

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM



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

TO END RACIST POLICE TERROR, MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM



Mass protest against police murder of Alfred Olango, whose mother says was having a mental breakdown because his good friend died. One quarter of those killed by the police have mental illness of some kind, a problem caused and worsened by the pressures of being wage slaves in a racist, repressive system.

In El Cajon, California, they denounced the police slaughter of Alfred Olango. In Pasadena, California, they condemned the lynching of J.R. Thomas, who had been tasered and physically attacked by the Klan in blue.

In South Los Angeles, their rage again boiled into the streets after the cops shot 18-year-old Carnell Snell 5 times in the back, killing him as he ran to his house.

The fight against racism is international. In India millions have taken to the streets against racist attacks on Dalit and Muslim work-

The Masses For Communism. They can be won to join ICWP and the fight for communism.

Racism is a capitalist attack on all workers

The bosses' police especially single out black and Latino workers to terrorize all workers to keep us all exploited and oppressed.

However, last year, like they always so, the US cops executed 1,502 people. 732 were white. 381 were black and 389 were Latino, Native American and others. However, since whites are the biggest percentage of the population, at least four times more black, latino and native American workers per capita are killed than white workers.

"Wow! I can't believe it!" said a black worker to a *Red Flag* distributor when told that more white people are murdered by the police than black or latin people.

This oppression is the material basis for our unity. United and mobilized for communism we will bury racism together with capitalism.

Someone told us, "You'll never get rid of racism," but they took the pamphlet to read. This skepticism is based on the persistence of racism in spite of the mass, heroic struggles millions of workers have waged for hundreds of years.

That's because the material basis for racism, See **END RACIST POLICE TERROR, page 2**

US—Thousands of youth and workers – black, Latino, Arab, white, Asian—have poured into the streets in mass protests against the most recent racist police killings of black men.

In Charlotte, North Carolina, they mobilized against the police murder of Keith Scott, whose wife told them he had a traumatic brain injury.

ers. In South Africa, masses of students and workers are protesting racist attacks by the African National Congress government.

These millions can be won to see that only communist revolution can end racism. They always welcome our communist literature: *Red Flag* and our pamphlet *To End Racism Mobilize*

EL SALVADOR: INDUSTRIAL WORKERS AND YOUTH STUDY AND PRACTICE COMMUNISM

EL SALVADOR—Two young people, the daughters of a worker, asked, "How are we going to live without money?"

"In communist society we will produce what is needed for all of humanity. There will be adequate healthcare, education, housing, and transportation—all produced by us. We won't need money," explained a comrade.

On a radiant sunlit morning, workers and youth organized a political school of the International Communist Workers' Party. It began with a delicious welcome breakfast and with excited intentions to make the most of this day of communist work.

"In *Red Flag* we find articles and research about life without money. We have to read, analyze and understand what is written there to improve the line of the party and our actions," mentioned another comrade.

We began with the history of ICWP, how it was born and how the party has sustained itself ideologically since its beginning.

The second topic was the international situation, emphasizing the strike of over 180 million workers in India. Third was how to organize more workers into ICWP and carry out the mass distribution of *Red Flag*.

During the course of the meeting, a comrade said, "The capitalist idea that only I matter and no one else is wrong. We live in a society, in communities, with collective work carried out by the masses."

It is a qualitative advance that the comrades are losing the fear of expressing themselves and not feeling inferior to others. Instead, they see the party discussions as opportunities for their political growth and that of their co-

workers. The meeting stopped for lunch but the discussion did not stop.

At the end of each workshop, a plenary was

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May Day, El Salvador, 2014 Achieve your dream! Let's destroy capitalism! Let's build Communism! ICWP

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Syria: U.S.-Russia fight shows inevitability of world war

COMMUNISM WILL END CAPITALISM AND ITS WARS

At least 500,000 people have been killed in Syria, including over 16,000 children in a proxy war mainly between US and Russian imperialism vying for world domination.

The horrors these butchers and their allies are inflicting on Syrian workers will only increase as their forces battle for control of the strategic city of Aleppo because as the *Washington Post* wrote:

“... more is at stake than the outcome of Syria’s war. The Aleppo offensive is affirming Moscow’s stature as a dominant regional power across the heart of the Middle East. The advances by Shiite Iraqi and Lebanese militias are extending the sway of Iran far beyond the traditional Shiite axis of influence into Sunni areas of northern Syria.” (2/14/16)

The oil-rich Middle East has been the cornerstone of US imperialism world empire since 1945. Losing it would be its demise. Empires don’t die without a fight.

This orgy of wanton destruction and slaughter can only be justified by a system that puts profits above human lives. The capitalists’ needs to maximize profits make war a permanent and inevitable feature of capitalism.

Only communism worldwide can forever end wars. In a world without money or profits, workers will collectively plan, produce and distribute everything according to need. Markets will cease to exist as nothing will be bought or sold – especially our labor.

In a communist world based on cooperation not competition, workers will have no need for wars or even weapons to be used against other human beings. With no borders or nations, we will collectively share all the world’s resources – no genocidal wars for oil, diamonds or gold or anything.

Communism, however, will require a revolution. Millions of industrial workers, soldiers and

youth must join the International Communist Workers’ Party to wage a relentless war to exterminate all the world’s capitalists-imperialists. This will require sending our youth into the capitalists’ armies to mobilize our brothers and sisters in arms to turn the guns around and fight for communism.

Syria shows the urgent need for our readers to join ICWP and help mobilize our class brothers and sisters for communism. It shows the need to understand world events to not be lulled into pacifism, defeatism or blinded by the capitalists’ patriotic propaganda to kill and die for their profits and empires.

These imperialists’ proxy wars will inevitably lead to the eventual clash of their armies on the battle fields of World War III. Putting in perspective the recent advances in Aleppo by the Syrian government backed by Russian airpower, a *New York Times* editorial painted a clearer picture of this eventual clash:

“President Obama has long refused to approve direct military intervention in Syria. And Mr. Putin may be assuming that Mr. Obama is unlikely to confront Russia in his final months and with an American election season in full swing. But with the rebel stronghold in Aleppo under threat of falling to the government, administration officials said that such a response is again under consideration.” (10/9/16)

Commenting on US imperialists’ inability for now to implement their military strategy, the *New York Times* wrote that “Secretary of State John Kerry complained that his diplomacy [in Syria] had not been backed by a serious threat of American military force... He also spoke of obstacles he faces back home: a Congress unwilling to authorize the use of force and a public tired of war.” (10/01/16)

In its latest edition, *Foreign Affairs Magazine*, the main architect of US imperial policy, put forward that the solution to this problem is “to empower the state to require involuntary service” emphasizing that “The trick is to make it [the draft] palatable” and to ensure that there are “no exceptions for the well to do.”

Mobilizing so many more reserves, it claims, “would give the population as a whole a stake in an ongoing conflict, Washington’s war thereby becoming the people’s war.”

The article is also a call for action to members of their class, their politicians, mass media pundits, educators and high ranking military officials. Hilary Clinton was quick to pick it up and has taken it to the masses. Showing what her campaign motto “stronger together” really means, on September 30, at a rally in Florida she said:

“Our goal is 5 million people spread across all 50 states” to serve in the proposed National Service Reserves. She said this will help the youth between 18 and 30 years of age put their “differences aside when our country needs us.” She emphasized that, “There is no greater service than serving in the Armed Forces.”

Hillary understands that US imperial needs require global war. She has called for a US no-fly zone in Syria, which the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said would require war with Russia. She and others are also calling for US boots on the ground and/or arming Assad’s opposition to kill more Russian soldiers and shoot down Russian aircraft in Syria.

The Syrian holocaust, dubbed a “mini world war,” will pale before the wider wars the capitalists-imperialists are planning. Their crimes are unrivaled in history. Capitalism has nothing to offer but death, destruction and war. Communism is our future. Let’s fight for it!

END RACIST POLICE TERROR from page 1

capitalism’s wage slavery, was never eliminated. Lower wages paid to the racially oppressed workers means super profits for the capitalists. Racism is crucially used to divide us, keeping us from uniting to destroy them and their system with a communist revolution.

Communism will allow us to finally get rid of racism

By getting rid of money, profits, and the market where our labor is bought and sold, communism will eliminate the material basis of racism. We will no longer be wage slaves. We’ll be free workers contributing to society according to our commitment and receiving according to our needs. No more competition for jobs that pit workers against workers.

There will be no police. Cops protect the private property that the bosses have stolen from the value that we workers produce. When they terrorize and kill workers, they are doing what their capitalist masters need. “Better police training” or showing the videos of police murders will not end their terror. Only communism can.

Read our newly revised pamphlet

TO END RACISM MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

available at
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COMMUNISM, AND ONLY COMMUNISM, LIBERATES THE WORKING CLASS

The *New York Times* is considered the crown jewel of U.S. journalism. It hardly even mentioned the recent general strike of over 180 million workers in India.

It did, however, lead with a four-page article on the Indian Government's plan to import cheap labor from villages surrounding Bangalore, India, an industrial city with about the same population as New York. The Sunday edition (9/25), the most widely circulated during the week, focused on a group of teenage women. They were "recruited" to fill the city's garment sweatshops.

These 15-year olds were forced to do the same thing day after day, meeting back-breaking quotas. Their paychecks were delayed, causing them to go hungry for days.

Nonetheless, this bosses' mouthpiece emphasized the "advantages" of this new (exploitative) life. The workers could now get mobile phones to talk to their boyfriends. They would no longer be subject to arranged marriages. The accompanying front-page picture showed them smiling as they read love letters from male co-workers. They had gained their independence, according to the *Times*.

The emancipating effect of "free labor" is a common lie used by capitalists the world over. Make no mistake about it, only communist production will free workers from the chains of wage slavery.

Many dedicated people have fought throughout the world to make capitalist production serve, at least in part, the interests of workers. Often this fight was organized by those who considered themselves communists. It has never worked, nor will it ever. Our energies are better spent mobilizing the masses directly for communism.

Some U.S. History

For a long time, U.S. garment workers have been subject to the "benefits" that capitalist industry provides. For example, tens of thousands of Mexican and Mexican-American workers were forced into sweatshops making clothes in California or shelling pecans in Texas after WWI. These mostly young women also came from rural areas and were brought to the brink of starvation.

They were not impressed with the "independence" of sweatshop labor. In fact, these recently proletarianized workers soon turned to collective fightback.

The established unions tried to sabotage class struggle. As William Z. Foster said in *Towards Soviet America*, when workers tried to use strikes to beat the wage cuts, they did their best to defeat them, using strike-breaking methods, among the

worst of which were the fake strikes, or lockouts in the Socialist-controlled (as opposed to the Communist-led) needle trades.

The communists built "revolutionary unions" among garment workers and pecan shellers. The pecan shellers, like Texas garment workers, were mostly Mexican Americans who worked at home or in sheds without flush toilets or running water. In addition, the reds formed a "left" in the establishment unions.

The "revolutionary unions" engaged in fierce class struggle, exposing the established union leaders and social democrats as agents of the bosses. They exposed the racist, xenophobic anti-working class New Deal. They united men and women of all races and nationalities. The long-term goal was to turn these unions into giant benevolent societies after a socialist revolution, like the unions in the Soviet Union.

These women strikers led by new Mexican-American communists were fearless. These leaders blamed racist, sexist super-exploitation on capitalism. But militant reform and even socialism held no answer in the end. Unions cannot be revolutionary no matter how militant.

Re-Thinking Our Strategy

The capitalist searches the world for cheaper labor. The 15-year-old super-exploited workers of Bangalore have common cause with the super-exploited Mexican and Mexican American workers who spurred the growth of the Communist Party after WWI in the U.S. Southwest.

From India to the U.S., that cause is to fight for communism. Only communist production can meet the needs of the working class. Nothing less will do.

Communist society will change the relations of production. Mobilized by a mass communist party, we will produce what we need. Profits have no role in communist production.

Capitalism must exploit workers lest the bosses make no profits. The bosses brag that the profit motive creates new products and keeps the factories humming. What a joke!

What really happens is that every capitalist floods the market with goods until the market is flooded with stuff workers can't buy. Production collapses, sending millions to the unemployment



Communist Party Demonstration,
Phoenix, Arizona, 1930

lines.

In communism, the factories, mills, machines, etc. belong to us all. They are not owned by a few capitalists. Hence, communism can scientifically plan what to produce based on our needs.

There will be no markets. Each will get what they need, not what they can afford. No need for benevolent societies, union or otherwise!

Sweatshops will just be a horrible memory. We'll put an end to monotonous, back-breaking drudgery. Every day will offer a new opportunity to expand our knowledge and creativity. Some days we won't even make clothes.

We'll create centers of production, which will also be centers of education. Social interaction will be based on common interests, not exploitation. Mental and manual labor will no longer be separated. The smiles will be real, based on our common desire to build communism for all.

The bosses create their own grave diggers when they ship 15-year-old teenagers into disgusting sweatshops. Long front-page puff pieces can't change that reality.

These young Bangalore workers are part of a growing proletariat in India, where ICWP is growing. Like the Mexican and Mexican American women communists before them, they are the leaders we need.

Foster concluded *Toward Soviet America* saying, "The advance of revolution is difficult ... and it varies from country to country, but its direction is sure and its movement irresistible." It's even more true today since we intend to make that revolution a direct fight for communism. **Join Us!**

EL SALVADOR from page 1

held where the conclusions were presented. It was incredible how youth and workers mixed together and reported on the discussions they had had in their workshops.

"This school was necessary so that we could understand more about where we come from as a party and where we are going," said a worker leader. Another said that he appreciated the opportunity to learn more about *Red Flag* and how to organize inside the factories.

The school concluded with a call from the workers that in the coming days we should print the words of the Communist International so we can sing it. That way workers from other factories will get to know it. We also agreed to continue with these political schools and to pay attention to the work that other Party clubs carry out.

All the workers left feeling very enthusiastic and confident that they can convince other workers to come to the meeting next month. This meeting gave a very important and spirited push to ICWP. It is the masses of men and women in-

dustrial workers who will define the future of humanity moving towards a communist world.



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Lessons from the class struggle in India

BUILDING THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY IN CONDITIONS OF WAR AND FASCISM

Dear Red Flag,

We are members and friends of ICWP in an industrial city in southern India. The Indian and Pakistani bosses have been beating the drums of ultra-nationalism. They want poor workers and soldiers on both sides to fight each other while the national capitalists in each country try to gain maximum advantage from an unstable and unpredictable inter-imperialist rivalry between China and Russia on one hand and the US on the other.

We are offering the revolutionary communist choice to the masses here. The workers in both India and Pakistan have more in common with each other than with the capitalist bosses who are oppressing us. We have made some contact with ICWP members in Pakistan and in

Bangladesh. It was a tremendous feeling of international solidarity to stand as one with our class brothers and sisters. We urge everybody in every corner of the world to reject nationalism and forge a unified working class.

While the Indian bosses were bragging about their so called 'surgical strike' in Pakistan, the Indian army for years have been carrying out deadly assaults in the Adivasi areas (native people engaged in agriculture) so that corporates can establish mines for profit. Rape, mass murders, and burning of villages are conducted by the army with advanced weapons.

Our urgent task is to win the masses to build for our party.

—Internationalist comrades

As partially shown above, a group of ICWP members and friends from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan denounced the capitalist class in India and Pakistan as they prepare for possible deadly confrontation.

Nineteen Indian soldiers were killed when they were ambushed by a group that the Indian rulers said came from Pakistan, supported by a Pakistani sponsored terrorist group.

However, the biggest terrorists here are capitalist rulers in India and Pakistan. The fascist rulers of India have slaughtered tens of thousands of Dalit, Muslim and other poor workers. Recently the Indian army carried out mass terror in Kashmir, blinding hundreds of children, women and men. In the mine-rich areas, the Indian military is conducting a deadly assault to clear the area of many Dalit and other oppressed peasants so these areas can be mined for the profit of the rich capitalists.

The Pakistan rulers are not far behind in their bloody drive against the working class. Numerous working class strikes are ruthlessly suppressed. It is estimated that India and Pakistan employ 24 million children between the ages of 4-14 for a few cents a day in hazardous industries including the back-breaking manufacturing of bricks.

The killing of the Indian soldiers was most likely provoked by the Modi government to give it an excuse to drum up nationalism among the masses. In response to this, the Indian army carried out so called 'surgical strikes' in Pakistan to destroy terrorist camps. This too, was a publicity stunt to raise a nationalist frenzy.

These skirmishes between India and Pakistan are taking place as the contradictions between Chinese and US imperialists are intensifying. The Modi government has attempted to launch an unprecedented move to place the Indian rulers in alliance with US imperialists. The Indian rulers were hoping to attract huge US investment. In reality, so far the Indian government has only been able to buy arms and make a defense treaty with the US.

Some in the Modi government consider China as their biggest competitor and hope to use the US' contradiction with China to their advantage. They want to weaken Pakistan and defeat a multi-billion dollar Pakistan China Economic Corridor, a key component of the One Belt One Road policy of the Chinese rulers.

Pakistan is a key player in the imperialist chess game. Its proximity to oil-producing Muslim countries, the former Soviet republics in Asia and the border with China and Afghanistan makes it a valuable ally of imperialists.

The Indian rulers, by launching the 'surgical strike,' were hoping to isolate Pakistan but in reality it has back fired. The US support was very guarded. But the most damaging turn of events was a joint Russia-Pakistan army exercise conducted in the area that India claims as its own.

Pakistan is a nuclear power also and in response to the current crisis it threatened to use nuclear weapons. It has readied the civilian administration to close freeways to be used as landing strips for the air force in case of a full blown attack by India.

S. Swamy, one of the key members of the Modi's fascist BJP party, even said that India should be ready to sacrifice 100 million people in a nuclear war with Pakistan. The Indian air force threatened to deploy newly purchased French fighter jets with nuclear weapons along their borders with China and Pakistan.

In response to the Pakistan-Russia joint military exercise, the Indian government conducted a joint India- US training exercise in an area not far from the Chinese border. China, India and Pakistan share some of the largest rivers in the Himalayas and they are all threatening to escalate water wars that can potentially flood areas affecting hundreds of millions.

Proxy wars are already killing millions around the world in addition to creating masses of refugees. The contradictions among the imperialists are heading towards a major world war. Imperialists and capitalist rulers around the world



Striking transit workers, in India September 2016

are using ruthless force, racist police and weapons of mass destruction to frighten and intimidate the working class.

Imperialism appears strong now because of its ability to inflict mass destruction. But the strength of imperialism is temporary and it is turning into weakness. This can lead to its eventual destruction by communist revolution. When the international working class realizes that it produces everything and when workers have a clear vision of communism where we will produce for human need and not profit, workers will be open to joining ICWP in huge numbers. We have a huge opportunity to win a growing number of angry, unemployed and employed workers and the soldiers to communism.

To our comrades in India,

We are a group of high school students that are part of an ICWP collective. We read about your situation in **Red Flag**. It is very inspiring to read about how 180 million people went out in a massive one-day general strike that shut down the entire capitalist system. If millions of workers can do this in one day imagine what one month or even years of mobilization for communism can do. Just as inspiring is the fact that comrades in India in the ICWP joined the massive one-day strike and brought **Red Flag** and other communist literature to the striking masses. You comrades were able to talk about communism in a mass way! We must not let the flame stop burning, we must continue fighting!

Here in the USA the working masses are rising up against fascism, racist police terror and the killing of Black and Latino workers. Cities, like Ferguson, Missouri and Charlotte, North Carolina, have been taken by the masses to the point that the National Guard has been called out to patrol the streets. In India, the working masses have also risen up against fascism, racist attacks against Dalits and super exploitation. Fascism, racism and super exploitation go hand in hand with capitalism. We must get rid of capitalism to get rid of them.

We are circulating this statement and gathering signatures of international communist solidarity with you comrades in India. We are pledging to distribute more **Red Flag** newspapers in our area to students, workers and soldiers. We are pledging to visit more factories (see photo) to take **Red Flag** to workers! We are pledging to recruit more and more people to our International Communist Workers' Party!



All of us together, students, workers and soldiers all over the world, can build communism. A world with no money, no borders, no racism, no exploitation and no war. There won't be any rich and there won't be any poor. We will all learn and work together to satisfy our human needs at all levels. No one will go hungry or homeless. Everyone will contribute based on their commitment and their understanding. Everyone will receive based on their needs. Workers all over the world are the same!

—Young comrades in the United States

ETHIOPIA: ANGRY MASSES MUST FIGHT FOR OUR CLASS, NOT NATIONALIST MISLEADERS

ETHIOPIA, October 2—Ethiopian security forces opened fire on masses of people in Bishoftu, where a cultural festival marking the end of winter turned into a political protest against the fascist rulers. Hundreds of people are confirmed dead, in the latest attack by the Ethiopian capitalist state.

Ethiopia made the news during the Olympics when the Ethiopian marathon runner, Feyisa Lilesa, raised his crossed fists in protest against the murder by the Ethiopian capitalist state of hundreds of protesters in the streets in the town of Ginchi this summer.

Although Lilesa's protest was specifically against the killing of "his people, the Oromo people," in fact, the government has killed both Oromo and Amhara people, who are rising in protest against the current regime.

If we flip back the pages of history to find out where the current Ethiopian government came from, we find the Tigray People's Liberation Front engaged in nationalist struggle against the Soviet-backed military fascist junta called the Dergue. Ethiopia's current government comes out of a period of conflict in which the Tigray Liberation Front and Eritrean Liberation Front were both fighting to secede and create their own territory so each respective ethnic group's bourgeoisie could rule over it.

When the Soviet Union disintegrated in 1989, the military junta was in disarray, until 1991, when the imperialist CIA imposed the Tigray (a third ethnic group) People's Liberation Front as the ruling power. The government has served as a US puppet in Somalia and is now allowing the UN to use its territory as a staging ground to prop up the US client state of South Sudan. At the same time, China has invested heavily in infrastructure.

The ruling party, now known as the Ethiopian Peoples Liberation Front, has set up a system of ethnic federalism, dividing the entire country by ethnicity. Each so-called nationality has its own ethnic party and government.

The current protests began when the government displaced 150,000 Oromo farmers from land they have historically used for subsistence agriculture. This land grab was part of the Surrounding Oromia Special Zone Integrated Development Plan. Also known as the "Master Plan," it aimed to "develop the area around the capital city of Addis Ababa, in an effort to open Ethiopia to European capitalist development.

Starting in December of 2015, there have been continuing mass protests, which have been met with state violence. The ethnic nationalism of the Tigray rulers has created inequality and discontentment among all other ethnic groups. In this situation, Oromo masses, the largest ethnic group in Ethiopia, have continued to take to the streets, even though the Master Plan has been scrapped.

In August, Amhara masses in Bahir Dar took to the streets in solidarity and around their own grievances, and both protests were met with murderous state violence.

Nationalist misleaders are exploiting the protests to suit their own agendas. But this is an attack against the poor peasant masses.

Masses of workers in Ethiopia should shed



their nationalist illusions and fight to get rid of their domestic and imperialist oppressors. Nationalism saps the class consciousness of the working class and makes the working class an appendage of their nationalist bosses.

We need unity of the working masses against any nationalist bourgeoisie and their imperialist masters to get rid of oppression and exploitation. We need to organize the ICWP in Ethiopia to unite all workers and the oppressed masses to fight for communism.

Only communism frees the working class from capitalist exploitation by destroying the economical basis of capitalist commodity production which gives priority to exchange value over use value. So we should raise our fists high. Let's build for communist revolution instead of nationalist movements that tie us to our capitalist exploiters. Let us get rid of domestic bourgeoisie and their imperialist blood-sucker masters once and for all and build a communist society based on working class collectivity and cooperation.

COMMUNIST MISTAKES ABOUT NATIONALISM, PART III

In part II we discussed the Communist International (CI) policy for colonies, urging cooperation of communists with local capitalists against foreign imperialists. The working class was supposed to fight a "bourgeois democratic revolution," but not fight for socialism or communism.

In China in the 1920s this line included a close alliance with the nationalist Guomindang (GMD). In April 1927 GMD leader Chang Kai-shek attacked communists and their supporters, murdering many thousands.

This disaster should have triggered a rethinking by the CI of its whole policy of alliance with capitalists, but it did not. At the Sixth Congress of the CI in 1928 the basic platform for colonies stayed the same, promoting a "bourgeois-democratic revolution" led by the working class. A temporary alliance with "the national-revolutionary movement" was allowed "in certain circumstances."

Part of the explanation of why this wrong line was not changed was mentioned in Part II: the Bolsheviks were convinced that they had won power by following a similar policy. Probably the more important reason, however, was the intense struggle inside the Bolshevik party that was going on in the late 1920s. That struggle included key issues about nationalism and alliances with capitalists.

From the early 1920s, Zinoviev, Radek and Trotsky headed factions within the Bolshevik party, factions that opposed the leadership of Stalin (and Bukharin). The China disaster was an opportunity for the factions to attack that leadership.

The factionalists said that the alliance that the Chinese communists had made with the GMD gave away too much. It restricted the political message that the Communists could give to workers and peasants, and undermined the independence of the communist party. Alliances with capitalists always have as a price rejecting or keeping quiet about the revolution leading to the dictatorship of the proletariat. That is something capitalists will always insist on.

In fact, Zinoviev did not refuse to make deals with national capitalists, he just wanted better ones. He said the Chinese communists should recruit millions of workers and peasants to the "national movement," and not be "afraid of scaring away the bourgeoisie." This national movement was not against capitalism, but only for various reforms and to "halt" the imperialists in China.

Trotsky would later claim that he had opposed the communists' uniting with the GMD years earlier, in 1923. This was simply a lie. As late as September 1926, Trotsky thought it was "perfectly correct" for communists to form an alliance with the GMD. Later he said he wanted an alliance only with the Left wing of the GMD. In the heat of his factional fight against the party leadership, he went beyond this and hypocritically rejected all deals with capitalists in China. But this does not mean that his line about what alliances the working class movement should make was anywhere near being correct.

Trotsky Against "Socialism in one Country"

The Bolsheviks' idea of workers' power in the USSR was an alliance of the urban industrial working class and the rural poor (the poor and

middle peasants). Trotsky could not accept this Bolshevik position. He said that socialism is against the interests of the peasantry (not just the rich peasants). Since Russia was a country with a peasant majority, Trotsky argued that socialism could not be built there. He claimed that ruling the USSR by an alliance of the working class with the rural poor was impossible. Only the working class minority could actually rule, hoping to hang on and wait for revolutions in other countries.

This defeatism about trying to create an economy to serve the masses—workers and peasants—in the USSR was firmly rejected by the Bolsheviks. In 1927 the factionalists organized public demonstrations against the party leadership, and were expelled from the party. Trotsky was eventually expelled from the country. Abroad, his propaganda claimed that the USSR had "degenerated" and its leaders had "betrayed" the revolution, taking sides with the imperialist powers that wanted to destroy the USSR.

In the early 1930s, Trotsky, Zinoviev, Radek, Bukharin and others whose policies had been defeated began to engage in conspiracies to kill Stalin and other top Bolshevik leaders. Overall, they made absolutely no positive contribution to the theory or practice of the communist movement, including the issue of nationalism.

In 1935 at the 7th Congress of CI responded to the rise of Nazism by adopting a line on nationalism and alliances with capitalists that was even more wrong. This will be discussed in Part IV.

Sources are on the internet version of this article.

MOTHER TERESA: CAPITALISM'S NEW FASCIST "SAINT"

Pope Francis has made the fascist Mother Teresa a Saint. US rulers like Hillary Clinton and President Obama praise this. This canonization is a tribute to someone who has caused the unnecessary and cruel deaths of hundreds of thousands of people, who lived lives of dire poverty before they were "taken in" by her missions.

Originally from Albania, she formed Missionaries of Charity in India. Her organization was investigated for fraudulent misappropriation of money. Funds meant to treat cancer patients were diverted to several right wing Catholic pro-life organizations.

In her 517 missions worldwide, two thirds of those who had gone there hoped a doctor would treat them. This never happened. The other third lay dying with little hygiene, inadequate food and no painkillers. Many millions of dollars went to Mother Teresa; money wasn't the problem.

Instead of giving dying cancer patients pain medication to ease their suffering, or medical care, her nuns sang. She said that pain brought

the dying patient close to God.

In Bhopal, India a Union Carbide chemical plant had a deadly poisonous gas leak in 1984. 8000 people died, more than a half a millions were injured; many lost their eyesight forever. Union Carbide had ignored numerous studies predicting the disaster. Two local journalists who exposed this a year before were found murdered. Profit claimed the lives of those who must depend on wage slavery. The CEO of Union Carbide was charged with criminal negligence.

After the disaster, Mother Teresa flew to Bhopal and, escorted by government cars, offered the victims small aluminum medals of St. Mary. "This could have been an accident," she told the survivors. "It's like a fire (that) could break out anywhere. That is why it is important to forgive. Forgiveness offers us a clean heart... people will be a hundred times better after it."

Pope John Paul II agreed, saying Bhopal was a "sad event" which resulted from "man's efforts to make progress."

She gladly received an award from Ronald

Reagan at the time he was funding the Contras in Nicaragua. When she went to Central America in the midst of civil wars, she said, "Everything was peaceful in the parts of the country we visited. I do not get involved in that sort of politics."

We should always beware of those who pose as saviors of the masses but in fact are fronting for the imperialists. ICWP fights to eliminate poverty, suffering, and idealism by mobilizing to destroy capitalism with communist revolution. We will thrive together by building collectives that mobilize to help each other meet all of our needs.

No one will be forced to rely on the "charity" of rich imperialists and their lackeys. Instead we will build a communist society where each person is respected and receives the healthcare, housing and food that they need while contributing what they can for the common good. Each person's contribution will be valued and encouraged by healthy growing collectives who plan and carry out mobilizing to meet everyone's needs.

LETTERS

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CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

The Bolsheviks and Communist Education

I'm glad that the article about Soviet education (v. 7 #14) is opening a discussion about our plans for communist education. This letter comments on one point.

The article said that "when the Bolsheviks took power, they had no firm plans for education. ... So the Bolsheviks had to improvise." Actually, a leading Bolshevik, Nadezhda Krupskaya, was trained as a teacher. She joined Lenin's underground Marxist circle while teaching industrial workers in an adult-education program in 1891-95.

Along with other Bolshevik leaders, Krupskaya was driven into exile. During those years she studied the educational theories of Russian, European and American writers. She made a thorough investigation of educational practices (broadly defined) in Europe, the US, and Russia. Her goal was to "establish as precisely as possible the Marxist position with regard to schooling."

"The time will come," Krupskaya wrote in 1910, "when it will be possible to set up the kind of school the rising generation needs. We will have to know how to set up such a school, and for that we need experience, and we need to work on it in advance in order to understand how to approach the task."

By 1917 she had written over forty publications, mostly on education. That included a book, *Public Education and Democracy*, completed shortly before the revolution.

So the Bolsheviks' main problem with education policy wasn't lack of planning. Instead it was probably their general line. They thought that a "democratic revolution" would have to precede socialism and that communism would come much later. That's why Krupskaya studied "education and democracy."

The mistaken general line explains why, once in power, the Bolsheviks tried to create communist education without creating a material basis for it in communist social relations of production. In November 1921 their Central Committee declared that "the basic task of the communist party in the field of education during the New Economic Policy [even in NEP!] is the preservation of communist ideological influence in all educational work."

We have a lot to learn from the best of communist educational practice in the 20th century (like the Gorky Colony). But let's understand that we can and must do a lot better. Mobilizing directly for a communist society will allow us to create a real communist system of education.

—California comrade

Winning soldiers to focus their anger against the capitalist system

In Sinaloa, Mexico, at dawn on October 30, an armed confrontation was provoked between a group of alleged assassins and soldiers, leaving 6 soldiers dead and another 10 injured. Official versions say that the children of Chapo ordered the attack.

After this confrontation and the death of the soldiers, in the social media you could read words of anger and frustration from soldiers and their families. They are demanding justice from the government.

The soldiers' families have expressed their fury at the situations that soldiers face when they see how their relatives die in this war against drugs.

These people in the army and their families must be won to focus their anger against the capitalist system, the cause of these evils. Only communism, with thousands of organized soldiers, can put an end to the war against drugs as well as drug addiction and the bosses who benefit from both.

"I am locked up for something similar (a confrontation and killing of narco-traffickers). The senior officers are free and they will never do anything to them. There are many in prison who are unjustly blamed but we can't do anything," wrote a soldier.

In discussions with some of these people, I heard pessimism and resignation, I said that this is not normal, that we must dare to hope, question and organize. Some just kept silent, others said that they still don't have enough strength and they hope that others have it or they'll wait for divine justice.

A sailor friend said, "Sometimes pamphlets appear in the navy installations. I ask friends what they think of this. The sailors think that what the pamphlets say is true, but they are afraid to keep talking. They only mutter in the

aisles about organization but nobody joins."

Soldiers and their families around the world, these deaths are painful for us, just like the thousands of deaths of soldiers and workers all over the world. They will continue until we destroy this capitalist system and with it the bosses.

The capitalists are preparing for a third World War, in which millions of people will die. The soldiers are the future cannon fodder. It is urgent to continue sowing the seed in the hearts of the people. We must talk about Communism.

We must form and train our red army, as well as industrial workers, students and our whole international working class to begin our Communist society where every person will receive according to their needs and contribute according to their commitment and capacities. Join ICWP.

—Young Comrade from Mexico



Read our pamphlet:

SOLDIERS, SAILORS, MARINES: CRUCIAL TO A COMMUNIST WORKERS' REVOLUTION

available at
icwpredflag.org/MIL/mpe.pdf

SOUTH AFRICA: MOBILIZING THE YOUTH FOR COMMUNISM

SOUTH AFRICA—The following is a discussion among four comrades about focusing on mobilizing the youth for communism.

“I think that we should focus more on the youth. They are the ones who would create the pace for change and they are starting to realize that the system that is in place is not really bringing solutions. They know that instead it is creating problems. Whether or not they know it is capitalism, that’s what it is.

“There’s no real solution other than fighting for communism. I think we should focus more on that. Especially the youth are the ones who do not relate to the ANC (African National Congress) and all those political parties. That’s why parties like the EFF (Economic Freedom Fighters) are so popular. It is our responsibility to engage with youth and talk with them and realize that we are the ones capable of changing the world. We must fight for that internationally.”

“We should concentrate more on mobilizing the masses during the student strike, especially

with those things happening that we see on the news, like varsity students being shot by the police with rubber bullets because they were striking. I think we should concentrate more on those days when they demonstrate; we should mobilize them at the same time.”

“Yes, we need to focus more on the youth, judging from the incidents that happened during the elections. Yes, the ANC did lose some very important provinces and it’s quite a chance for us to mobilize more masses towards 2019 because they are not going to be more firm in the next election in 2019 than they were before. So its our chance to mobilize more.

“We should target the people who are no longer with the ANC and can see that there’s a need for change. They just need to see the

right political line, the struggle for communism.”

“The youth will be the ones who decide which party wins in 2019. Even the youth league of the South African Communist Party (SACP) wants the SACP to contest the election. So if the ANC doesn’t give the SACP the option to contest the election, the youth will no longer support the ANC. So my view is to approach the youth with communism.”



LETTERS

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CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

To the Comrades of ICWP all over the world

This is a young lion from South Africa. Just a few words of encouragement. As young people that belong to the ICWP, sometimes we tend to lose our way, lose our focus. But do not worry. Do not despair. We can always get up and dust ourselves off and come back to the movement.

As we all know, communism will not happen tomorrow, not next week, not even next year. It will take some time for us to reach our goal, but for my fellow comrades, I just want to encourage you. Do not lose hope; do not lose focus. Stay true to what you believe in. We are true communists. Let us behave as such.

It’s good to be back, Comrades. I feel like I have a purpose again. And I know that with my strength and my powerfulness we can achieve a lot like we did last time at the conference.

I promise you, comrades, I will not stay away from you again. I will always be available to serve the ICWP. La Lutta continua. The struggle continues. Red Salute, Comrades

—A young lion in South Africa

Let’s Unite For Communism

Since it has become apparent that we are going to live under this capitalist system for a longer time than we expected, we need to build a strong Revolution to make the conditions good for our people and our coming generations. We have a responsibility to bring about necessary change in our Communities. We have to invest in our own people and our communities. That means fighting for communism and arming the masses with the science of change.

We have studied too many books; we all know the truth, and the truth will set us free. We have to implement now, we have to plant the seed... We have done too much talking;

now is the period of implementation. It’s better to die for an idea that will live than for an idea that will die. This reflects to us that we are ready to fight until death.

All the systems in our communities have failed us, politics have failed us, religion has failed us, the economic system has failed us and the traditional systems have failed us too! Simply because we failed to take control of them.

It is a collective responsibility to make sure things are right. We must take care of ourselves... Let’s change each other. Let’s fight and struggle for communism. Let’s share! We must unite!

—A Comrade in South Africa

Young Workers & Students Form New Party Collective

A few weeks ago, a group of us youth met to form a new ICWP club. This club is made up of young workers and students who have been active in the party for several years. The creation of this club is part of our role as communists to be part of a collective.

In this meeting we discussed the article about drug addiction in the last *Red Flag*. After reading the article, we discussed the concept of drugs and whether there existed such a thing as recreational drugs, and if so, what would our communist position be about this. The majority supported the position that, yes, there are recreational drugs like, for example, marijuana. We talked about what its effects are, its pros and cons, how it would be produced, distributed and consumed.

But this topic not only led us to talk about drugs, but also about a whole process of organization of society. We talked about how different education, medicine, health, food, and our responsibilities will be in communism.

“Much will change. If we no longer produce for money, the research we do will be for the good of everyone,” commented a youth about the profits that the pharmaceutical companies generate in this pandemic of opiates.

This first meeting was inspiring for everyone. The discussion was very dynamic. All the youth participated, including some who had never talked in other meetings. This new youth club has begun with great enthusiasm and has great potential. We have a plan ready for study groups about the nationalist response to racism, about sports and sexism, and about activities in colleges.

We invite all the young people in the countries where our newspaper is read to share your experiences and give your ideas about how we can unify our work as young members of ICWP.

—Young Communists in Los Angeles

Read our pamphlet

COMMUNIST EDUCATION FOR A CLASSLESS SOCIETY

available at
icwpredflag.org/EDU/EdPamE.pdf



SOUTH AFRICA: EDUCATION AND CLASS SOCIETY from page 8

advanced very quickly aiding capitalist commerce, wars for conquests, and protecting nation states that emerged. Modern languages emerged and they were given strict grammar rules to avoid any ambiguity in property relationships. Art, literature, music, and sports expressed capitalist ideas and promoted individualism.

We are building a mass party to build for communist revolution. This revolution will be a vi-

olent revolution like any fundamental change in society. Communism will emerge from the ashes of capitalist destruction. It will also end capitalist education as it exists today. In communist society learning and producing for need will be integrated. The new communist social relationship will unleash new forces that are impossible for us to imagine. But for sure, our learning in communist society will be based on the collec-

tive need of the working class. It will combine theory and practice, mental and manual labor for everyone, for their whole lives.

By raising these ideological struggles among the students we are gaining confidence in our line. We are seeing the present upsurge of the masses as a huge opportunity to build a May Day under our own banners of **One Class, One Fight, One Party**. Join us today and fight for communism.

South Africa:

EDUCATION AND CLASS SOCIETY

South Africa has been rocked by violent mass student protest against huge fee increases and the privatization of higher education. These protests are multiracial and reflect the simmering anger students feel about their inability to get employment even after getting a degree. These demonstrations are taking place in the midst of a collapsing African National Congress (ANC), the party that fought the system of apartheid. Millions of blacks and some whites who supported ANC are leaving the party in droves.

The political weakening of the ANC is really a crisis of capitalism and its failure to deliver a decent life to the masses. After coming to power, the ANC, which represented the interests of European, US and South African capitalists, implemented a policy of reducing the real wages of workers. Labor contractors took over the industrial production. Workers hired by contractors earn very little, have no stable employment and work without health care or other benefits.

This enormously increased the profit of the capitalist class but at the same time, the Chinese capitalists started aggressively investing in South Africa. Today China is a major trading partner of South Africa. Cheap commodities coming from China are causing the wages of the workers to fall even further. Traditional factories are closing, leaving entire cities devastated.

The ICWP youth club in South Africa has been extremely active in engaging student demonstrations with our ideas of our communist

future. This inevitably brings very heated discussion about what role education plays under capitalism. The student movement is focused under #feesmustfall. Among our club some comrades thought that this gives us the opportunity to build for communism and we should recruit to our party but the demand for reducing the fees is a good demand.

The purpose of capitalist education

We struggled with this idea that reducing fees is a good thing. Under capitalism higher education creates the future generation of managers, professionals, and ideologues who promote capitalism. So, reduced fees are not going to change the fundamental nature of capitalist education, which also promotes individualism, nationalism, racism, sexism and anti-communism. We have to destroy capitalism and its education system that supports wage slavery and exploitation.

In a feudal society, prior to capitalism, hardly anybody was able to read or write. This ability was guarded by the rich landlords, priests and upper class. The emergence of capitalism required a new social relationship. The feudal relationship where the peasants were forced to live and serve the landlord



#feesmustfall movement creates opportunities to win students to communism

became an obstacle to the capitalist system of factories that required wage slaves that can be hired and fired. Feudal kings and capitalists fought for centuries and eventually feudalism was smashed. The emergence of capitalism required the wage slaves to have an ability to follow instructions and operate ever-changing machines.

Mass capitalist education grew out of this need of capitalism. It first required the complete destruction of the past social relationship that existed under feudalism. New social relationships of capitalism unleashed new forces. Scientific discoveries that were impossible under feudalism

See [SOUTH AFRICA: EDUCATION AND CLASS SOCIETY, page 7](#)

History of the Cultural Revolution in China (Part 6):

LEARNING FROM THE ULTRA-LEFT: NEED PARTY TO MOBILIZE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

The last article discussed the rise of the “Ultra-Left” in late 1967. It described Shengwulian’s “Whither China?” critique of a “Red Bourgeoisie” led by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

“Ultra-leftists” in Wuhan organized the Plough Society in November, 1967, soon after Shengwulian formed in Hunan. Later called Juepai or Bei-jue-yang, its journal was the *Yangtze Tribune*.

Its “inaugural declaration” criticized “rebels” who were fighting over seats on the Revolutionary Committees. Real revolutionaries, it said, should be preparing for “a new upsurge of the peasant movement.”

In mid-December, peasant rebels of the First Headquarters of Bahe District, Xishui County, approached the Plough Society. First Headquarters was trying to build a “New Countryside” modeled on “military communism.”

They replaced production-team responsibility with brigade-level organization, planning to move quickly to commune-level organization. All livestock were managed centrally. All craftspeople worked together. Everyone ate at communal dining halls, as in the 1958 People’s Communes. First Headquarters even tore down private houses and moved peasants into collective housing.

This “military communism” resembled the People’s Liberation Army (PLA)’s pre-revolution “supply system.” But a key element was missing: mass mobilization based on political commitment. Instead, a militia was to impose the “new rules” by “punishing mercilessly anyone who dares to sabotage the New Countryside.”

Without political mobilization for commu-

nism, many peasants resisted this experiment. Neighbors were hostile. Still, Plough Society leaders hailed it as the start of a new peasant movement. They called for support from “true proletarian revolutionaries who are determined to carry out the Cultural Revolution (CR) through to the end.”

All major CCP organs and Wuhan’s major rebel groups ignored First Headquarters. It was driven out of the city. But strikes and violent demonstrations were spreading from Shanghai to other industrial cities. The CCP was worried.

In mid-January 1968, the CCP organized a mass campaign against “Whither China.” The document began to circulate in Wuhan. Juepai (Plough Society) also found materials from Shanghai’s “Oriental Society” and other “ultra-leftist” New Thought collectives.

Juepai leader Lu Li’an concluded that the revolutionary committees were “transitional forms” on the way to a Paris Commune-type power structure. Juepai must help lead the struggle of peasants and others to overthrow the “bourgeois dictatorship and the revisionist system of the revolutionary committee.”

Marx had praised the Paris Commune’s decision to “abolish the standing army.” Lu inferred that a people’s militia must replace China’s PLA. He decided that Juepai should initiate a founding convention for a new communist party to replace the CCP. He was preparing to visit other “ultra-leftists” around the country when he was kidnapped and jailed.

Lu’s comrades Feng Tian’ai and Yang Xiulin carried on. Juepai, said Yang, unlike “ordinary rebels,” understood the basic social contradictions underlying the Cultural Revolution. These were between the new bureaucratic bourgeoisie

and the masses.

The masses had to overthrow the new exploiting class in a civil war. They must smash the old state machinery, redistribute property and power, and establish the People’s Commune of China. Feng argued that Juepai should help reorganize a communist party to lead this revolution.

In July, 1968, CCP leaders suppressed “ultra-left” rebel organizations. Most groups lay low, hoping this latest “adverse current” would die down. Not the *Yangtze Tribune*! On August 4, they put up a big-character poster in downtown Wuhan. Its main message: “Revolutionary people yearn to take the destiny of the proletarian dictatorship, the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, and the socialist economy into their own hands....Let the masses educate and liberate themselves.”

The *Yangtze Tribune* was quickly declared an “extremely reactionary publication.” Lu Li’an and Feng Tian’ai were labelled “active counter-revolutionaries.” Feng was arrested and the *Yangtze Tribune* shut down. Leaders of the ultra-left Hunan Committee were also imprisoned or killed.

Mao’s government forced young urban activists into the remote countryside. In principle it’s good for students to learn from the rural masses. However, Mao used this as an excuse to disperse and destroy their political movement.

“Three-in-one” revolutionary committees were finally able to function as the state apparatus in cities, workplaces, and campuses. Old party cadres and the military dominated them. The “red bourgeoisie” had won – but not forever.

The next article in this series will sum up lessons from the strengths and weaknesses of the “ultra-left” in the Cultural Revolution.