



# RED FLAG

**MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM**

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY \* [WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG](http://WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG)



**Agricultural Workers in Colombia**



**Teachers in Mexico**



**Suez Canal Workers in Egypt**



**Students in Togo**

**MASSES IN MOTION MUST ORGANIZE ICWP**

## **POLITICIANS OUTLAW STRIKES: MTA WORKERS MUST PREPARE TO STRIKE AGAINST CAPITALISM**

James Williams, General Chairman of the United Transportation Union representing MTA drivers, addresses three issues in his latest information bulletin: Pension funds, Tattoo Policy and Filing Grievances. His strategy on how to fight these issues shows not only his own ideological bankruptcy, but that of trade unionism.

The pension issue concerns Assembly Bill 340, signed last year into law by Governor Brown. Taking effect January 1, 2013, it attacks public employees hired after this date, reducing their benefits and forcing them to contribute 50% of their pension.

Williams, however, is grasping at straws. His concern is keeping his \$300,000-plus salary. By "fighting" these issues he is "proving" he is doing his job, and should be chosen General Chairman again after next year's November union elections.

We should not fall for his tricks. Electing new union leaders, however, won't solve our problems. The goal of even the most honest union

leaders is to try reform capitalism to meet our class's needs.

Since this is an impossible task, they eventually conclude: If you can't beat 'em, join 'em. They become anti-communists and loyal servants of capitalism. Their job then is to limit our struggles within the bosses' legal system and electoral farce, while keeping us disorganized, demoralized and submissive.

Our class' historic task, however, is to destroy capitalism. That is why we must replace trade unionism's reformist ideology with revolutionary communist ideology.

**Williams' strategy is to rely on the bosses' henchmen: their politicians and judges**

First, they met with the Governor's representative and that got them nowhere. This "labor friendly" Democratic Governor recently imposed a 60-day cooling off period on BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit) workers.

Then, Williams and other union hacks got their pals in the legislature

**See PENSIONS & TATTOOS at MTA, page 4**

## **BOSSES' ATTACKS STRENGTHEN WORKERS' RESOLVE TO SPREAD COMMUNIST IDEAS**

El Salvador—"We will continue distributing *Red Flag* in the factory, and now in a more organized way," said a comrade about problems that have occurred on her job.

In these last few weeks, there have been increased attacks on the workers by the bosses and the union leaders who have sold out to the bosses.

"What other actions have the bosses carried out?" asked an ICWP comrade.

"Well, they put a co-worker in jail, because the bosses accused him of stealing clothes that we make. This is only a pretext because he is fighting for workers' rights along with us. They have also beaten some co-workers at another factory."

We workers are clear that the capitalists are thieves and that the bosses rob us of the wealth produced by our labor power. This is proven by the huge profits they put in their pockets made from the thousands of commodities that we produce.

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"Really the capitalist system is pushing us too much," commented the comrades in a meeting at the lunch break.

"These accusations of robbery are common when the bosses want to get rid of someone who is trying to organize workers," said a comrade.

But another worker stated, "This must give us more strength to continue confronting this torment."

These women and men workers are part of the ICWP collective. "This helps us a lot, to be organized through the newspaper *Red Flag*. We've never before felt support like that of the ICWP. This motivates us to continue forward in the struggle," concluded a woman worker leader.

"We have to leaflet about these capitalist bosses' attacks as soon as possible and raise our voices to denounce them. This will also help comrades in other countries understand that the struggle against the bosses is the same here and there. Our only option is to do this with the ICWP comrades. In previous

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**Egypt Crisis:****WORKERS MUST SEIZE HISTORY; MOBILIZE FOR COMMUNISM**

The Egyptian masses are in motion. They—like many others from South Africa to Greece to Brazil — are proving that the masses are the architects of history. This is the history of class struggle. Although it is written with their blood, it is not necessarily consciously molded by them nor is the outcome representative of their class interests.

For thousands of years, the different ruling classes that emerged, when pre-class communism was divided into exploiters and exploited, have steered historical developments to serve their class interests. Their culture upheld their heroes as the makers of history and ridiculed the masses as ignorant, despicable and insignificant beings.

But the class struggle produced capitalism and capitalism created its grave-diggers: the working class. It also set the scientific basis for the development of the science of the working class: Dialectical and historical materialism. This science not only proves that we, the masses, are the makers of history but, most important, it teaches us how to take history into our hands to fight for our class interests.

It shows irrefutably that our class interests can only be satisfied with communism. This requires an armed insurrection and a massive communist party that mobilizes the masses for communism. That is what the Egyptian masses, and the millions worldwide in motion against capitalism, desperately need.

**Capitalist rulers can survive anything except communism**

Without this communist leadership and the goal of communism, the masses can upset the bosses' plans and intensify the class struggle, but not fight them for state power. So far, upsetting the bosses' plans is all the masses in motion in Egypt have managed to accomplish.

The aroused masses, however, even without their revolutionary communist leadership, instill tremendous fear in the rulers. The chaos engulfing Egypt is a direct result of a desperate ruling class, fearful of the masses, trying to pacify or shoot them into submission.

This has sharpened the contradiction between the Egyptian rulers and threatens to engulf Egypt in a civil war — which will further intensify the class struggle there.

The question of how best to deal with the masses has also sharpened contradictions between the rulers of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait, and US imperialists. These local rulers are prioritizing their own interests over that of US and European imperialists. This exposes a weakened Western imperialism less and less able to

control events in the strategic Middle East.

But, a slap in the face to these rulers by some of their “staunchest” allies is a far cry from a communist revolution and in no way benefits Arab workers or workers anywhere.

Neither will it aid our class if the China-Russia-Iran axis becomes dominant in the region. It will, however, sharpen the contradiction that is deepening capitalism's worldwide crisis of overproduction and propelling all these butchers to wider wars and to an eventual but inevitable world war.

**These two developments limit the concessions the rulers can make to appease the masses**

To appease the masses the Egyptian bosses must appease the Egyptian industrial working class. These workers played an important role in organizing massive strikes that influenced the events that spelled Mubarak's demise. They have continued to strike during Morsi's rule and now under Sisi - the new military dictator.

As one analyst puts it, “Class conflict is also deepening as austerity programs being discussed by Sisi's puppet government threaten to cut subsidies of food and other vital essentials. The labor movement has responded by demanding increased salaries and benefits. Strikes have increased apace, many being crushed by military force.” (www.atimes.com)

**Class War for Communism must be our goal**

Neither jailing, beatings or outright massacres have ever stopped the working class. Egyptian textile and transportation workers are proving this once more (see box). However, their struggle needs to be for communism.

That means winning masses of soldiers to turn the guns around and fight for communism. The opportunity for doing this already exists, but will increase tremendously as the Egyptian bosses use the army massively against striking workers or to fight a civil war.

The 500,000 active duty soldiers and one million reservists are dirt-poor urban and rural workers. They suffer brutal treatment by the officers. Over half are draftees making \$17 to \$28 a month. Many are forced to slave in the generals' factories. Their interests are opposite from these exploiters. They can and must be won to fight for communism.

Now more than ever building a massive international ICWP is a question of life and death for the international working class. We call on workers, soldiers, students and youth everywhere to join us in this crucial task.

**Striking industrial workers have been in the forefront in the struggle against the Mubarak, Morsi and now Sisi governments. This shows their potential key role in mobilizing the masses for communism.**

Workers' protests are on the rise, with a new strike wave across the Egyptian textile industry challenging the military government, in power less than a month. They are battling the same anti-worker policies which they massively organized against last year.

Textile workers in the Nile Delta struck on July 31 in protest at delays in paying their wages, and the failure to pay three months of their annual profit-sharing bonus. Other factories have followed their lead.

The new Minister of Labor was the president of the Egyptian Federation of Independent Trade Unions. Despite his promises of far-reaching social reforms, textile workers have found their pay cut or delayed just as they did before Morsi's overthrow.

Two thousand one hundred Suez Steel workers took over the factory demanding higher wages and the release of their arrested leaders. The armed forces surrounded the factory to force them to leave. The workers have been on strike for three weeks.

Transit workers are also on the move. Last April, 73,000 railway workers struck over pay and benefits, their biggest strike in 30 years. The government threatened that the army would take over the railroads.

One driver responded, “Neither the army nor the police are capable of driving or operating these trains...we even operate the army trains.” So government officials tried to get Cairo Metro workers to drive railway trains, but they also threatened to strike.

Then the military leadership attempted to conscript rail workers, ordering them to work “in a military capacity for the armed forces” and threatening those who refused with a six-month jail sentence. In answer, Metro workers threatened to strike in solidarity with railway workers. The army retreated, cancelled the attempted conscription and said they would implement the strikers' demands.

When these garment, steel, and transit workers decide that only communism can meet their needs and mobilize the masses to fight for it, no power on earth can stop them.

**MAQUILAS & REVOLUTION from page 1**

years we tried to do this with liberal unions who call themselves leftists and found that it is a waste of time.

Furious women workers say, “Our struggle now must be to teach our communist ideas to men and women workers in other factories where they are living through the same oppression we are.”

This week we have taken another step in organizing ICWP. We distributed six *Red Flags* in

another factory and have already established contacts with those workers. If the bosses thought that we would give up, they are very wrong. There's a slogan that says: more repression, more struggle. It's a historic slogan and is even more valid today. With the help of comrades and *Red Flag*, we will continue to denounce these injustices and know that we have an International Communist Workers' Party—ICWP—in which we support each other and of which we know we are a part.



**JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY (ICWP)**  
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## Communist Lessons to Win:

### BATTLE FOR LIFE'S NECESSITIES

SEATTLE, WA — Egypt and the Sakuma Brothers Berry Farm strike dominated the discussion at an emergency meeting of the International Communist Workers' Party this weekend. Egypt is a bigger struggle, but both show the masses on the move. Everyone took extra papers for co-workers, family and friends in a number of countries.

Capitalism has failed the working class; nobody felt they could rely on the traditional organizations, like unions, that used to define reform. We agreed to spread the strategy of mobilizing the masses for communism wherever there is class struggle. Indeed, the mass mobilization for communist revolution has become an immediate life and death issue.

We held our meeting in both Spanish and English. Old friends took new initiative, providing translation when necessary. About an hour north, 240 striking families at Sakuma farms regularly deliberate in three languages: Spanish, Mixteco and Triqui.

A bilingual group of comrades will accompany new and old friends to visit the farm community with *Red Flag*. We hope to have discussions similar to the one at our meeting with strikers. We will bring these lessons back to a wider audience at our monthly "pizza and politics" dinner.

#### Imperialism and Revolution

The strike discussion took the measure of the political climate in which workers take matters into their own hands, in opposition to union lead-

ers or, in this case, without unions altogether.

Egypt was the biggest news this week. Far from being demoralized by the massacres there, our friends were angry. "This is not going to stop," said the translator. "Workers will continue to fight against the capitalists' crisis. Now, what are we going to do?"

"Persistence and tenacity [are the key]," he insisted.

"Does the U.S. always get involved in every struggle around the world, like in Latin America?" asked another worker.

"Everywhere they can," answered another comrade, "but it's not like it was decades ago. The U.S. can't always call the shots." We concluded the imperialists were cynically maneuvering in hopes of reasserting their power. The imperialists fight it out in a world marked by instability and ungovernability.

Then we got to the heart of the discussion.

#### Workers have paid in blood for the lessons Egypt tells us.

"The only way to end exploitation is with revolution," said a worker who has seen his share of radical movements, "and there is only one way to have a revolution: with armed might." Passive resistance only leads to more workers' deaths.

This led to the necessity of communist work in the military and industrial working class. Imagine if we had a mass communist base in the Egyptian Army. The butcher General Sisi would not be long for this world.

All agreed that religion was a deadly diversion for the Egyptian working class.

Then a new worker asked what our party thought about Castro and Chavez. Nothing can substitute for communism, especially not socialism, we answered.

Historically, the communist movement made the mistake of thinking socialism would lead to

communism. That's never happened.

In fact, socialism is another form of capitalism. The strategy of fighting for socialism has done terrible harm to the communist movement. We have to root out the basis of capitalism-- production for sale and profit--by fighting directly for communism.

After a half-hour, the translator fell silent. A comrade asked if he thought this was going too far.

"No," he answered. "I'm trying to figure out how we can avoid that mistake again!"

#### Feeding Everyone: Communist Imperative

This strike of super-exploited immigrant farmworkers raises the question of how we could feed workers without exploitation.

The bosses assert cynically that food would be too expensive if they paid farmworkers more. The bosses' non-government organizations call for indigenous seeds and small farms. Neither can compare with masses mobilized with communist consciousness to fight to feed everyone.

We don't promise a paradise on earth. We expect to build communist society from the ashes of capitalist destruction, probably a world war. At times, we may not be able to provide very much, but we will share what we have. No longer will millions starve while others eat their fill.

The struggle to feed our brothers and sisters requires eliminating the division of mental and manual labor. Agricultural science will not be locked away in the universities. It will be in the hands of agricultural workers.

Everyone who is able will work and everyone will be expected to teach. Agricultural sciences will flourish in the service of the masses, not for the profits of the bosses. Communism will unleash the persistence, tenacity and creativity of the working class.

In the process of fighting to produce what we need, we will produce our most essential necessity: more communists dedicated to our class.



## Bay Area Transit Workers in Motion

### DISCUSS COMMUNIST SOLUTION TO BOSSES' ATTACKS

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA--By an emphatic 2 to 1 margin last Saturday, A/C Transit workers rejected the latest contract offer. Although the contract offer was supported by both Union and management, the rejection amounts to more than just a "no" vote. It is, in fact, the result of an emerging new level of working class activism. The masses are mobilizing.

To accommodate all three shifts, day-long voting took place at the Union hall in Oakland. All day- even past five o'clock in the evening - groups of 'vote-No' drivers picketed outside.

Friday morning, A/C drivers in at least one division had witnessed something never seen before. BART workers (train drivers) leafleted them as they went to work. The leaflet predicted that BART workers would again reject the contract they were being offered and called on A/C workers to support them.

Governor Brown ordered a 60-day "cooling off" period in the BART strike about two weeks ago. Apparently some rank-and-filers are using it as a 60 day agitation period! Political reality changes quickly when workers are in motion

But our goal in this struggle should not be for a "better contract," which only creates the dangerous illusion that capitalism-imperialism can be reformed to meet our needs. Contracts only

justify and legalize the terms of our exploitation as wage slaves. Our goal should be to abolish wage slavery and all contracts, together with capitalism-imperialism.

There is a growing realization among transport workers that they play a central role in the day-to-day running of capitalism. In part the bosses' own media let the cat out of the bag when they cried over the 4-day BART strike costing the areas' major companies some \$73 million each day.

This growing awareness of their power, along with their anger at the misrepresentation of their case in the press and the treachery of their Unions, is sending more and more in search of new strategies and new understandings.

This was certainly the conclusion reached by a handful of *Red Flag* activists who distributed newspapers and leaflets to drivers and passengers the day before the vote.

We argued that the major issues in this contract were a direct result of the battle for worldwide economic supremacy between the USA and China. We urged workers to look

at this contract struggle not so much as a labor dispute as an incident in class war. And we asked them to join us in the long march to communist revolution.

"What is communism?" one passenger butted into our conversation with a driver. With a slight edge in his voice he said, "Give me a short answer!" We thought a moment. "It's a system," one of us answered, "that puts the needs of people first and the needs of money or profits in the dustbin."

He paused. "That's a deep idea," he said taking *Red Flag*.

While there was openness to our communist arguments (see the letter, page 7), the idea of turning the contract dispute into a political strike against US imperialism seemed a bit of a stretch to most of the drivers.

In part, this reflects the development of their class consciousness, or realization that since workers create all value in society, they should run it too. However, it also reflects the newness of our ties with the transit workers. In the twisting course of a revolution, though, it's not where you are coming from but where you are going, that counts!



## Mexico: "Education Reform" Shows Need to

### ELIMINATE WAGE LABOR, NOT "IMPROVE" CAPITALIST SCHOOLS

The capitalist class, through its State/government is pushing the "Update of plans and programs" in the College of Sciences and Humanities (CCH) and has decreed an "Education Reform" in basic education.

Governments fit the curriculum to the "needs of the system of production": to improve the teaching of the mother tongue, of basic mathematics operations, of a foreign language (preferably English), the use of computers and physical education. These are their goals, in every country in the world.

They seek to guarantee that what is taught serves the requirements of the corporations, not only technically but also in their need to fight for markets and sources of raw materials world wide. Since most of the businesses functioning in much of Latin America are still from the USA, the curriculum fits the needs of the US imperialists, in preparation for wider wars. They need production for war and preparation of soldiers.

Today when the working class is protesting all over the world, we need to change our way of thinking and advocate the elimination of exploitation, the capitalists' use of workers' labor power. We must fight for the overthrow of the capitalists, not for democracy or socialism (state capitalism).

We need a superior society in which the workers freely associate, producing use values, not commodities. We don't need money for exchange since there won't be exchange, but instead direct distribution after securing the provisions that ensure the future of humanity. Each will receive according to their need, regardless of what kind of work they carry out since everyone of working age will work for the benefit of our brothers and sisters around the world.

Education will take place in the centers of work or around them so that it corresponds to the needs of the world's workers. And it will combine work, study and exercise.

Fight over profits forces the bosses world wide to "improve" the training of labor power. At the beginning of the factory system, the most intelligent, sensible, and supposedly humane legislators issued laws in England which forced manufacturers to provide education to the children whom they employed. They trickily put in teachers who didn't even know how to read. Education, even though necessary to improve worker performance, was given in "homeopathic [tiny] doses," in the words of Adam Smith.

Later, the capitalists understood the need for future industrial and farm workers to read and carry out basic operations, and thus created "public education," which is ruled by governments and maintained with taxes, the "public purse."

Even on its own terms, "public education" resulted in a fraud. The capitalists corrupt everything. They vilify the teachers, bribing them through the unions, giving preference for jobs to some against their own laws, with the goal of get-

ting support for their government. They extend the curriculum to delay the youths' search for jobs.

Bad living conditions, malnutrition, the problems associated with exploitation like racist poverty, contribute equally to making "public education" barely reach 40% efficiency world wide. Moreover, if they were more efficient, it would be to benefit capitalism. As the low wages of teachers and the large class sizes lead to students dropping out of school and non-accreditation, the international organizations like OECD and UNESCO have promoted remedial counseling and tutoring programs.

In line with its plans of trade wars that become real wars which will lead to world war, they have deregulated the labor force, limiting the right to unionize, raising the retirement age, privatizing pension funds, and above all eliminating job stability and permanence.

"How can the teachers of CNTE (teachers' union) ask that universal evaluation be applied without it affecting their jobs? If they don't approve it, they must be removed. It's for the good of our children!" repeat the television announcers over and over.

We need to organize in the Party to overthrow the power of the capitalists. The "left," the pro-capitalist politicians, who call themselves progressives, call on us to support politicians like Lula, the late Hugo Chavez, or Obrador. Worldwide, they present the BRICS as an alternative to US imperialism.

The working class doesn't need other exploiters. The "left" calls on us to reform capitalism into a "loving republic," in which the capitalists continue using and abusing our labor power. Taking the world in our hands means to overthrow every capitalist in the world. For that we need a disciplined organization with a firm goal. Join us!



**Teachers in Chilpancingo, capital of the state of Guerrero, attack offices of the National Action Party (PAN) and other government offices in charge of implementing capitalist education reform.**

## PENSIONS & TATTOOS at MTA from page 1

to introduce their own bill, Assembly Bill 160, "which will exempt us from having our pensions' bargaining rights compromised." These traitors have the illusion that the legislature that voted 42-8 to pass Brown's AB 340 will pass their bill.

About grievances he basically blames us, saying "we must be more active and educated" about the process. About the Tattoo Policy, he triumphantly announced "we have retained Legal Counsel" to challenge MTA in court.

On this issue, the big US bosses might decide to grant Williams a "victory." Tattoos are a trivial issue. Tattoos do not shut down cities, strikes do.

Strikes are costly. BART's recent strike cost the local economy \$292 million. Strikes, especially in key industries, can put masses in motion. Think: South Africa, Egypt, Greece and Brazil.

The mobilized masses are open to our communist ideas. For example, we distributed over one thousand *Red Flags* to Trayvon Martin demonstrators in LA. The bosses fear that we will turn that potential for communist revolution into a reality. That's why they plan to make strikes illegal.

### **Top Democrat considering bill to end transit workers' "right" to strike**

"Democratic Senator Mark DeSaulnier, head

of the Senate Transportation Committee, praised Gov. Jerry Brown for preventing Bay Area transit workers from walking off the job Monday and said he is still considering legislation that would permanently take away their right to strike." (*LA Times*, August 5, 2013)

"Of the 10 largest metropolitan areas, Los Angeles and the Bay Area are the exception," he said. "All of the other large systems do not allow transit workers to strike." About changing the law he said, "Realistically, I think we're talking about next year."

### **Workers do not have "rights," only needs**

Rights were a capitalist invention to make us believe that their system is fair. Their courts are supposedly the guardians of our "rights." But, the law is their law, designed to keep us as wage slaves.

Our class, however, only has needs, and our most pressing need is to destroy capitalism which denies us our basic needs as human beings. That is why – in spite of the bosses' injunctions or anti-strike laws – our needs require that we break those laws.

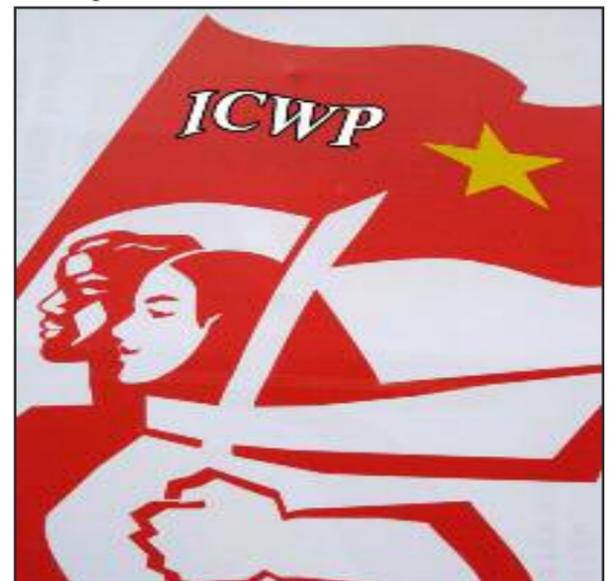
### **We must organize political strikes that point to the need to destroy capitalism and its laws.**

Such a strike would inspire millions of workers, students, soldiers and youth - locally, nationally and internationally – to grasp and fight for

the vision of a communist world which is our paramount need.

Then, our class, no longer divided by "race," sex, creed, borders or flags, will collectively plan, produce and distribute everything according to need. Our guiding principle will be "from each according to their ability and commitment, to each according to their need."

Let's advance this vision by joining ICWP, by helping to double the current 900 copies of *Red Flag* distributed to MTA workers, and by organizing for next year's political strike against MTA and capitalism.



## Hunger Strikers Expose Racist U.S. Prison System

### COMMUNIST MASSES WILL END ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

As we go to press, the hunger strike in the California state prisons is in its 45th day, with one hunger striker dead and at least one hundred and ninety still risking their lives to end indefinite solitary confinement. Prisoners in California can be put into the SHU (security housing unit) for alleged gang affiliation, and are confined to cement cells for 22 1/2 hours a day, with only 90 minutes of solitary exercise outside their cells. There are prisoners who have been in the SHU in California for up to 40 years. This is torture!

The strike organizers are a multi-racial group which led a similar strike in 2011 and last summer issued a call for an end to racial hostilities in the prisons. The 2011 strike was called off when the authorities promised to make some reforms in the SHU, but they never kept their promises. This time, the strikers are fasting until their demands are met, and the courts have given the state permission to force-feed them against their will.

#### The Incarceration of a Generation

The prisoners in the SHU are no angels. But violent crime is what capitalism celebrates, and the fact that there are so many young men in prison is a set-up. As we saw in the documentary *Bastards of the Party* (which we recommend to *Red Flag* readers) the racism which initially led to gangs being organizations of self-defense, the failure of the movement of the 1960s to put an end to racism (because it's built-in to capitalism), the elimination of industrial jobs in US cities in the 1970s, and the CIA-orchestrated mass influx of crack cocaine in the 1980s were the conditions

which led to an entire generation of black men being incarcerated. The government used the "War on Drugs" to justify increased police attacks on inner city neighborhoods, and combined that with racist sentencing laws to justify an explosion of prison construction. US prison population has gone from 300,000 inmates to more than two million since 1980, with the majority due to drug convictions.

This has been used to terrorize all workers.

#### Capitalism is the Problem

Inmates are risking their lives demanding five humanitarian reforms in a racist prison system which has locked up the young black men who led rebellions in the cities and in the army in the 1960s as well as an increasing number of young latinos and working class men and women of all races.

It exposes the brutal racist face of US capitalism, and parallels the treatment of prisoners in Guantanamo, who have also been force-fed during a hunger strike this summer. But capitalism depends on racism, and on brutal force. We can't confine our struggle to reforms. Capitalism itself is the problem, and only communist revolution—not fasting for reforms—can solve it.

#### Communism will Eliminate the Causes of Crime--But How?

By eliminating the biggest criminals of all—the capitalists, and by getting rid of wage slavery and money.

Most of the people in the SHU and in prison in general are there because of gangs and drugs. Gangs give the targets of racism a collective to have your back. Drug dealing became one of the few ways for black men to make a living when industrial jobs disappeared.

Communism will have meaningful work, and a useful life for everyone. Instead of pushing the extreme individualism that leads to crime, communism will be based on cooperation to meet the needs of society. No one will be forced by hunger



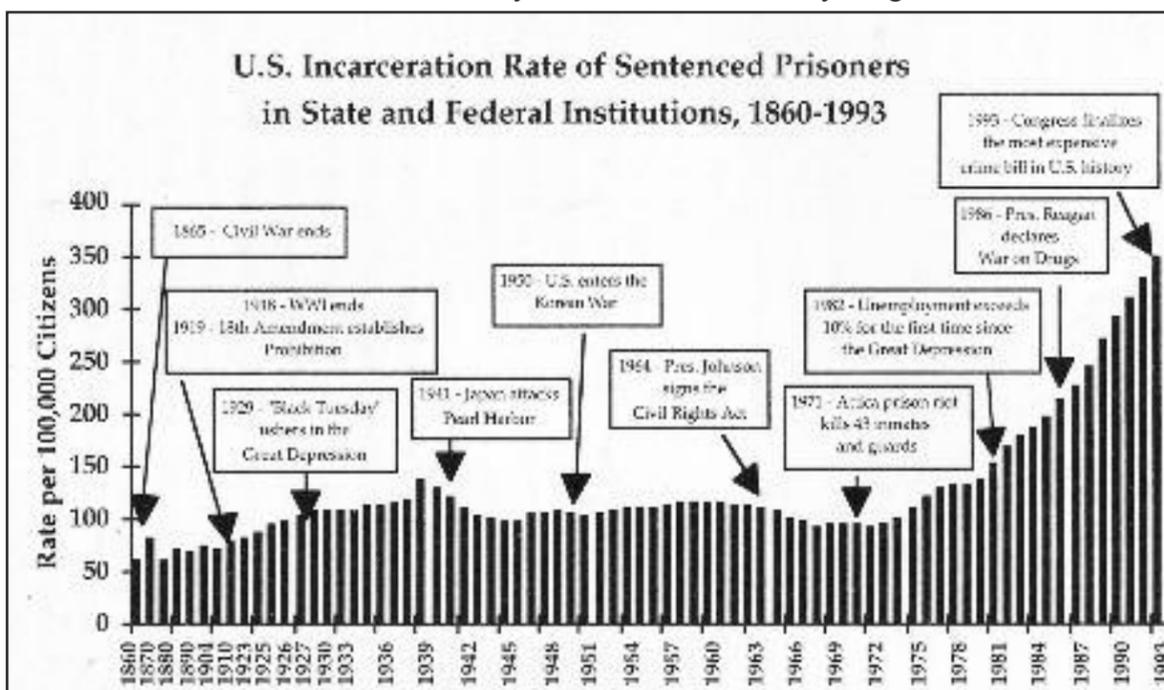
into anti-social behavior. No one will be so isolated that they will need drugs to deal with stress. If people begin to engage in anti-social behavior, there will be a collective to deal with it before it gets out of hand.

#### Mobilizing the Masses to Deal with Anti-Social Behavior

But what about the people, especially right after a revolution, who have been so damaged by capitalism that they attack their class brothers and sisters? Instead of setting up a separate state apparatus of cops and courts and prisons, the masses of people in their workplaces and communities will solve these problems. In China after the revolution the party led the masses to demand retribution, and then to help former criminals and landlords to change. The collective will have to

guarantee that anti-social individuals are not able to attack their brothers and sisters.

But we won't isolate people and create monsters who get out worse than they went in, like they do in the US prison system. Communists know from our study of the communist philosophy of dialectical materialism, that people can change. We know it will be a long, hard process, but we put our confidence in constant, collective, mass political struggle now and after the revolution.



## The Curriculum is Imposed by Capitalism

### WORKERS OF THE WORLD WILL DEVELOP COMMUNIST EDUCATION

EL SALVADOR—In a meeting carried out a few days ago with teachers from different parts of the country, we were discussing our points of view about the official plans and projects of the Ministry of Education. A teacher said that they have always imposed on us the plans of other countries. I said, "First we should ask, who imposes these plans on us?" There were many opinions. "The MINED, (Ministry of Education), the right wing," and so on.

Again, I intervened saying, "The curriculum is imposed by the economic power, that is, by capitalism." Another teacher responded, "But I hope the FMLN wins in 2014 and the following years. Everything will be different if ARENA wins."

After this statement, I emphasized, "Whether ARENA or the FMLN wins, the education plans and philosophy will always be imposed by the same capitalist system, friends. In education, we have won some space through reform, but we haven't fought for a real change of

systems."

The other teacher reflected to the group that was at the meeting, "Friends, this has left me worried because I am now clear that whichever electoral party wins, the plans of the educational system of this country will always be imposed by capitalism."

As a communist teacher and member of the International Communist Workers' Party—ICWP—I have the task of exposing the masks of the electoral parties that fool our working class, to show them that the only solution is the struggle to change systems and that they shouldn't grieve, but instead become active by reading our newspaper *Red Flag* and organizing in our Party, ICWP.

A teacher comrade from the leadership of ICWP said that, independently of the political-economic system that is leading the working class, educational planning will have to be carried out. But, in the system of the

working class, humanity will be the priority and not the profit factories into which the current education centers have been converted in the capitalist system. For example, the educational plans and projects in communism led by ICWP will be focused on preserving and developing our communist ideological line and philosophy in favor of our children.

--Red Teacher



## COMMUNITY COLLEGE FIGHT SHOWS NEED FOR COMMUNIST POLITICS OF EDUCATION



outrageous profits on student loans.

Many dismiss commission President Barbara Beno's claim that she's responding to federal demands. But all accrediting agencies take their cue from the U.S. DOE, which in turn takes its cue from the capitalist rulers, whether under Republican Margaret Spellings or Democrat Arne Duncan. (See box)

According to a 2011 "Discussion Draft" from the U.S. Department of Education:

*"As a function of its engagement in the federal aid eligibility process, government regulation has moved the accreditation system in the direction of accountability."*

*"The accreditors themselves find their standards, criteria, and requirements being shaped by a federal agenda quite apart from the traditions and interests of the voluntary peer review of an academic enterprise."*

### What is that federal agenda?

To fund only educational activities "in accordance with the principle that a well-educated citizenry promotes individual and community well-being, economic competitiveness and workforce development, and civic participation." In other words, colleges should get money only to train patriotic workers who will produce maximum profit with minimum protest, and (when needed) fight in the bosses' wars.

### What must our agenda be?

To eliminate money and the profit system (capitalism) so that education can be united with productive work to meet the material and social needs of the masses. In other words, to educate and organize ourselves (workers, students, soldiers, teachers) to mobilize for communist revolution.

Communist society will not have layers upon layers of administrators, bureaucrats, and secretive commissions to evaluate work from above. Instead, collectives engaged in work and education will evaluate themselves through an open process of criticism and self-criticism that involves the masses to the greatest extent possible, as our Party collectives must do today.

These growing and increasingly numerous collectives, welcoming the masses and linked into one International Communist Workers' Party, will be the leading core of society. We will all be accountable to the masses.

Educational policy is always driven by politics. Today it's driven by capitalist politics, the rulers' struggle to maintain their power over us. We strive for education driven by communist politics, the struggle of the masses for the power to produce and share based on our commitment to each other and the needs of all.

We ask you to "accredit" the ICWP with your support, your criticisms, and your active participation.

The accreditation fight at City College of San Francisco exposes the way that the US ruling class is reshaping community colleges to better meet the needs of capitalism-imperialism. More importantly, it raises the question of what kind of education and society workers need.

The accrediting commission (Association of Community Colleges and Junior Colleges) ordered in July that City College should shut down in June 2014. It rejected the college's frantic efforts to meet its demands, including cutbacks and reduced faculty involvement in decision-making. Without accreditation, colleges can't get state funds and students can't get federal financial aid or a recognized degree.

Amid massive student-faculty protests, the California Federation of Teachers appealed to the U.S. Department of Education (DOE), which authorizes the accreditors. City College Special Trustee Bob Agrella (accountable only to the State Chancellor) complained, "We shouldn't fight the commission."

Protests have continued, including a City Hall sit-in of over 150 students on August 20.

### Feds Tell Commission: "Clean Up Your Act"

On August 13, the U.S. DOE surprisingly announced that the commission itself is "out of compliance" because of the composition of review teams (not enough faculty), the appearance of conflict of interest (spouse of ACCJC president was on the City College review team), and due-process issues. These included shredding documents, bypassing lesser sanctions like "warnings," and issuing vague "recommendations" without indicating how serious they were.

City College supporters are delighted that the Feds gave the commission a deadline to correct its problems, threatening to take away its power. So are many other faculty who have been harassed and intimidated by the commission, which has sanctioned nearly two-thirds of the community colleges in California and Hawaii, far more than any other regional commission.

Few believe any more that the commission is a "voluntary association" conducting "peer review." Increasing numbers see that its program aligns with the privatization and corporatization of public education from K-12 on up. They are appalled that the commission takes money from the Lumina Foundation, money amassed from

## FOXES GUARDING THE CHICKEN COOP

Members of the Department of Education accreditation group are handpicked for their capitalist ties and loyalties.

Some, like Mellon Foundation President Earl Lewis, represent big foundations that throw money into reshaping schools and other institutions.

Others are higher-education "insiders" like Jill Derby (Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges), Jamiene Studley (American Association of Colleges and Universities) and Cameron Staples (New England Association of Schools & Colleges.)

Political "insiders" include Arthur Rothkopf (U.S. Chamber of Commerce and former deputy secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation) and William Armstrong, who spent 20 years in Congress, chairing the Republican Policy Committee.

Some are self-described "education reformers" like Richard O'Donnell, who helps run The Fullbridge Program, which sells "business immersion boot camps."

Federico Zaragoza, Vice-Chancellor of Economic and Workforce Development in the San Antonio, Texas community college system, represents the growing trend of training students to meet specific corporate needs.

Representing the for-profit sector is Arthur Keiser, leader of its chief lobbying organization. His Keiser University (a career college) converted to "not-for-profit" status in 2011 while under investigation for high costs, low graduation rates, and questionable recruiting practices. William Pepicello heads the University of Phoenix, the largest for-profit online school, also exposed for leaving students mired in debt, often without a degree.

Most other commissioners are present or former college heads, experts at running institutions that promote deadly capitalist ideology and train a docile workforce.

Don't rely on these foxes to guard the educational interests of the masses!



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## FROM AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION TO COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

EL SALVADOR- We were part of the social base of the FMLN during its armed conflict with the Salvadoran armed forces in 1987. A friend and I (who are both today comrades in the ICWP) asked a liberal priest, "What is communism?"

We had heard and read that communism was bad for the world and that it took everything away, even a person's soul. He answered, "Communism isn't something made in Russia or China and sent from there, but it's something that grows and must be cultivated. The revolutionary process must be followed to consolidate communism here."

When I went around the social base of the FMLN, I thought the revolutionary process was communist; when I heard from a rebel radio station that the goal was socialism, I thought this

wasn't what we wanted. From then on the question arose in me: why weren't we fighting directly for communism? In 1997, years after the war ended, a friend from the area gave me a copy of the old newspaper.

Today, through reading and understanding the political-ideological line of the newspaper *Red Flag*, we are on the road to organizing with the communist ideas of the International Communist Workers' Party—ICWP.

We are putting ICWP's revolutionary ideas into practice. We have built collectives to produce corn, beans and vegetables on the land of co-workers. In these agricultural collectives we work together, men and women, young and less young, with the goal of sowing the seeds of revolutionary consciousness and to produce food security, which this capitalist system does not

guarantee us. We farm workers often suffer hunger, along with racism, since most people think we are ignorant.

Since we produce what we need and not for profit, we struggle to counter capitalist exploitation. Our ideal is to grow with this way of producing and have co-workers join us.

Not all of us in the collectives are fully convinced about the communist ideas of the project; the rest of us are members of the ICWP or *Red Flag* readers. We are sure that this is a revolutionary school for communism and that when we obtain results and are able to help them fully understand that only through solidarity and collectivity can we move forward, they will take quantitative and qualitative steps to join our struggle for the system of the working class: communism. ---Comrade in El Salvador

### AC Driver Likes Red Flag

Some of us comrades distributed *Red Flag* and an ICWP leaflet to A/C Transit workers and passengers the day before they voted on the contract. I talked with a driver from Nicaragua who said that he had read other editions of *Red Flag*. He asked me where I came from. I told him, "I come from Mexico. I participated in building the Party there and now here also."

He said, "So you came to stir up the waters here?" "Yes," I told him.

The driver said that he participated in the Sandinista movement and in the end the leaders of the movement kept the power and the wealth for themselves. He asked, "Why do we have to believe in socialism if it hasn't worked?"

I explained to him that socialism and communism are different. The main difference is that in communism there won't be money. The attempts at socialism in China and Cuba maintained money and wage differences, keeping class differences. This has been state capitalism. This won't exist in communism.

The driver had to go back to work, but he took the newspaper and the leaflet. He said he would read this edition and he wished me good luck.

--A comrade

### Child Miner Revolutionaries Will Bury the Bosses

MEXICO-August—The sun has not yet risen and hundreds of children are already preparing to go to work in some little mine to extract coal. They work 8 to 12 hours a day, for a third an adult's wages. The small shafts are small tunnels in which an adult can't usually fit. In Mexico, it has been identified that 3.5 million children work, of whom 600,000 carry out high risk jobs like mining, agriculture and construction. In the coal sector alone, it is estimated that children work in 18% of the mines.

The murder occurred in mine 3 Ferber of the Binsa company on February 19, 2006 in Sabinas, Coahuila where among the dead were found the bodies of several children. The government claimed that only one child, named Jesus Fernando, worked there. The pain of their families and friends makes them remember these children, and they formed an organization called Pasta de Conchos Family. More than 7 years have passed and there have been more deaths in vertical shafts where 80% of the accidents occur.

Even in most "normal and legal" mines, they don't have drinking water, nor bathrooms and

they deny permission to leave. Workers can spend 3 to 4 days without receiving food.

The existence of "clandestine" coal mines that are not registered with Social Security means savings for the subcontractor companies and millions in profits for the companies that don't take responsibility for this production, like Grupo Mexico.

Grupo Mexico has the concession for the largest sale of copper in the country and uses a system of contracting in the Buenavista Copper Mine (previously called Cananea) in which miners work without benefits, or with temporary contracts. The government controls the contract with the Federal Electricity Commission for the purchase of coal through the Promoter for Mining Development of Coahuila, which decides who gets the contracts. This creates a competition to the death to be able to get the coal to market and this determines what is happening in every mine and in all mining nationwide.

In a communist world, work will always be necessary, but what will not exist are schools or dangerous factories or mines like today. Children will not have to perform risky jobs. In the production collectives, the parents, friends, and comrades will work, learn and have fun. The most important thing is there will not be shifts of dangerous, repetitive work for many hours. Work schedules could vary, depending on the situation.

Children won't have to spend several hours sitting and learning, without seeing any relationship between what they are learning and the world around them. It will be a world of work and learning, making the most of every human being for the benefit of the whole society. Let's organize ICWP so that there is no child or adult having the life sucked from them by some boss.

--Red Dad

### Not then, not now, not ever by Truus Menger.

The most well known story of a young Dutch girl during World War II, the *Diary of Anne Frank*, has been

translated into over fifty-five languages and is assigned to students around the world. In her diary, Anne Frank writes about her experiences as a young Jewish teenager, hiding for two years in an attic from the Nazis.

Almost unknown is the story of Dutch young women, Truus and Freddie Oversteegen and Hannie Schaft, who were part of the Communist resistance to the Nazis during the same period.

Truus and Freddie, daughters of a single mother, grew up in a Communist household in Haarlem, a suburb of the Dutch capital, Amsterdam. When the Nazis occupied Holland, they were only fourteen and sixteen years old, but they joined a Communist resistance cell. They smuggled illegal Communist literature, carried out acts of sabotage, assassinated Nazis and Dutch collaborators, and helped rescue Jewish children on the way to the gas chambers.

In 1943, Hannie Schaft, a law student from Amsterdam, joined the group. She became known as "the girl with the red hair" after someone saw her bicycling away from an assassination. After that she dyed her hair black and wore fake spectacles.

In March, 1945, Hannie was caught in a checkpoint with illegal literature and a gun. In jail, the Nazis discovered that she was "the girl with the red hair," and on April 17, 1945, three weeks before the end of the war, she was taken out to the beach, shot, and buried in a shallow grave.

Truus and Freddie survived the war, and in 1982 Truus wrote a book about their experiences. Hannie's story is also included in other books about women in the resistance.

This book is a helpful antidote to the passivity that the ruling class pushes with the *Diary of Anne Frank*. But you don't really get much of a view of why these young people were Communists. There is one passage where a young working-class comrade talks vaguely about the world he hoped to see after the war, as well as a critique of the corruption and opportunism of the resistance groups tied to the Dutch ruling class.

But these young Communists, like some "communists" today, were won to a policy of uniting with "lesser evil" bosses against racism and fascism and hiding, postponing, and eventually discarding their communist politics. After the war, capitalism in Holland went on just the same.

We have to learn from this mistake to always keep our goal of a

Communist society primary. But we can also learn from and emulate the courage and dedication of the young women Communists who fought against fascism.

--Red Reader



## WHAT WILL IT BE LIKE TO LIVE UNDER COMMUNISM...HOW DO WE KNOW IT WILL WORK?

To join study groups that will be discussing this topic contact us

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### WORKERS CAN RUN SOCIETY!

**MYTH: workers aren't capable of running things...chaos would erupt if we didn't have bosses.**

How often do we hear this? In Feudal times it was said that without a King, Queen, Nobles, and Clergy—everything would fall into immoral violent unruliness because the peasants/serfs wouldn't know how to run society. **Fear was spread to maintain the status quo then and fear is spread today to protect the current hierarchy.** Eventually the monarchy was overthrown and now it's time for us to overthrow our oppressors.

An increasing body of literature talks about "Workers Self-Directed Enterprises," or "Co-ops." Promoters of co-ops often call them alternatives to Capitalist modes of production.

**However, co-ops function within Capitalism and are not free from the need to produce for profits for survival in the Capitalist market.**

Still, we can describe them for folks who mistakenly believe that workers wouldn't know how to run things without the bosses or the rich, who do very little or nothing while we do ALL

Workers within co-op enterprises make all decisions related to production: what is produced, how it's produced, how much is produced, etc.

**It's said that co-ops create an "environment of equals" where workers enjoy their work, work well together, and are more creative.**

This helps demonstrate how workers ARE CAPABLE of running things even without over-rated Harvard/Cambridge MBAs.

Some co-ops are small, like groups of 10 to 20 Silicon Valley engineers who leave large companies, such as Oracle and IBM to form a co-op. The largest co-op frequently cited, The Mondragon Corporation, a federation of worker cooperatives based in the Basque region, is the 7<sup>th</sup> largest corporation in Spain, with about 120,000 workers.

However, these examples only show that workers can run capitalist enterprises. **At some point surplus value is extracted, and production for exchange value rather than use value continues. It's important to understand the huge difference between co-ops and the communist society we need.**

Future articles will describe how the communist-inspired masses in China began to organize and run production along very different lines, and the limitations of these great experiments.

### The absurdity of production for exchange rather than for use!



### Work Under Communism:

#### How It Looks and What Motivates Workers

*Red Flag* has described work under communism and what motivates workers to do it. Under communism, our class collectively runs society. Production is for use, not profit. There are no bosses, money, privileges, personal wealth, or private property. Everyone works for the common good and shares in the results. Communism frees the masses to make the decisions that affect us all.

Are you motivated to fight for communism yet?

Communism combines learning and work. Classrooms are centers where we put knowledge to work based on theory and practice. Schools aren't separate from factories, laboratories, or hospitals...they are the same place! Under communism, we are workers *and* students!

Also, we're motivated by safer and more fulfilling work because we can see how our labor directly helps society. Communism encourages workers' creativity and innovation. We meet frequently to discuss communist ideas and how to advance and deepen our communist social relationships while figuring out how to apply them to better feed, shelter, dress, cure, educate, politically develop and improve the lives of the world's workers.

**Mobilizing the Masses for Communism** uses the example of the Chinese Cultural Revolution to demonstrate that workers know best how to meet our class's needs. Masses of peasants mobilized to build irrigation systems and organize cafeterias, where everyone could eat, and so that they no longer paid for food. In fact, the masses implemented many aspects of communist relations in large localities all over China.

Workers are also motivated by the opportunity to live in a communist society, where social relationships of cooperation, collectivity and share-and-share alike are primary. Communism abolishes all borders, allowing us to live, work, and share together for our class as a whole.

Work is also different because there is no separation between mental and manual labor. No one is more valued than another because of how, or how much, they contribute to society. All are struggled with to contribute to society according to their abilities and commitment.

Communism will wipe out much of the anti-social behavior that capitalism's wage-slavery job culture breeds. We implement all these ideas in ICWP today.

So, now that you're even more motivated to fight for communism, join us or increase your commitment to your party! Read, write for, distribute, and contribute funds to *Red Flag*!



The masses make history, and the masses will make the future! To win the future we need, industrial workers and soldiers must lead the way in MOBILIZING THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM.

We learn from the heroic struggles of the Russian Revolution of 1917, the Chinese Revolution of 1948-49, and the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution of the 1960s. Both their strengths and their weaknesses help us understand our historic task today.

Read and discuss the manifesto of the International Communist Workers' Party, *Mobilize the Masses for Communism!* Then write to *Red Flag* with your comments and questions.

On the web: [www.icwpRedFlag.org](http://www.icwpRedFlag.org)

### We Can't Eat Money

Communism nurtures critical and creative thinking to improve collaborative efforts, freeing us to think of innovations. Psychological theories of instinct, drive-reduction, and motivation help to explain this.

Instincts are innate, untrained, fixed responses that are common among most members of a species. Humans are instinctively curious and creative. Optimal Arousal Theory states we actually require novelty and complexity from our environment.

Pre-class societies provided for their needs collectively. The community's needs were primary over the individuals' because that way the individuals' needs were also met. When everyone helps grow food and build shelter, the labor and time involved is lessened. Time and energy are freed to focus our instinctive curiosity and creativity on contributing to the art, health, transportation, and social cohesion of the collective.

Drive-Reduction Theory notes our bodies' need to maintain an internal balance (homeostasis). For example, we need to eat because our bodies' nutrient stores are depleted. This leads to

the drive to eat, and then this drive is reduced.

In communist society we collectively produce and collect food to meet this need. Did you see money come into this drive-reduction scheme? Because communism nurtures our instinctive curiosity and creative thought, we design new ways of doing things. We can spend less time and labor and get an improved source of food. Meanwhile we'll have a symbiotic relationship with nature, not a destructive impact.

Motivations to work can be intrinsic (internal, mental, physiological) or extrinsic (external). The internal drive to eat is fulfilled without any external reward like money. The internal reward for being able to meet this need is the primary motivating factor and leads directly to innovation. Extending this, when money is made primary, as in capitalism, we are actually less motivated to improve the process of getting food and will work individually rather than collectively.

**Let's discuss these ideas more and fight for communist revolution so that future communist generations can continue to improve society.**