital. Governments and corporations reduce wages, benefits, and pensions. Mountains of commodities fill up the warehouses while the workers go hungry, homeless

and without essential things they need to survive. This is the crisis of overproduction which we are in today.

The capitalists' reaction to this crisis is destruction and the devaluing of capital. Next we will look at the aspects of this crisis of overproduction where various imperialist powers are engaged in violent destruction of their rivals' capital. We will see how this crisis inevitably leads to world war and how it opens the doors for the working class to create an egalitarian communist society.

South Africa: "Miner Spring"**41,000 STRIKING MINERS ON THE MARCH**

RUSTENBERG, SOUTH AFRICA, September 10—Miners in Marikana have been on strike for a month against one of the world's largest platinum producers. The bosses in South Africa are learning that it's not so easy to stop the masses in motion!

Not with the horrific hail of bullets on August 16 that murdered 34 miners and wounded 78, reminiscent of the Apartheid-era shootings of protestors.

Not by accusing the 270 arrested miners of murdering their own comrades under the Apartheid-era "common purpose" legal farce, so obviously false that it had to be dropped.

Not with the cold-blooded murder of fourteen rank-and-file leaders among the miners, hunted down by the cops among the rocks of "Small Koppie," (a hill) a fact just emerging in the South African press.

In spite of police attacks and politicians' pleas, 10,000 striking miners at Lonmin's Marikana mine today marched from mine shaft to mine shaft, chasing away scabs and keeping out 94% of the work force. They are determined to fight until they win the wage increase that they originally demanded that would more than double their pay.

Lonmin Miners Deserve More than Higher Wages; They Deserve Communism

Rock-drill operators, who do the hardest work at the bottom of the mine, rejected the established union as sleeping with the bosses. But the militant independent union AMCU is just a union too. It aims for a better deal while keeping the system of exploitation intact. AMCU says it's apolitical and anti-communist. However, even red-led unions accept the ground rules of capitalism: the bosses own the mines and the factories and we just work



here.

South Africa has 80% of the world's platinum and 50% of its gold. Yet those who mine it live in tin shacks on dusty roads, enslaved by debt to payday lenders. The riches go to the capitalists, and the trade unions confine the struggle to fighting for more and better crumbs. In a communist society, the value we produce will go to meet the needs of the masses, not to swell the coffers of some capitalist.

Sharpening crisis provokes workers' worldwide fight-back

Marikana strikers, part of a global upsurge, have inspired other workers. Fifteen thousand gold miners walked out in an illegal strike on Monday, and last week there was another wildcat strike of 12,000 miners at the same company. Miners from Spain to Russia are on strike.

Strikes of thousands of auto workers in India, anti-austerity strikes in Greece, the Occupy movement in the US, and the Arab spring have shown that as the world-wide capitalist crisis intensifies the bosses' attacks, workers are not taking this lying down.

US, EU & China rivalry for resources: prelude to war; smash all imperialists

European colonialism gave EU bosses a head

start and they still own most of African industry, including the Lonmin platinum mine. But now, Africa is one of the places where the inter-imperialist rivalry between the US, the EU, and China for world domination is being fought out.

The US has concentrated on military aid and alliances and a new military command, AFRICOM. In 2011 and 2012, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton made a point of talking trash about Chinese imperialism in Africa during tours of the continent.

In contrast, Chinese companies, with resources robbed from the workers during thirty years of socialism, is developing the infrastructure to systematically extract the mineral resources of Africa. A Chinese company has just bought a huge platinum mine in South Africa. The South African bosses have been the best friends of the Chinese bosses, fronting for Chinese policy in regional disputes. South African President Zuma was just in Beijing, taking the chairmanship of the Forum for China-Africa Cooperation.

African miners have taken on the new Chinese bosses as well as the old European bosses. In Zambia this summer, militant miners protesting below-minimum wages at a Chinese-owned and run coal mine killed a manager. Two managers at the same company, who had fired on miners in an earlier protest over wages, had all charges against them dropped. Growing numbers of South African workers see through the local bosses, whose Black Empowerment Enterprises build black capitalism on the backs of African workers, as well as the government which sent the police to attack them.

All over the world, the masses are mobilizing. This is our opportunity to reject all imperialists and bosses and *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*.

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

CAPITALIST DEVELOPMENT LEADS TO CRISES OF OVERPRODUCTION

Workers need many things to survive. In capitalism, the only way to get these things is to sell our labor power. Marx referred to this process as a circuit of commodities, where our labor power as a commodity is exchanged for money and that money buys commodities we need.

Workers Need Useful Things; Bosses Need Profit

But for the capitalist class it is quite the opposite. They start with money to buy raw materials, factories, and our labor power to produce commodities. When these commodities are sold, they make more money. Since only workers can create more value than they are paid for, the bosses make a profit when the products of our labor are sold. This is the circuit of capital, where the money the commodity is sold for (M^1) is more than the money that was invested (M). This circuit of capital is very important for capitalism and it must occur as fast as possible. Any disruption causes severe crisis.

Where does the money come from that capitalists need to buy raw materials, factories, and pay for our wages, and then what happens to the profit they make? As capitalism develops, competition makes the factories and machines more

complex and expensive. Industrial capitalists may not be able to afford the higher costs. They call on financial capitalists, who own banks, to lend them the money. A portion of the industrial capitalist's profits goes to the financial capitalists in the form of interest payments on loans.

Why can't industrial capitalists always save money for future investments? Capital can only expand by creating new value. Simply hoarding money prevents this from happening because it removes it from the circuit of capital. To continue the circuit of capital, industrial and financial capitalists must reinvest a large portion of their profit and interest from loans so that money makes more money.

More Machines, Less Workers = Falling Rate of Profit

In the last issue of *Red Flag* we explained how capitalists, locked in fierce competition, are forced to improve efficiency by constantly investing in better machinery. The first capitalists to use the new machinery get a brief period to make more profit by capturing a larger market share and selling commodities more cheaply than their rivals. But as the rival capitalists catch up with the new technology, the overall value

of commodities falls, since they contain less labor time. This is why a blank CD used to cost \$2 and now you can get it for a dime. Machines replace workers and since only workers create value, the rate of profit falls. Fewer workers produce lots more commodities while at the same time capitalists have to buy expensive machinery.

For the financial capitalists, the actual process of production is of no concern. They're not in business to make chairs or cars but to make money. Their sole interest is to find a sector of industry or different place where maximum profit can be realized by making loans or buying stocks. For an industrial capitalist, however, organizing production for a specific commodity is very concrete. Both industrial and financial capitalists depend on each other; but their conflicting interests cause the entire capitalist system of production to be destabilized. We will see this process in more detail in future articles.

The process we have described where money makes more money is also called the process of capitalist accumulation. In this process more and more value is created, thus the total value in so-

See CAPITALIST CRISIS, page 7