

RED FLAG



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



"Occupying" Wall Street and Los Angeles



Masses In Motion:

LET'S MAKE COMMUNISM THE ORDER OF THE DAY

Occupy Wall Street

HATE CAPITALISM? FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM, NOT DEMOCRACY

In Cairo's Tahrir Square, protesters declared, "We are all Wisconsin." Now thousands camp in the streets from New York to Los Angeles, announcing that Tahrir Square has come to the US. As everywhere, they have been alternately tolerated and attacked viciously by the bosses' repressive forces.

"As scorn for voting grows, protests surge around the globe. ... The rising disillusionment comes 20 years after what was celebrated as democratic capitalism's final victory over communism and dictatorship." (*New York Times*, 9/28). The bosses see that the masses are realizing that democracy is failing them, and the bosses are scared.

The US ruling class wielded "democracy" as their main ideological weapon during the cold war and used "bringing democracy" as the justification for their imperialist slaughter of workers the world over. This term, invented by Greek slave owners, has always been a deception designed to conceal class rule.

Paradoxically, the "Arab Spring" masses demanded "democracy" – meaning a US-style

electoral system. But in countries with such systems, the masses are rejecting some aspects of the bosses' democracy. As in Wisconsin, they are fighting the "austerity" measures that capitalist governments are trying to impose as a "solution" to their systemic crises. The call is for "democracy" but not the bosses' democracy.

These mass movements offer communists a huge opportunity to make communist revolution the order of the day. The stakes are high. Failure could mean a turn of these mass movements toward fascism. On the other hand, communist ideas can show angry youth that their aspirations for a better world can be met only by mobilizing for communism.

What does the "Occupy Wall Street" movement want?

Ask 100 people, get 100 answers. Meanwhile, a struggle is growing between professional liberals, who want the protesters to formulate "demands," and young anarchists who believe that "the movement is everything, the goal is nothing."

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MTA Workers Must Reject New Proposal

ORGANIZE POLITICAL STRIKE AGAINST WAGE SLAVERY

LA transit union officials are conspiring to completely overturn the rank and file decision to reject the last contract proposal.

Rumors have it that James Williams, John Ellis, Victor Buffoni and the rest of their corrupt UTU gang are coming back with a worse proposal than the rejected one. Their plan is to try to ram this one, too, down our throats!

What is not a rumor is that they have called a meeting of all the union officials for Saturday, October 8th. The whole purpose of this meeting is to get all the union officials to go to the rank-and-file in all the divisions to sell us the new proposal.

It seems that they are also planning not to have one place where all congregate to vote on the proposal. They do not want a repeat of what happened at the meeting on September 11th.

This means that the voting for the proposal will take place at each division. The UTU top officials hope that by dispersing the membership, we won't be able to see our strength or feel our unity, power

and determination to reject the proposal and prepare for a strike.

Most operators do not want anything to do with the top union officials.

Many want to get rid of them and vote in a new leadership in the elections coming up this month. Others would like to decertify the UTU and vote in a different union. And still others would like to get rid of the union altogether.

This shows that MTA workers are looking for new leadership. The question is, which leadership will we choose? Decertifying the union and bringing in another one is an exercise in futility.

After the members of the defunct Communist Party USA were expelled in the 1950s from the unions they built, the US bosses replaced them with a corrupt anti-communist pro-capitalist mafia. All unions are the same. Leaving one for another is like going from the frying pan to the fire.

As for the union elections in October, besides dividing us along racial lines, they won't change any-

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World Wars Decide The Rise and Fall of Empires:

CAN CHINA'S RISE BE PEACEFUL?

China's Peaceful Development, China's rulers' white paper released on September 6, 2011, pledges to the world that if left alone, China's rise will be peaceful.

History tells us differently: wars have always decided the rise and fall of empires. US imperialism's demise and Chinese imperialism's rise won't be the exception.

To end the vicious circle of this inexorable law of class society, we must destroy class society. This requires a communist revolution to destroy capitalism, the capitalist class and the roots of their wars: money, profits and markets.

It is therefore imperative that we understand all the world's major current events. This gives us urgency and clarity: urgency to undertake the organizing of our class seriously; clarity not to fall prey to the rulers' racism, sexism, nationalism and patriotism - which will blind us into fighting and dying for them.

Let's not be fooled either by peaceful lullabies. China's strategy seems to be to ascend as much as possible without antagonizing US imperialism, while modernizing its military preparing for the inevitable clash.

Similarly, the US bosses' think tanks and pundits babble about "cooperation to avoid collision" while their masters plan wider regional wars and prepare for global war against the China-Russia-

Iran axis.

Are US rulers divided, in disarray or being deceitful about how to face China?

Henry Kissinger, a main strategist of US imperialism for the last 40 years, recently published a book titled *On China*. "Its purpose is to argue that the United States should yield gracefully to China's rise in order to avoid a tragic conflict," concludes Andrew J. Nathan in the US rulers' most influential policy magazine *Foreign Affairs* (July/August 2011).

Another major US geostrategist, Zbigniew Brzezinski, voices a similar position, recommending that "Presidents Obama and Hu [China's President] should make a serious effort to codify in a joint declaration the historic potential of productive American-Chinese cooperation." (*NY Times*, 1/31/2011)

Foreign Affairs itself seems to be at a loss. The article, "The Inevitable Superpower: Why China's Dominance is a Sure Thing," in its latest issue states that "Chinese dominance is not looming. In some ways it is already here." It ends its compelling argument saying, "China can accelerate the patterns of history - and make the United States confront its decline much sooner" without any recommendations about what US imperialism should do.

Foreign Policy, another US rulers' influential

magazine, quotes in its September 23, 2011, issue the new book *A Contest for Supremacy: China, America, and the Struggle for Mastery in Asia* as making "the most thorough wake-up call yet regarding the security challenges presented by China's rise."

The book calls for developing new military systems for projecting American power

and a new security framework in Asia designed specifically to neutralize Chinese ambitions.

"Perhaps most important," says *Foreign Policy*, "is its author's plea for U.S. policymakers and citizens to openly discuss the adverse trends facing the United States in East Asia..." This is a veiled call for a massive campaign to win US workers to support war against China.

Regardless of the rulers' deceitfulness, indecision, divisiveness, or plain incompetence, facts are stubborn: WAR IS INEVITABLE

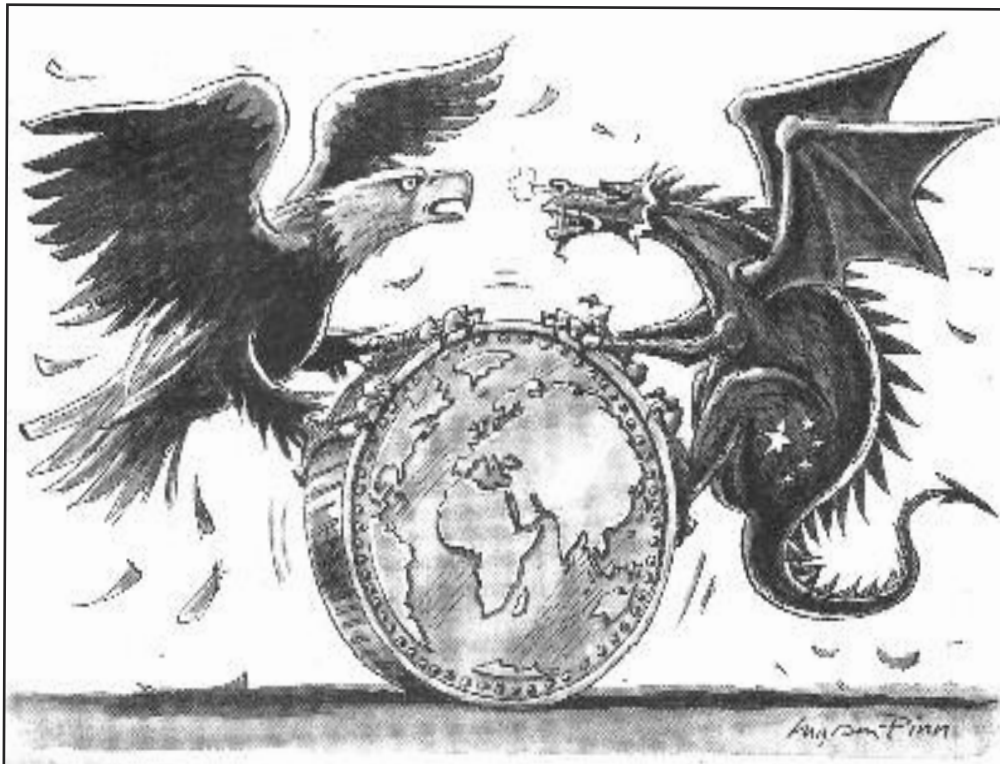
On April 25, 2011, the *Wall Street Journal* commenting on an article posted on the IMF website wrote, "For the first time, the international organization has set a date for the moment when the 'Age of America' will end and the U.S. economy will be overtaken by that of China.

"According to the IMF forecast, whomever is elected U.S. president next year — Obama? Mitt Romney? Donald Trump? — will be the last to preside over the world's largest economy."

According to the above mentioned *Foreign Affairs* article, although the United States' GDP is greater than China's today and their trade levels are close, the US is a very large debtor and China is a substantial net creditor. "In fact," it argues, "if one weighed these factors slightly differently, giving slightly less weight to the size of the economy relative to trade, China was already ahead of the United States in 2010.

The last time this happened was when the U.S. and Germany surpassed Great Britain at the beginning of last century. World War I was the inevitable result. The Russian Revolution in 1917 forced the world's imperialists to end the war without deciding conclusively the world's new hegemon. It took World War II for the US to finally replace England as the dominant imperialist power.

As World War III looms closer on the horizon, let's not forget that when the biggest murderers in history speak of peace, we must prepare for a revolutionary war against them. Spreading **Red Flag** and building ICWP massively among industrial workers and soldiers will set the stage for the rise of the only power humanity needs: the communist power of the working class.



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thing. Williams and his gang will rig the elections to guarantee they keep their cozy positions.

But, even if new rank-and-file honest leaders were elected and fought hard to get us better working conditions, wages and benefits, they couldn't get us what we need. Capitalism is set up to make profits for the capitalists, not to satisfy our needs.

Besides, the MTA bosses, and the US ruling capitalists they represent, are in no position to give us big reforms. Their economic crisis and wars for profits and empire demand that they squeeze the maximum work out of us at the least cost possible.

But even if honest leaders were able to deliver some of the goods, we would still be wage slaves.

We would still be exploited and subject to the arbitrary firing by racist bosses and supervisors.

More MTA workers are looking to ICWP as their only true alternative

Hundreds of MTA workers read *Red Flag*. Many help distribute, donate money and write for it. More workers are meeting with us. This is a sure sign that communist ideas are beginning to take root among these workers.

This is an important development for the whole international working class. Millions of workers, soldiers, students, professionals and others worldwide are questioning capitalism. Millions are looking for radical solutions and are open to communist ideas.

MTA workers are in a strategic position to help inspire these masses in motion to embrace communist ideas. An MTA workers' political strike

against capitalism and for communism would make real the need and potential for a communist revolution.

That's why we call on MTA workers to follow the Longview longshore workers' example. They wildcatted against their union officials, broke the bosses' laws and shut down all of the Washington State ports. Breaking the law is an important aspect of revolution. But, we must go farther and organize to smash the bosses' state that enforces their laws.

We call on MTA workers to reject the latest proposal and join us in organizing a political strike against capitalism. Our slogan should be: **Shut down LA! Shut it tight! Communism is the workers' fight!**



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Red Solidarity

LA INDUSTRIAL WORKERS BACK LONGSHORE STRIKERS

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 2 “We all agree that this meeting should send a message of support to the longshore workers in Longview,” said a comrade to a group of garment, transit and industrial workers and teachers. Everyone thought it was a good idea and one worker added that the best support that we can give is fighting for communism, and defying the laws and the state.

The meeting was led by a young garment worker. As the first point, she introduced a transit worker who gave a report on the struggle of the longshore workers and promised to send them a letter of support signed by workers at his job.

Then a garment worker gave a report on the inter-imperialist rivalry between China and the US in the Middle East. He showed maps of China’s oil and commercial routes that go through the Strait of Malacca, controlled by US naval forces. He also explained how the Chinese bosses are building alternate routes for their oil and commerce in preparation for a third world war for the control of the world.

A bus driver asked how we could globalize the struggle and win Chinese workers to revolution. This gave an opening for a good discussion on the need to unite workers around the world based on the struggle for communism. Someone gave the example of the Russian Revolution, where after the Bolsheviks took power, eighteen imperialist countries invaded, trying to “strangle the baby [Communism] in the cradle.” These imperialists, faced with mutinous soldiers who refused to fight their class brothers and sisters, were forced to withdraw. This victory inspired workers around the world, and gave birth to communist parties in every country. We can do the same.

Others suggested that we need to find workers in other countries like China, and Chinese workers here, who can help translate *Red Flag* and send it to Chinese workers.

Finally we emphasized that the struggle of the longshore workers is completely ignored by the bosses’ press and that only the ICWP

is making it a point of struggle. We suggested that everyone should go to their workplaces and let people know about this struggle through *Red Flag*, circulate letters of communist support, and send them to the longshore workers. Our struggle for a communist world continues, one step at a time.



Bolivia: miners strike in support of indigenous workers

Struggle in the Schools

IT’S NOT JUST THE BANKS, IT’S CAPITALISM

Teachers and other public school workers, parents and students are facing a double attack: cutbacks, layoffs, and furlough days on the one hand, and increasing fascist control on the other.

In Los Angeles, 1,200 educators were laid off last year; four hundred non-teaching employees were laid off last week. Cuts to nursing staff, yard supervision, and custodial workers make many schools unsafe. Cuts to library services and increased class size make “education” increasingly a joke.

At the same, time, Obama & Duncan and the Gates & Broad Foundations attack the public schools as drop-out factories and call teachers who want medical insurance selfish (as they did in Tacoma, Washington). They use the deteriorating conditions of the schools as an opportunity to win parents to fascism, dishonestly organizing a “Parent Revolution” to put the schools into the hands of charter operators. They bankrupt the already underfunded public schools as they create schools with more fascist conditions for teachers and students. In both charter and public schools the bosses exercise more overt control over what teachers say in the classroom, firing teachers arbitrarily, using divisive “merit pay for test scores” schemes. Students are now forced to wear uniforms, and everyone is subjected to Big-Brother-like surveillance cameras.

In response to these attacks, and inspired by the “Arab Spring” and pro-democracy movements in Europe, school employees have joined the movement to “Bail Out the Schools, Not the Banks.” In a teach-in at a local bank, teachers claimed that Wall Street banks owe California \$6.8 billion dollars, including \$100 million in unpaid property taxes and \$4 billion in foreclosure property tax losses. Arguing that it would only cost \$90 million to restore the jobs of the laid-off educators, they demanded that the banks pay up.

The slogans of “An End to Wall Street and Bank Greed” and “Stop Holding Up America’s Economic Recovery” give us an opportunity to struggle with our fellow teachers and students about the problems we face—and the solutions. But sometimes it’s hard for us to know where to start with these movements. The truth is that education in a capitalist society is education to serve the needs of the capitalists. More money for the schools can’t actually cre-

ate the educational institutions that workers need. That can only happen in a communist society, where the working class creates new ways to teach all of society, including children, how to live and work together in a world where production is for human need, not for the bosses’ profits.

It’s also true that “rebuilding our economy” and “economic recovery” are illusions in this period of worldwide capitalist crisis. It’s right on target, of course, to blame Wall Street and the banks. But capitalism’s inherent need for profits requires them to be “greedy.” Capitalism needs the banks, and is unable to ditch them in favor of the working class. Not only are 244 members of the Congress millionaires (opensecrets.org), but the entire system is built on the government doing what the banks and the capitalists need.

The working class, however, doesn’t need banks. The only solution is to ditch the banks and the entire capitalist system. We can’t do that by petitioning Congress. In one conversation a fellow teacher said we should follow the example of the general strikes in India against the British Empire. He pointed out that if workers aren’t working, capital isn’t being produced, and therefore you don’t have capitalism. He said that the capitalists make it seem that the workers need the capitalists, but the truth is that the capitalists need the workers, and without the workers there’s no capitalism.

We responded that it’s absolutely true that workers don’t need capitalists and that capitalism can’t survive without workers producing profits for the bosses. But a general strike, especially a nonviolent movement like the one Gandhi led in India, can’t lead to the emancipation of the working class. Look at India now! What it’s going to take is armed revolution and mobilizing the masses for communism.



SPAIN: Teachers strike against cuts

Bosses Spill the Beans:

CAPITALISM MAKES WORKERS HUNGRY

I started working at a company which, from the moment that they hired me, I didn’t like at all the way they get rich from people’s need to survive. The wages they pay are very low, \$1,435 Mexican pesos (US \$110 more or less) every two weeks, and from the moment they hire you they make you sign your letter of resignation, a blank paper so that they can fire you the minute they want to.

Where I work they supply merchandise to the commercial centers like Bodega Aurrera, Suburbia, Walmart, etc. Therefore there’s a receiving area where they receive merchandise, and a processing area where the merchandise is distributed to the different stores.

Where I work, they put the final touches on the shipments, where we fill the trucks that go out to distribute the merchandise. The most curious and ironic thing is to be among so much merchandise that people need so much and not to be able to have any of it.

A few days ago, several kilos of beans were damaged and almost all of them were already in their bags, but they threw them in the garbage. A co-worker commented that in her house they lacked many things, that there were days when they didn’t even have enough money for tortillas. She told me that she would see if they would give her the beans. I told her that I didn’t think so, that the bosses prefer to throw it away rather than give it away.

She insisted and went to the boss of the area and asked if they could give her the damaged beans. He laughed and said no, señora, for the company they aren’t any good and they’re going in the garbage. She commented that in her house they lack food and he said that that’s why she’s working, so she can buy it. She returned furious and that’s the moment that I told her about ICWP’s political line.

I told her that in this system the boss always will screw us and that that’s why it’s important that we organize to demolish the capitalist system to build a better future for our children. I hope to get good results in this new life project that I’ve just started again. I hope to be useful in forming a new society. At least I’ll try to expose this rotten capitalist system that divides families.

**LONG LIVE COMMUNISM!
TOGETHER WE’LL WIN!**

“Occupy Wall Street”:

OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNIST STRUGGLE

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 1 – Thousands of people came to LA City Hall to “OccupyLA” in solidarity with the Occupy Wall Street movement in New York and elsewhere. They identified collectively as “The 99%” in opposition to “The 1%,” Wall Street and corporate interests.

The ICWP, armed with *Red Flag*, joined them. Many gladly took our paper and we had many exciting conversations. People shared many different ideas about why they were there and what they hoped would come of the movement. Many expressed strong anti-capitalist ideas and were very open to speaking about communism. Others had reservations about communism or echoed the bosses’ Cold War anti-communist lies. Most argued that “the system is broken” but insisted that “we should be non-violent under any circumstances.”

We answered that “Workers are in this mess because we live under capitalism, which is in crisis, and the bosses will increase their attacks on us as it worsens. This system was designed to produce maximum profits for the capitalists, not to meet our needs. We will work collectively under communism to do this.”

As for non-violence we said, “Capitalism was born of violence. It violently steals the product of our labors, and the bosses use violence against workers to reinforce their system. We must not stop short of destroying capitalism, which will be a violent process because the ruling class will come at us with every tool and weapon at its disposal.

“If we limit ourselves to non-violence, we will fail. Under communism we will violently defend our class against any threat to workers’ power.



Longview longshore workers, seeking to stop grain shipments, fight the police

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Neither liberal reform nor anarchism can liberate the masses from capitalist crisis and world war. Neither can meet our aspirations for a world that meets basic social, physical and emotional needs.

Committed reformers focus on “winnable demands.”

ReFund California, for example, pushes a “foreclosure fee” on banks. “Attack the banks,” its leaders say, “because everyone hates banks.” Capitalism needs banks, but we need to attack capitalism as a system, not just its banks.

“Tax the rich!” some reformers cry. It’s true the masses of individual taxpayers are burdened with paying for the capitalists’ state apparatus. That is nothing new. We have always done that.

We workers create all the value that lines the bosses’ pocketbooks. We also pay for even so-called “social benefits,” which serve capitalism, like unemployment insurance (keeping workers alive until we’re needed again) and schools (train-

This is different from using violence to defend a system that represents but a tiny fraction of the 6 billion-plus in the world.”

Some also suggested that “the police are part of the 99%” because they work for wages. We answered as patiently as we could that the police’s role is to protect the ruling class’s interests. As the bosses’ first line of defense they must attack the masses: harassing, intimidating, beating, and killing workers with impunity.”

There is mass anger because of the bosses’ attacks in the form of double-digit unemployment, rampant foreclosures, homelessness, hunger, the gutting of healthcare, education, and retirement benefits. Many understand that we get sent off to kill, or die fighting, our working-class brothers and sisters in other countries and that we get tossed into the street when we are no longer useful as a source of labor.

We are talking to the demonstrators about the longshore workers in Longview, Washington who defied the cops, shut down the ports, and stopped grain shipments to stop lower-paid non union work. We are calling on participants in OccupyLA to come to the port here to show unity with dock workers, and all workers. So far, the people we’ve talked to haven’t connected the dots to see that industrial workers are the key to revolution to get rid of capitalism and to build communism. We’ll keep up this struggle and include supporting a possible transit workers’ strike against a capitalist system that can’t meet our needs.

These exchanges, and those to come, are real opportunities to sharpen the anti-capitalist struggle and mobilize the masses for communism. That’s why we engage movements like Occupy-

LA. We harbor a great faith in our class and we know that they can be won to the fight for communism.

ing the next generation to serve capitalism uncomplainingly).

Major US ruling class elements are now mobilizing around “tax the rich.” The cost of their military adventures overseas and preparations for world war can’t be completely wrenched from our hides. They need to get their class to pitch in more. The populist call to “make

the rich pay their fair share” is to pass laws to force recalcitrant capitalists, led by the Koch clan, to contribute more to defend the declining US empire.

Fight Racism, Follow Militant Leadership of Industrial Workers

“Occupy LA” pacifist leaders (see above) lie that “police are our friends” because “they’re part of the 99%.” Most black and latin@ workers and youth know that these racist thugs are our deadly enemies. White middle-class youth should take leadership on this question from those who know from experience.

Longview, WA longshore workers (mostly white) also know which side the cops are on. (see photo). And they are fighting back militantly, not symbolically! Students and youth must turn to the working class – especially to its most oppressed sectors – for leadership. Workers in transit and basic industry, along with soldiers, are key to overthrowing “the 1%” to build the society we need.

SEATTLE, Oct. 2--This past weekend, thousands of people took to the streets across the US, intending to occupy Wall Street, banks and other capitalist institutions. This movement claims to be leaderless, and relies entirely on internet sites such as Facebook and twitter to organize.

In some cities, liberal celebs and academics have shown up to draw media attention and mislead the movement.

Participants say that they are inspired by recent rebellions such as in Egypt, wary of politicians, unions, and the traditional left, and disgusted with corporate greed.

A small encampment occupied Westlake Plaza in Seattle, and several comrades went down there with *Red Flag*, and a leaflet for an upcoming discussion group on the recent strikes in Tacoma and Longview.

The crowd was young and multiracial.

Everyone we approached was friendly, and we had interesting discussions with 5 or 6. Some were college graduates, or going to school. Others were poor working class kids who had no formal schooling or training and no prospects for employment.

One guy was in the military. He had witnessed first hand the conditions of the working class in Afghanistan: the poor wages and substandard fuel that contains known carcinogens, not to mention ridiculously long hours, and no health care. Even he said it was time for change and that the working class will be the ones to do it.

Just about everyone wanted a revolution, but did not understand that capitalism could never be reformed to meet the needs of the masses. As usual, there was a lot of misunderstanding about communism. Everyone took literature, and we left more papers in their common area. We came away enthusiastic about becoming involved in this movement. Clearly, we are entering an exciting period of class warfare...and growth of our party!

Anarchism is no solution

The rulers let us march and chant “This is what democracy looks like,” as long as real power remains in their own hands. Youth and workers are absolutely correct to shed their confidence in politicians, corporations, and unions.

But rejecting the capitalists’ political parties (including those misleadingly calling themselves “communist”) should not prevent us from building a real communist party that can unite the masses, internationally, to transform the world.

Capitalism hasn’t triumphed over communism. The USSR’s downfall was the fall of socialism. Socialism was state capitalism led by communists, who eventually became capitalists themselves. Learning from history, ICWP fights for mobilizing the masses directly for communism to end capitalism forever.

“Frustrated voters,” says the *NYT*, “do not know where to turn at a time when the political choices of the cold war era seem hollow.” Those choices were indeed hollow, as the old communist movement never fought for communism.

Mobilizing masses for communism is both the movement and the goal.

Democracy is mainly a cover for anti-communism. Nothing is more “participatory” than joining and building the International Communist Workers’ Party. That’s the path to a communist world where the masses take responsibility for each other, destroy racism, sexism and national borders, liberate our creative and productive energies, and make all decisions together. That’s the message we’re bringing to the masses in these movements. Join us!

Ten Years of War in Afghanistan:

BOSSSES' ALLEGIANCE: PROFIT AND EMPIRE; SOLDIERS AND WORKERS' ALLEGIANCE MUST BE TO OUR CLASS

Taking advantage of the tragic events of 9/11 and the patriotism they brought forth, the US bosses invaded Afghanistan in 2001. Revenge was the excuse; oil profits were the real undeclared reason.

By controlling Middle Eastern oil, the five biggest US oil companies have made in the last ten years total profits of over \$934 billion dollars. In the same period, over 1,600 US troops have died in Afghanistan and 14,000 more have been injured. This is a high price to pay for the US bosses' blood-drenched oil profits.

But, because of racism, workers in countries invaded by the US bosses pay an even higher price. In Afghanistan, for example, over 487,000 Afghan civilians have been slaughtered, while 17,500 Afghan troops have been killed and over 3 million people have been displaced.

US imperialists' invasion did not achieve their goals in Afghanistan

Afghanistan was to be the transit route for TAPI: the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-Indian pipeline. If built, it would have transported the vast energy wealth from the Caspian Sea-Central Asia region to the world's markets, bypassing Russia and Iran.

If successful, US bosses had hoped to score a double header: deal a severe economic blow to Russia and Iran, while raking in billions more in profits from marketing this oil and gas. If successful, can you imagine how many billions of dollars more they would be boasting that they had made? What can the GI's who came back alive, injured or not, and their families, boast about?

Not much. Many have come back to swell the ranks of the unemployed. Many of us are finding out that fighting for the "our country" guarantees nothing. With Obama's "shared sacrifice," where

the rich share their wealth and we share the sacrifice, our GI bill and medical benefits are on the chopping block.

US bosses are now ready to draw down in Afghanistan to wage bigger and more lethal wars

Unable to build their pipeline, US bosses are ready to abandon Afghanistan. They are now negotiating a peace treaty with their "mortal enemy," the Taliban. The Taliban was financed and armed by the US bosses' "loyal" friends: Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

The US government and the Pentagon knowingly sacrificed US soldiers, sailors and marines in order to be in a better position to get a better deal now that they have to negotiate with the Taliban. Part of that better deal is to leave some US troops stationed there and to keep some of the military bases they built. These are part of the US military encirclement of Iran, China and Russia.

US bosses must eventually fight China, Russia and Iran

US imperialism has been the dominant imperialist power in the world since 1945. Control of Middle Eastern oil, especially Saudi Arabia's, has been the cornerstone of their world-empire and humongous profits. But, they are losing their grip on that oil.

China and Russia are challenging the US bosses for control of this region's oil. Iran, with the world's second largest oil deposits, and Iraq, with the third largest, are more and more in the China-Russia camp. While drifting away from the US, the Saudi Arabia bosses are getting

closer to China. Today they sell more oil to China than to the US.

At stake are their billions in profits and their empire. The price US bosses are preparing to pay in the lives of soldiers, sailors, marines and civilians at home and abroad is unimaginable.

Workers and Soldiers have no country.

Patriotism is the Bosses' Game

It doesn't matter whether the bloodthirsty oil boss who controls and profits from Middle East oil is from the US, China, Russia or Iran. None of them cares about any soldier, sailor, marine, or civilian. We don't need any warmonger bosses. In this capitalist system, we slave in the factories and die and kill in their wars—for the profits of the rich, not for the interests of any worker or soldier. Our interests are the opposite of the brass, the politicians and the bosses.

The war we need to fight is a class war for a system that meets the needs of the working class.

We don't need oil companies, profits or wars for empire. We need a system where we produce for the needs of the workers, communism. In a communist world, we'll share all the resources without anyone being exploited or making a profit off us. We need to organize a Red Army to get rid of the capitalist bosses and the brass and then to communism. When we've done that, generals who order us to fight and die for profits will be history.



LETTERS FROM TRANSIT WORKERS ON THE MOVE

We Have a Plan of Struggle

A few days ago I had a conversation with a woman at work. First we started talking about racism. I said that I have heard, read or seen in the news many times about situations of hate and lack of trust between black and latino workers. But that's false. I explained that in the neighborhood where I live multi-racial relations are very good, and that here on the job the level of brotherhood and solidarity is also very high.

She agreed with me. She said that she had grown up in a neighborhood in South Central Los Angeles where Mexicans, Salvadorans, Guatemalans and African Americans lived together. Everybody visited each other, played together, sometimes everybody ate at the same house and when a kid misbehaved, everybody let the parents know. It was a collective upbringing.

Then she continued, saying that "they" (the ruling class) have a plan to keep us divided, because they know that if we unite, we'll make an invincible force. She also said that it was for sure that the police kill more black and latino people than the gangs do.

"And we don't have a plan," she said. "Think about it: the union supposedly should work for us and defend you even if you're guilty. But the truth is that they're on the side of the company. When they come to resolve a dispute between worker and boss, they first go to the office of management, and like old friends they talk about food, the family, etc. And if you go to the union offices to present a complaint or a pro-worker motion, they first ignore you, and if you insist, they make

you look like a fool, ignorant, and in the meetings one of their goons shuts you up. They don't care about the problems of maintenance workers at all."

"Look," I answered. "They (union leaders) don't care about the problems of the mechanics or drivers either. But we in ICWP do have a plan of struggle for the working class, nationally and internationally. We understand the need for the unity of ALL workers in the struggle for a communist revolution. It's the only real way out of all the evils of capitalism."

Lunch time was ending and we had to go back to work. Conversations like these have been the basis to advance the struggle to win workers to be readers, distributors, writers and contributors to *Red Flag*.

Also, this kind of discussion creates an environment where hundreds of workers take the paper and discuss it. Only a politically advanced working class can take power from the exploiters and build a communist society without racism or exploitation.

--Transit Comrade

From behind the wheel to behind bars

A salute to Deone, who stood up to Division 10 manager Dan Frawley and the big bosses. Heroically he defended his dignity and that of all the working class people, while the highly paid so-called UTU representatives once again silently stood by being accomplices to the big bosses and their reign of terror against people who only wish to work in peace and raise their

families.

A powerful lesson has been taught to those who think we're power-less. When people are terrorized we have the legitimate right to self defense and in this particular case or situation I would like to mention the words of Nelson Mandela, "When we live in a world that has lost its decency, the only decent place for a decent man is jail."

All working class people must take these words for what they're worth and ask yourselves will this nightmare ever end and how. I strongly believe that it can only be ended when the rules are made by the working class for the working class. So in conclusion it will end when all power rests in the hands of the working class people. Communist revolution now!

--From all decent MTA workers to a decent man



LETTERS

Occupy LA- Needs to Fight Capitalist Racism

Although the second day of Occupy LA was successful in mobilizing people of all different political denominations against our capitalist oppressors, it failed to address race and discrimination towards blacks and latinos.

After the march through the streets of downtown Los Angeles, the organizers of this event held a meeting at the park in front of City Hall to discuss the pros and cons of the event. All seemed to be going well until one white individual expressed that he felt the cops are a part of the 99 % (the working class). This led to people of color expressing that cops are no friends of ours because of their past experiences. After much yelling and outrage another white individual added that he can't help that he and other white protestors there are afforded the privilege of being white and that race doesn't matter. This led to much confusion and heated arguing which brought the meeting to a close.

As a young African American I felt that the statement made by the protestor was racially insensitive and not well thought out but as a communist I recognize the ignorance of his views of race and where it comes from. ICWP recognizes that police are watch dogs of the state put into power by the capitalist, to protect their interest while terrorizing the working class citizens of the world. Also what the individual should have had explained to him is that for him race doesn't matter but racism does still exist for people of color and anyone who recognizes it. Sadly for blacks and latinos racism exists in every aspect of our lives because the system we live in requires it and has for decades. I believe that the individual meant to say that race shouldn't matter and it shouldn't but reality is that it does for many of us and the cause of this is capitalism. Under capitalism people are made to believe that one group of people is inferior to another and that this group is your competition for work which heightens racial tensions amongst the working class.

I have always heard the statement that the first step to solving a problem is admitting that there is one and that problem is capitalism and everything that comes with it: racism, sexism, and homophobia. If protestors at Occupy LA hope to overcome this problem they need a struggle with each other

LETTERS

LETTERS

which involves recognizing and understanding that we are all a part of the working class and that as long as capitalism is around racism will always be there attacking us, and we have to confront it.

--Communist student

City Council is Part of the 1%

In support of Occupy Los Angeles, four members of the LA City Council walked outside to shake hands with protesters living in tents on the building's lawn.

But this is all show because these elected officials are loyal servants to the 1% who the protesters say use government to attack the working class. If the demonstrators looked inside City Hall, this is what they would see:

The head of the "City Hall Gang" is Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. He is joined at the hip with billionaire real estate developer Eli Broad. When Villaraigosa was elected, Broad kindly lent the new Mayor the head of his private foundation, Robin Kramer, to become his Chief of Staff. Before that Kramer had the same job for Mayor Richard Riordan, another multi-millionaire real estate developer and lawyer. Furthermore, Riordan's current gift to Villaraigosa is Wall Street hedge fund manager, Austen Beutner, who became the Deputy Mayor.

With the steady hand of Broad, Riordan, and Beutner to guide him, Villaraigosa, with help from the 15 members of the LA City Council, had repeatedly used the power of City Hall to help the one percent with their real estate scams. These officials make sure the one percent's projects get cheap public financing, as well as waivers for zoning requirements and building fees.

--City worker

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

choose and the generation that will start this revolution. This is what we have learned reading *Red Flag*! We will continue reading it and writing about what we have learned. My friends and I encourage all who read *Red Flag* to discuss and learn from this very important newspaper.

--Young reader

Workers: Set Our Sights High!

The social reality in which the workers of the world find themselves is unjust and deadly. Capitalism has taken charge of building a society where human dignity ceases to exist. At the same time, it tries to create a world where men and women workers think they're satisfied if they work and eat every day.

It sounds sad to me to hear what some workers say when I ask them their opinion about how we can change the world and destroy capitalism.

Some of the answers that I've heard are that communism is a "utopia" and that it's impossible to live in a society without money. *Red Flag* and the documents and leaflets of ICWP illustrate for us in a real way how we can destroy capitalism and what functions workers will have in this communist society.

The last issue of *Red Flag* points out, "This earth is full of raw materials (iron, oil, rare metals) and lush with fertile soil. It is populated with billions of skilled and semi-skilled people who have developed science, technical and practical knowledge to undreamed-of heights." (RF 6/10/11 page 2) It's clear that if there is starvation in Africa it's not because the raw materials to destroy hunger and poverty don't exist, since Africa is the main exporter of diamonds, wood and petroleum in the world. (<http://www.revistapueblos.org/spip.php?article1566>).

Red Flag also points out that in a communist world we won't need money, because the production of raw materials won't be based on profits but rather based absolutely on the needs of the population.

It's our commitment to organize the masses, teaching them the reality of the political questions that exist around the world. *Red Flag*, in a letter to the editor said, "More than a year ago I discovered what it means to be a communist. Yes, I said, Communism, a community in its most perfect form and the conviction to create a society that doesn't exploit, contaminate, and destroy our resources in search of profits. There's something incredibly powerful in the word, something that the bosses fear and that they don't want us to know." (RF 10/03/10)

We have to keep foremost in our minds our task of organizing the masses to destroy capitalism, letting workers know that studying dialectical materialism and reading *Red Flag* will help them to imagine a better world, and that they needn't limit themselves to thinking that you have to work for today's food and pay your debts like a simple machine to produce profits for the bosses. ICWP is working to achieve victory for the working class. Join ICWP and let's destroy capitalism.

--Comrade in Spain



Workers and Youth Paralyze Greece in Protests Against Austerity Plan

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Distributing Red Flag in the classrooms

A student in a high school in Mexico asked, "If Communism were established in Mexico, would it be like Cuba?"

The comrade who was speaking while I went by their desks leaving them the paper, responded, "No, it won't be like Cuba, because Cuba isn't Socialist, much less Communist; in Cuba there's state capitalism."

Another teacher asked, "How old is your Party? I've been in the struggle for 25 years and I don't see a change. I'm active in the PRD (reformist capitalist party) and we've struggled for a long time but I don't see any change!" We commented that we don't believe in electoral parties. We consider that the change has to be more than just one leader. The working class will carry it out and not only in one country but in all countries. That's why we're an International Party.

One more student asked if we had seen, in China with the Cultural Revolution and in Russia, that Communism hadn't worked, that the leaders had been corrupted. He asked why we don't think that if our Party established Communism the same thing would happen.

We replied that in China and Russia their leaders believed in change through stages, establishing a socialism that obviously returned them to full blown capitalism. We said that we have to fight directly for Communism, and if leaders became corrupt it was because they maintained concessions to capitalism and kept the wage system, which contributed to maintaining certain privileges for some people or leaders.

These and other questions and comments took place during a distribution and sale of the paper in a high school. Approximately 200 papers were distributed, five of which were returned. The great majority of students gave a donation. It was a new, enriching experience to see the students' interest. Clearly not everyone, but those who received it contributed economically and asked questions, helped write this letter, and saw the need to distribute the Paper to students.

--A comrade from Mexico

Rules or Principles?

We've had several discussions—both in meetings and informally—about whether or not we'll need laws after we've won communism. At our last club meeting, I remembered my experiences during the several decades I taught high school students (grades 9-12). Many of my colleagues would write a list of classroom rules and post it on the wall. I never did that, and, looking back, I think my students behaved in a satisfactorily disciplined manner, for the most part.

I relied on two things: one was my fundamental respect and liking for the students, and so the vast majority respected each other and me. The other one was that the material we were dealing with was sufficiently interesting to keep us engaged. (Obviously if the material didn't come that way, it was up to me to add pizzazz and politics to it.) Of course, just as with older adults, sometimes students interrupted each other or me, but that wasn't the main thing going on.

A comrade whom I greatly respect said rules are necessary in the classroom because students have to know what kinds of behaviors are acceptable. He is an elementary school teacher, and that may account for our differing viewpoints. However, I think that what this issue may be primarily about is our confidence in the working class. For sure, high school students know essential things about what constitutes acceptable behavior, and adults know this also. I believe that

laws won't be the guiding force in our (the masses') behavior: principles will be. We'll share everything equally, whether we have scarcity or abundance, for example, and those who disregard this principle will be dealt with by the working class, led by the ICWP.

I agree with the comrades who say that just as we in the ICWP can understand that capitalism is fundamentally rotten, and needs to be fundamentally changed immediately after the revolution, the vast majority of workers can understand this as well. The majority of workers detest exploitation and the racism that makes exploitation (and capitalism) possible. They, like us, are hungry for capitalism's opposite: communism. Every day we need to struggle with ourselves, each other and our friends to apply this understanding as much as possible in our lives.

--A California Comrade

Workers Must Take Communist Road, Not Reformist One

Red Flag fights for the important idea that militant reform doesn't lead to revolution. Our Party understands that revolutionary communist ideas contradict reform ideas that tie workers to capitalism.

The main headline of V. 2 #17 muddied this principle. It said (in the English edition) "Teachers, longshore, transit & auto workers: bust legal roadblocks on road to communist revolution."

It's very inspiring to read about these militant struggles, especially the longshore workers who fought the bosses' courts and cops. We must support their refusal to be tied down by capitalist laws. More of us should follow their example.

But readers might mistakenly conclude that we think these workers are on the road to revolution. If they are, that's great! But it seems that they are fighting for reform demands: to preserve union jobs, to bust two-tier wage schemes, to fend off cuts in wages and benefits. And, except for the LA transit article, we don't read that revolutionary ideas have been raised with them.

Why is it better (as one article says) "to have a strategy that aims to smash those institutions that uphold the law"? Not because it increases the chances of stopping the bosses' immediate attacks, although it does. It's better because only by smashing those institutions - and building our own Party to lead society instead! - can we take control of our own destiny.

Workers locked in battle with the bosses are at a crossroads. To the right continues the well-paved reformist road that most are on now. As *Red Flag* constantly emphasizes, this road leads to the hell of fascism and world war, even if paved with good intentions.

To the left is the bumpy and often unmarked communist road. As the editorial in V. 2 #17 said, "like it or not" this is the only road that leads forward. Workers and youth in and around the Party

build this road as we travel it together.

The opportunity, the necessity, and the responsibility are ours. We must bring communist ideas into every battle, enlisting workers' militancy in the revolutionary cause. We must mobilize our fellow workers and students, our family and neighbors, to make the choices clear and the future visible.

--LA comrade

The letter below is published in French on our website

News from Europe and the US debt.

The stand-off over the American debt between Obama and the Republicans does not stem from a crazy idea of the deranged and extremist Tea Party. It has nothing to do with controlling the debt but it is the usual relentless attack on the poor to make them pay for the insatiable greed and rivalry of the bosses.

In France, one of the cronies of president Sarkozy talked about the "cancer" of social assistance. In Greece, workers are being blamed for the woes of the country.

Politicians of all parties who instantly found billions to "assist" bosses and banks in 2008 and keep giving them tax exemptions show total disregard for the plights of ordinary people whether they are sick, old, disabled or unemployed. Capitalism is responsible for the massive unemployment which causes misery for many workers. The main cause of the budget deficits is the help given to the banks and the financing of wars (Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, Ivory Coast etc.....).

To hide this truth and further their agenda, bosses use racism and anti-communist ideas. They try to divide workers and blame immigrants (like Le Front National in France and Berlusconi in Italy). The next step is fascism, as recent developments in Hungary showed. (*Le Monde*, July 17)

The far-right government of Hungary has massively suppressed civil liberties. The press and the radio-TV are being muzzled, the electoral laws modified to maintain the ruling party in power. The Catholic Church has been given the management of communities and schools whilst other religions, notably evangelism (the religion of the Roma), are being discriminated against.

Unemployment benefits have been limited to 3 months. People who receive social benefits must be enrolled in compulsory work programs under police supervision. If work is more than 3 hours away from their home, they are housed in trailers. Recipients of social benefits must also submit to a test of cleanliness for their home and their own bodies.

The extreme right was voted to power in a climate of anti-Roma racism. Roma were designated the scapegoats for the problems of capitalism. The division of workers profited the bosses who put into power a fascist government that attacks ALL workers. If you replace Roma by Jews, Hungary does not differ much from Germany in the 30s. It is worth noting that the Hungarian government is defying the E.C. laws without any consequences, probably because Roma are being persecuted in every European country.

To make the workers and the poor pay is the only option offered by the Hungarian bosses to solve the crisis. Workers in every country must always be vigilant about staying united and must fight the bosses and their propaganda. In a just world, there will be no borders, no nations, no races. The workers united of the whole world will build this communist world. **Workers of the World, Unite!**

--Internationalist comrade



**Mass French Protest
Against Anti-Roma Racism**

BREAK THE SHACKLES OF LAW

Class struggle demands we prepare to break the law. The capitalist crisis has pushed this necessity to the forefront. Five articles in the last *Red Flag* spoke to this point: teachers, grocery and longshore workers, MTA, auto.

What you do about the law follows from how you view “the canon of law.” Liberal reformers accept the rule of law as a given.

Union leaders, for example, say if the law is bad get a good lawyer. If that fails, change the bad laws to good laws. They spend our union dues on campaigns for “good” politicians who will pass “good” laws. If pushed, they call for rallies and demonstrations to pressure lawmakers.

Communist theory, on the other hand, should view laws as a cover for class domination.

Which view we accept shapes our struggle today as well as our communist future. Theoretical knowledge has advantages over just raw experience. Correct theory derived from one set of circumstances guides correct practice in a different set of circumstances. What we learn about law today can be applied to a different system tomorrow.

The bosses love to define law in classless ways. Then they pile it on with rules of behavior, company codes of conduct and contracts. Yet even under capitalism life can lead to a more profound and useful understanding of these weapons of class oppression.

Even seemingly “neutral” laws exist only to the extent that they facilitate exploitation. Where I work, the bosses prattle on about traffic safety. A number of workers have been hit at shift change.

Management responded with more security cops, letters of reprimand for infractions, and escalating threats. Big bosses lurk behind buildings spying on workers as they drive around the plants. But accidents have increased.

No wonder! Management decided to release everyone at the same time instead of using stag-

gered shift times as before. Chaos ensued. It’s amazing there aren’t even more accidents.

The superintendent refused to discuss the issue when confronted at a general meeting. “I want to talk about how to grow the business, not shift time,” he said.

It’s easier to keep track of our comings and goings with one shift time. Management can make sure they get every minute of exploitation possible. The bosses are only concerned about traffic safety to the extent it is useful to maintain exploitation.

The law exists not only to facilitate exploitation, but also--and even more importantly--sabotages the mobilization of the masses. Take the battle of Longview.

Longshore workers and supporters busted the law and took over the port to fight for their jobs a few weeks ago.

Local authorities recently began to arrest longshore workers and supporters en masse. About a dozen were arrested, mostly women, for blocking a train. Locals are arrested and harassed as they go about their normal routines around town.

The union sued over “brutal arrest tactics.” Not only is this an ineffective strategy, but also it puts a damper on mobilizing the masses.

Hundreds of thousands have followed this story. “Good, someone is finally doing something to fight back against the bosses’ attacks,” was the popular sentiment in the Boeing plants. Workers we know all over Seattle said the same thing.

A thousand have already demonstrated at the headquarters of the company that runs the port. Thousands more, from up and down the west coast, would heed a call from the longshore workers to protest this bosses’ fascism. ICWP members could organize carpools from our jobs, advancing the fight for a revolutionary perspective.

The masses could shut the port down. Our rallying cry could be: “Shut It Down, Shut It Tight,

The Bosses’ Days Are Numbered When The Workers Unite!” Instead, the working class is disarmed as the struggle is tied up in arcane legal arguments.

A New Society With New Possibilities

Slavery, feudalism and capitalism were all ruled in the interests of a relatively tiny, exploiting ruling class. Slave owners, kings and nobles, and capitalists needed camouflage to hide their brutal oppression. The rule of law is just what the bosses needed.

Communism is different from the exploitive societies that preceded it. For the first time the masses can rule in their own name.

Communism gets its strength not from masquerades, but from the ruling masses who know what they are fighting for. Anything that gets in the way of this knowledge must be done away with-- and quickly. Law is right up there on the list.

Law leads people to focus on the rules and not the principles behind the rules. Fighting for communism is not the same thing as fighting for “good” or “left” law.

Communism will succeed because the masses can be mobilized around communist principles. Millions will learn through their own practice how to apply those principles to many different circumstances. Practice derived from principle will be our ticket to victory.

The bosses can’t trust the working class. The masses are decadent and brutal, according to the bosses’ culture. Law must rein them in.

The ICWP, on the other hand, has confidence the working class and its allies can be mobilized to defeat the class enemy, stop anti-social behavior and spread communist morality.

Mobilizing the masses for communism is our guiding principle. In contrast, law is a diversion and an obstacle.

Communist Philosophy:

UNIVERSAL, PARTICULAR AND INDIVIDUAL, PART I

Being human is something we all have in common. We are all also animals and mammals. Most of us are workers. The philosopher’s term for these general characteristics, humanity, being an animal, being a worker, etc., is universals. A universal is a general characteristic, but that doesn’t mean it applies to everything. It is the kind of characteristic that applies or could apply to several or many things.

The things that have these general characteristics are called individuals. An individual can be a person, a thing, or even process or social class. If we say that “Barack Obama is male,” we are saying that one individual, Obama, has a characteristic that he shares with a huge number of other individuals, and this characteristic is a universal, being male.

Besides universal and individual, there is a third category, particular, that fits in between these two. Particular focuses on a single case or a narrow range of cases of some universal. If we talk about a group of workers in a single shop, and learn that some of them are *Red Flag* readers and some are not, then we have several individuals in a particular group or situation that have the characteristic of being *Red Flag* readers, a universal.

Why bother with this terminology?

There are several reasons why communist philosophy uses these terms. As we saw in previous columns, knowledge in the form of laws and generalizations is essential for organizing the

fight for communism, and these laws and generalizations use universals to describe individuals and particular situations. Another reason that especially concerns us here, however, is that wrong ideas about universals are a major area of idealist and pro-capitalist philosophy. To understand what these theories say, we need to separate several ways of talking about universals.

Universals are described by words like “human,” “animal,” “capitalist,” “strike,” etc. But the word “human” is not the same as the concept human. “Human” is a word in a particular language. The concept human, a creation of thought, is not the same as any particular word, and can be expressed in any language. Both the word and the concept are also different from the biological, social and historical factors that make something a human being. These factors, characteristics or laws that make up the real universal human are not words or thoughts but aspects of the real world.

Two Capitalist Theories about Universals

Several completely wrong ideas about universals are influential in capitalist philosophy. One view says that there are only words and concepts, but no real universals, at least none we can know about. This theory, called conceptualism, says that we humans form concepts only by a process of leaving out details—excluding the particular. Thus we form the concept horse by leaving out the size, weight, color, health, breed, etc. of individual horses.

The conceptualist says that if there is a real universal that corresponds to this concept we form, we know nothing about it. Conceptualists say we can form the concept of a worker by leaving out the details of any particular job and be left with only with being paid a wage. The real causes and consequences of being a worker, the essence of being a worker, which is the real universal, is unknown and irrelevant. If this were true, there would be no social laws about being a worker, nothing behind the surface that would need to be figured out about work under capitalism.

A similar, more extreme idea is called nominalism, which flatly denies that there are any universals. Nominalism says that the different things we apply one word to have nothing in common except that we use the same word for them. If this were so, there could have been no laws of nature before humans evolved, since there were no languages then.

Conceptualism and nominalism have in common that whenever we say that that some individual has some general characteristic, that characteristic has no counterpart in the real world. Our words and concepts correspond to nothing beyond speaking and thinking, a clear example of an idealist point of view. Unfortunately these are not the only idealist views about universals. In our next column, we will talk about a different idealist viewpoint, and outline the dialectical materialist view of universals.