

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

Cancún, October, 2013, Teachers confront police in protest against education reform



FRIENDSHIP AND RED FLAG BRING A TEACHER FROM UNION POLITICS TO COMMUNISM

MEXICO— the National Coordinating Committee of Education Workers (CNTE) has been demonstrating for over four months against Education Reform. In spite of the protests, they do not see the possibility of its cancelation.

Under the circumstances of the protests, the teachers have become more receptive to communist ideas. During this period, my partner and I frequently visited a primary school teacher from the state of Oaxaca, in her encampment in Mexico City. Each time we took *Red Flag* and some food that we had collected from our friends.

All the repression and discredit that she is living through in flesh and blood, her reading of our newspaper, and of our manifesto *Mobilize the Masses for Communism (MMC)*, and the long talks about communism, have advanced her understanding about the purpose of the education, energy, and finance reforms, and above all about communism.

Now she also visits our house. She commented to us, "The education reform does not correspond to reality and it does not improve basic education in Mexico, because they did not make any studies beforehand about the real situation of basic education in which the teachers should have been involved." We told her that the capitalists don't need and are not interested in studies to propose reforms that benefit the workers. The only thing they are interested in is how to get more profits

from more obedient workers.

She has understood the difference between the electoral parties, leftists or rightists, socialism and an International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP). She knows that the former keep capitalism and that ICWP will destroy it. She is clear that the "leftist governments" (PRD) in the state of Oaxaca and in Mexico City, together with the federal government, made the agreement for the police and the army to repress and evict the teachers encamped in the Zócalo (Main Square) in Mexico City.

Our teacher friend told us, "It's not easy to win the revocation of the Education Reform with a movement like the CNTE. We need something stronger to defeat our enemy." She is understanding the need for a communist revolution led by a mass party like ICWP.

Now she is clear that if they were to stop the reform, it would only be temporary. And that the situation will remain the same since it obeys the laws of capitalism. She has understood that reform struggles are only cosmetic and help to maintain the capitalist system; that the bosses will look for new ways to achieve their goals, maybe in months or in years.

"So, there is no solution," she said, and she remembered that since before becoming a teacher, she had heard and seen cuts to the rights of teachers and that there were also protests like these,

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MTA Workers Know:

UNDER CAPITALISM MONEY TRUMPS SAFETY

LOS ANGELES--A senior African-American mechanic is in the cross-hairs of MTA's reign of terror. MTA is bent on firing him. He was unjustly fired before, but won the case and got his job back.

To fire him, MTA's racist managers are trying to exploit the issues that in the past he was frequently late to work and doesn't blindly follow all management's orders and also argues strongly for his position.

This mechanic's meticulous work-ethic has pitted him against management. His present duty is to inspect the buses and report things that are not proper.

Management is angry because it means extra paper work that the California Highway Patrol can get their hands on and then cause problems for MTA. A few years ago, an *LA Times* article exposed MTA for neglecting to properly maintain the trains.

Sure, MTA saves millions of dollars, neglecting the magic word "SAFETY". (This is the word they use to justify major violations WRITE UPS and terror.)

However, this mechanic is thorough and thinks the safety of the drivers and passengers is primary. He feels that if a bus was equipped with an object, then it should work as intended, no buts about it.

He reports malfunctions, which is his job. Management then decides what should be fixed or not. They are responsible for putting defective buses on the streets.

Mechanic's Management then dumps the responsibility on the bus drivers, who in turn are harassed by Transportation Management for complaining about faulty buses.

The drivers end up blaming the mechanics for "not doing their job," but management is the only one to blame, because their only concern is money. Buses off the streets and in the shop impact MTA's budget negatively, and under capitalism money trumps the drivers' and passengers' safety. MTA also steals fired workers' pensions

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Declining U.S., Rising China on Collision Course; MILLIONS CAN MOBILIZE FOR COMMUNISM

“U.S. fiscal failure warrants a de-Americanized world,” screamed the headline of an editorial in *Xinhua*, the official press agency of the Chinese government (10/13/13).

The editorial voiced the Chinese imperialists’ anger over the US failure to pass a federal budget and raise the debt ceiling, which puts “many nations’ tremendous dollar assets in jeopardy and the international community highly agonized.”

“Such alarming days,” they declared, “have to be terminated.” They call for a new de-Americanized world order. One of its key corner stones, the editorial suggests, should be the introduction of a “new international reserve currency ... created to replace the dominant U.S. dollar.”

These are fighting words. The Chinese imperialists are throwing down the gauntlet to US imperialism. This will inevitably lead to World War III because the world’s dominant currency has never been replaced peacefully.

It took WWI and WWII to finally put the British pound to rest as the world’s primary currency and British imperialism as the world’s dominant power.

US imperialism and its dollar occupied both positions after 1945. Dislodging them won’t be peaceful. No dominant imperialist power abandons the world’s stage peacefully.

US imperialists are preparing to meet the Chinese challenge

“Unquestionably, China is the economic engine of Asia, displacing both Japan and the United States. According to US government projections, China is expected to be the world’s largest economy by 2019 in terms of purchasing power parity.” - Samir Tata, a US War College analyst.

He laments the fact that the US task of “maintaining its primacy as a global power” won’t be easy because of the economic restrictions imposed by a \$16 trillion federal government debt, and the worst economic crisis since 1929.

Nevertheless, he states unequivocally that, “The overarching national security objective of

the United States must be crystal clear: to counterbalance and contain a rising China determined to be the dominant economic, political, and military power in Asia.” The *Xinhua* editorial makes it crystal clear that Chinese imperialists’ aspirations encompass the whole world.

Pivot to “Asia-Pacific”: US imperialists’ main strategy to fight China

The US “pivot” is a three-pronged strategy: diplomatic, economic and military. Obama’s absence from two recent Asian summits did nothing to advance this strategy. China’s President Xi Jinping,

however, used both occasions to expand China’s economic and diplomatic clout in the region.

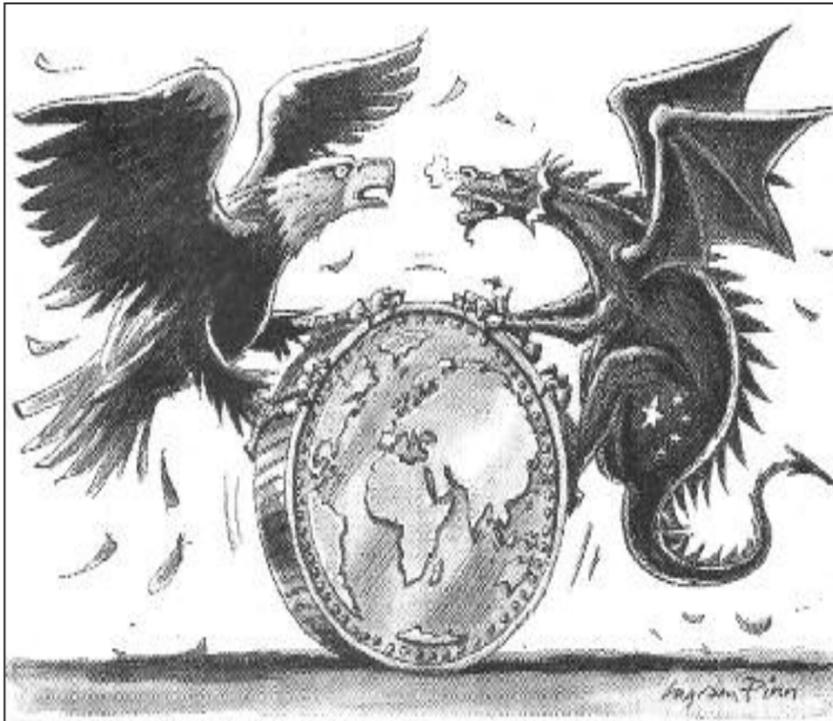
US main weakness, however, was not Obama’s absence or his government’s shutdown but US imperialism’s economic woes. In any case, Obama, as president of the world’s biggest debtor nation, had very little to offer. Economic and diplomatic policies need hefty economic backing.

This leaves US imperialism’s strategy with only one prong: the military one.

US war strategy: Deny China’s energy in times of conflict

“China’s economic and military security is inextricably intertwined with its energy security. From a strategic perspective,” writes Tata, “the ‘Achilles’ heel’ of China is its overwhelming dependence on Persian Gulf energy.” This dependence has increased since Tuesday when China overtook the US as the biggest oil importer: 6.3 million barrels a day, projected to increase to 9.2 million barrels by 2020.

“For the US to counterbalance China successfully,” he continues, “it must be able to threaten China’s energy security.” Presently, the US Navy



controls the five critical choke points—Hormuz, Bab el Mandab, Malacca, Sunda and Lombok (see map)—and the sea lanes linking them. The bulk of China’s oil and gas imports from the Middle East and Africa must travel through them. This is China’s jugular vein.

To be completely successful, however, “the United States also must be able to prevent China from obtaining Persian Gulf oil and gas via alternative land-based pipelines. ... therefore, the United States must be able to convince Iran, through persuasion or coercion, to suspend energy exports to China,” says analyst Tata.

Indonesia, India and Iran are crucial for US imperialism’s strategy to work. Indonesia and Iran must at least be neutralized. Forging a military coalition with India, Australia, Japan, Vietnam and the Philippines to fight China might be a US pipe dream.

Endless Capitalist- Imperialist wars or communist revolution

What US imperialism can achieve is subject to speculation. The approaching world war, however, is no speculation. China’s rise as the biggest importer of Persian Gulf oil will accelerate the demise of the US Petrodollar and the rise of the Petro-Yuan. The drive for World War III will then be on steroids.

The deepening capitalist crisis has the world’s masses in motion. Millions are questioning capitalism and are open to our communist ideas. Imperialist war will further intensify our class’ misery and oppression, especially for industrial workers and soldiers. The potential to mobilize the masses for communism will be immeasurable.

We call on ICWP members and *Red Flag* readers to struggle to win our youth to go into the army and factories to help organize soldiers and workers for revolution. This, spreading *Red Flag*, especially among these key sectors, and building ICWP massively must be our response to the bosses’ war plans: to bury them and their genocidal racist system forever. Join us!



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To Change Education, Change the World

TEACHING & LEARNING ABOUT COMMUNISM

This weekend there will be a conference in the Seattle-Portland area titled “Teaching for Social Justice.” It is organized by *Rethinking Schools*, a magazine that is “committed to the vision that public education is central to the creation of a humane, caring, multiracial democracy.”

This conference usually attracts close to 700 educators from the Pacific Northwest. This is the first year our party will be participating openly in the conference, though individual members have attended in the past.

Because of the positive response we received this year to our literature at two teachers’ union contract vote meetings, we know that education workers are interested in our ideas.

This is an opportunity to talk to people about what education would look like under communism. The workshops are mostly about involving students in lessons on race, gender, culture, and social justice. This is not a bad thing, except that it is based on the idea that workers can achieve justice and equality under capitalism. And although some workshops discuss capitalism, there is no attempt to explain that the solution is communist education.

Students need to know that as long as the rulers of capitalism have power there will never be equality, justice or opportunity for workers, and their families.

We can’t change education unless we change the world first. We have, in the past, won some reforms through militant struggles, strikes, occupations, etc. All that has changed because the system is failing. The US is no longer the top economic power, and cannot achieve domination militarily as it did in the past. They now have to compete with up-and-coming countries like China, and its allies.

Public education has always been designed to fulfill the needs of the ruling class and its system of production. The schools in the past were designed to produce workers to fill the factories and, through their labor, make profits for the

bosses. Now these production jobs have moved overseas or disappeared forever due to technology. US workers are no longer able to reach the American Dream. Students are realizing that getting into college is very difficult. And even if they are lucky enough to get in and graduate, there may be no jobs for them.

So how would education look if the international working class had power?

Real communism will do away with money. There will be no borders, or laws that protect the land ownership of the ruling class, because there will be no ruling class or ownership of land.

There will be no jobs; only work that is useful and meaningful to the working class. Work will no longer be separated into manual and intellectual. The two will blend so that all workers can think and create. Therefore, schools will be different also. Students will learn not in isolated classrooms, but in the places where people actually work. Educators will come from all walks of life, and not just be university trained.

There will be health care for all. Food, transportation, housing, childcare, will be available to all as necessities, not privileges. Racism and sexism will be outlawed.

All this can happen if the system of profit, exploitation, and class oppression is done away with. This can only happen if capitalism is destroyed and true communism is realized worldwide. These ideas need to be taught and discussed.

The ICWP has regular study/discussion groups we call “Pizza and Politics.” We invite all educators and students to attend.

To find out more, contact us at icwp@anonymouspeech.com

Dear Northwest Comrades:

It’s great that you’ve been taking *Red Flag* to union meetings and are planning to go to the Teaching for Justice Conference. More and more teachers, parents and students are furious about how things are going in the schools—and in the world—and it’s my experience that they are open to discussing communist ideas.

I have a couple of suggestions about how to describe what’s going on in the schools and the world these days.

One is about fighting for reforms. While it’s true that in better times militant struggles have forced the bosses to give us some crumbs, the strategy of fighting for reforms has always led us to fighting a losing battle to survive under capitalism, instead of fighting for workers’ power. This strategy has also limited our struggles to what we can win for our union, our jobs, our neighborhood, etc., instead of fighting for a communist world for the whole working class.

It’s also important to explain how public education today is being “reformed” to fulfill the needs of the ruling class. The bosses’ “school reform” is a direct response by the ruling class to their decline worldwide and preparation for world war against China. They need to prepare a few people to run their fancy war machines, and more importantly, they must win the masses of youth they will need to fight it to patriotism. Charters, small schools, the testing mania, and tying teacher evaluation to test scores are all ways of getting the schools in line for the bosses’ war plans.

I look forward to reading about the conversations you have with teachers about these ideas at the conference, and at your “Pizza and Politics” sessions.

--Veteran Teacher

BRING COMMUNIST IDEAS TO TEACHERS IN STRUGGLE FROM MEXICO TO THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST



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but very little is won, almost nothing. Besides being temporary, reforms impart an illusion in capitalism.

“I agree,” she told us, “but the real change will take a long time.”

This depends on our work, how quickly we spread communist ideas to millions of teachers, workers, farmworkers, students and soldiers around the world, we answered.

Recently she brought her sister to our house. We organized a meeting with other collectives of ICWP. This time a comrade from another collective spoke more about ICWP’s ideas about Education, Energy and Finance Reform. The

comrade explained to them that this attack is not isolated, that it is occurring all over the world. The US bosses, like the Chinese bosses, each with their allies of other countries, are modifying and passing new laws to exploit workers more, increasing work hours, and cutting wages. They are sharpening wage slavery more to get greater profits and to prepare the workers for World War III.

Now she helps distribute *Red Flag* in the teachers’ encampment. She is interested in organizing meetings with them and also wants to know how to get communist ideas to the rural communities. We told her that the way to do it is through our newspaper *Red Flag*, and to enlist the help of the teachers.

The CNTE agreed on October 6 to return to the classrooms, without having won. The teacher had to return and said that she would continue reading *Red Flag* and spreading communist ideas. She will make copies of *Red Flag* and will distribute them to her co-workers and to the people in the rural community where she works.

One way to struggle against capitalist principles is by convincing and winning the teachers to communist ideas, so that they teach communist ideas and principles to their students. We want many students to be prepared with communist ideas so that when they go to work in the factories, and to the army, they have communist ideas and spread communism.

HEROISM OF EGYPTIAN WORKERS DEMANDS MASS MOBILIZATION FOR COMMUNISM

October 14—Thousands of workers at the Mahalla Weaving and Textile Company have ended their most recent three-day strike after a massive sit-in got them assurances that promised bonuses would be paid. These workers were in the forefront of the movement that toppled Mubarak, then against Morsi, and now against the military rulers. We need to hasten the day when they will give leadership in mobilizing the masses worldwide for communism.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Nabil Fahmy responded to the October 10th US postponement of some military aid to Egypt by stating that “We chose the easy option and did not diversify our options... this led the US to wrongly believe that Egypt would always follow its policies and aims.” In an interview on September 24, Fahmy explained why his first foreign visit had been to Moscow, declaring that the Egyptian rulers want to “rebuild ties, or increase the level of ties, with Russia.”

This sharpening inter-imperialist rivalry in Egypt makes the following analysis more critical than ever.

The attack on Egyptian workers, caused by the worldwide capitalist imperialist crisis, is sharpening as the crisis deepens. Workers are responding by rebelling against the bosses.

The Egyptian military coup was sold as an attempt to “save the nation and democracy” from the restrictive Morsi regime. Then the army sent tanks directly into a Suez Steel complex to smash a sit-in strike the last week of August. The illusion was shattered.

Earlier, 2,000 Suez Steel workers struck nearby only days after the coup. Here too the army intervened. The military arrested thirteen leaders under the “right to work” law enacted in the wake of Mubarak’s downfall in 2011.

Near Suez, one hundred km north of Cairo, is Mahallah, called the core revolutionary city. Militant, mostly women strikers in the city’s sprawling textile district often gave birth to broader movements. The 2008 strikes there were the direct im-

petus for the mass protests that led to Mubarak’s ouster.

The Muslim Brotherhood-led government also tried to suppress these workers. They attempted to forcibly conscript striking rail workers in April 2013. They used police dogs to break up a sit-in by Portland Cement workers in February 2013. The Islamists’ failure to keep the Egyptian working class in check may very well have forced the military’s hand.

From Mubarak to Morsi to the military the form of oppression may change, but the exploitive essence remains the same.

Fear of the “Mob”

Mass mobilizations have erupted in Egypt for three years now. Obviously capitalism can’t satisfy the needs of the masses. The continuing worldwide economic crisis makes it impossible for workers to live in the old way.

The ruling class both fears and disdains the fury of the mobilized masses. Demonstrations per se do not upset the bosses if those who know when “enough is enough” lead them. Bourgeois culture demands that protests transition, in a timely manner, to elections and the orderly continuation of business.

Mobilizing the masses for communism rejects this bosses’ logic. Mobilized masses are necessary to make a revolution and to ensure the success of communism.

Communist mobilization requires a great degree of organization. Our party exists to organize the working class to mobilize masses for communism now and after the revolution.

Mobilized masses can smash every institution of bourgeois control: from the government to the factory, from the universities to the primary schools.

Production will no longer be based on profit and sale, but on satisfying the material and cultural needs of the working

class.

Education won’t be segregated from work. Capitalist leaders sit for years in classrooms or seminars to bleach out any stain of pro-working class empathy.

Communist education will mobilize the working class and work to teach all the technical and ideological skills necessary to defend and expand communist collectivity. In short, the never-ending mobilization for communism!

The Bosses’ Chaos Is Our Opportunity

The Egyptian bosses wouldn’t stand a chance if Mahallah workers brought their discipline and revolutionary history, in the name of communist revolution, to the masses already in the streets. The bosses fear the situation in Egypt will lead to chaos. We call it opportunity.

Unfortunately, it’s not likely the Egyptian working class will fulfill this revolutionary potential any time soon. Workers will continue to fight with one hand tied behind their backs without a party like ours to mobilize for communism.

The lessons of Egypt must be debated and absorbed in every factory, school, barracks and community in which we have a base. International solidarity demands we increase the worldwide circulation of *Red Flag*. We focus on factory and army networks, but must use all means of distribution available.

We hear from workers all over the world who are excited about our party and its potential. The heroism of the Egyptian working class demands we overcome every obstacle to recruit them.



MTA from page 1

and sick time and saves on their health coverage.

Capitalism is a ruthless inhumane system:

We need communism!

MTA has problems with workers who really want to do the right thing. Clerks get harassed for taking the time to answer questions. Mechanics get threatened for taking the time to insure that busses operate properly and drivers get harassed for road calls.

Under capitalism these workers are condemned as criminals for truly trying to do the right thing, and threatened with one of the most cruel and inhumane punishments: being fired.

Getting fired could mean a death sentence. Without wages we can’t survive. Wages are the gun the capitalist wage slave masters hold at our heads. Through them, the bosses rule our lives: deciding how we live or die.

Capitalism has done a great job at promoting wages and money as a source of happiness. Wages and money, however, dehumanize us, re-

ducing us to beasts of burden or just a piece of equipment to be discarded when no longer wanted, or to be replaced by someone forced to work for less.

We must fight to run society

We must take state power away from the capitalists. Only communism can humanize us completely by eliminating money, wage slavery, and the market.

We need to make all the decisions concerning our lives. In communism, no one will ever be fired. Workers unable or unwilling to do certain work will be trained to do whatever they feel comfortable doing.

Everyone will be provided with everything needed to live decently, regardless of how much or how little they contribute. Everyone’s contribution will always be appreciated.

Let’s organize a political strike against MTA’s reign of terror and capitalism

An injury to one is an injury to all! We are one international working class. We must not be di-

vided by racism, sexism, nationalism, patriotism or borders. Management is using this mechanic as scapegoat to attack all mechanics.

Some blame this mechanic for what management is doing. “He brought it on himself and on the rest of us,” they claim. However, with capitalism worldwide in crisis and US imperialists preparing for war with China, US bosses need to cut our wages and benefits and work us harder to pay for this war. (See editorial, page 2.)

Blaming him takes the heat off capitalism-imperialism. Not defending him divides and weakens our response to MTA’s increasingly vicious racist attacks against all of us.

Our response should be a political strike against MTA’s attacks and capitalism, to advance the organization of the communist revolution we need to destroy wage slavery and the capitalist slave masters. Help distribute, write for and support *Red Flag* economically by donating whatever you can to our distributors. Join ICWP to fight for a different world.

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Deaths African and Latino Immigrants Show:

CAPITALISM HAS ONLY DEATH AND MISERY IN STORE FOR WORKERS AROUND THE WORLD

The deaths of hundreds of African immigrants off the coast of Italy last week made clear in the most tragic way possible the international nature of racist capitalism. Workers and their families, fleeing poverty, oppression and war in Africa, had staked their hopes on an uncertain future as unsanctioned refugees in Europe. But twice in two weeks, the overcrowded boats capsized, and hundreds of men, women, and children drowned.

Last year, one thousand seven hundred of our brothers and sisters died trying to cross to Europe from Africa. And it's not only in Africa. Dozens of workers were killed this summer in the derailment of the train they were riding from Central America through Mexico to the US. Thousands of migrants and refugees die every year, desperately trying to survive.

Communism: A World Without Borders!

In a communist society, no one will be forced to flee the land of their birth for survival. Society will be organized based on human need, rather than on the drive for profits. Everyone will have meaningful work, and we will share what we produce.

If people need to relocate for personal reasons or to meet collective needs, there will be no borders to stop them. We will never fight for "national liberation," because we know that nations and borders were created to serve the capitalists and to divide the working class.

Capitalist Crisis and Civil War Bring Mass Migration and Mass Murder

The immigrants who died in the Mediterranean this month are the tip of the iceberg of a huge increase in refugees from civil wars in east Africa. Last year, just under a thousand migrants from Somalia and Eritrea reached southern Italy. So

far this year, almost ten thousand have made the crossing.

This is like the mass migration of workers who fled Central America during the civil wars of the 1970s and 80s. Migrants to Los Angeles provided the workforce that made huge profits for the garment bosses. Hundreds of people have died every year on the journey, crossing deserts and jungles, at the hands of smugglers and cops.

The Central American immigrant stream has slowed. US and Mexican bosses have stepped up border enforcement. Capitalist crisis and high unemployment make jobs harder to find in the US. The garment industry has shifted to Central America and other places like Bangladesh where workers are more exploited and profits are higher.

African Immigrants: Double Victims of Capitalist Crisis

Immigrants from Africa to Europe are fleeing the civil wars as well as the legacy of colonialism. Even in the boom days of the 1970s and 80s, they were never able to get into the industrial workforce. Racist laws and practices reserved those jobs for European workers.

Today, the worldwide crisis has wiped out millions of industrial jobs in Europe and led to mass mobilizations of angry pensioners and young workers. At the very moment that the crisis has brought more immigrants to Europe, the industrial jobs that European citizens had relied on are being outsourced. European workers are taking



Spain: No Human Being is Illegal!

the jobs immigrants once took as dishwashers and janitors.

Workers of the World Unite!

African workers who have crossed the Mediterranean fleeing civil wars and starvation end up selling sunglasses in front of the train station in Naples, or in a refugee center in Lampedusa. In a Berlin park this summer, immigrants were selling Red Army caps and Lenin buttons in front of statues of Marx and Engels. As the cops approached, they ran off before they could be arrested for selling these souvenirs of socialism to the tourists that capitalism had brought.

Socialism, really state capitalism, kept money, wages and national borders and it failed. The capitalist crisis which has nothing but murder and exploitation for workers has made it more urgent that we mobilize the masses for communism, and nothing less. Marx, Engels and Lenin said it: We have nothing to lose but our chains, and a world to win!

DEVELOPING NEW LEADERSHIP

LOS ANGELES, CA—During a meeting of the leadership of ICWP, we decided to participate in the pro-immigrant march on October 5. As part of the constant struggle to develop new leaders, I was assigned to coordinate the preparations: signs and bullhorn, calling the comrades and the base, and giving political leadership during the march to our group.

At the beginning I was a little reluctant and nervous, because I hadn't ever done it and didn't really understand what had to be done. When the comrades saw my reaction, they gave advice and explained more about the necessary role of women workers giving communist leadership. They stressed how these responsibilities give us more strength and understanding of our role as communists within the masses.

I accepted the responsibility, although I was still vacillating a little. But during the week, with each call to other comrades and friends in the base and their positive responses, I began to gather more confidence. We also prepared some signs that we would use.



The day of the march, our group included garment workers, transit workers and others. Several women came up to our group and asked us for signs, especially those that said, "Let's Fight for a World Without Borders."

Just behind us there was a group of unionized workers. They liked our chants began chanting them enthusiastically for much of the march. Black and white workers on the sidewalk also liked our chants. We made several contacts and exchanged information to visit them later.

At the end we were all more optimistic. It showed us that if we are bold and put into practice the ideas of *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*, the working class will follow our leadership. I feel happy that I took one more step in my development as a communist.

--Woman comrade

RED FLAG CREATES A BUZZ

BAY AREA, CA--Distributing *Red Flag* always creates a buzz. However, armed with a leaflet attacking the wage system, the buzz was louder than ever.

The leaflet supported the BART workers' contract struggle by raising the need to abolish the wage system altogether.

It argued that the system delivered us wages at, but mostly way below, what is needed to bring up a family of four. It argued that wages kept us tied to a system that kept us down. But what caught people's attention was a detailed chart comparing the wages of all Bay Area workers.

"I live pay check to pay check," an A/C Transit driver and single mother of two told me, and that refrain was heard again and again as the chart helped people get an overview of wages and begin to see it as a system that kept us needy.

"We need to pay everyone at the self-sufficiency rate (\$74,000 per year in the Bay Area)," one woman argued.

"It'll never happen," I countered, "because the system is designed to keep us anxious or hungry – otherwise we would-

n't work day in day out for someone else's profits (BART creates \$73 million a day)." But I couldn't convince her.

Still her passionate insistence drew others into the discussion. One argued that BART workers make too much. Our self-sufficiency friend disagreed. "We should all make BART wages," she countered, "that's fair."

"But if they paid us all like that," I jumped in, "it would blow their profits. No profit for the capitalist means no jobs for the worker. If we want a world that's fair, we have to smash the wage system, we have to fight for communism."

It was a lively discussion. No-one changed their position (we'll meet again at the next distribution of *Red Flag*) but I had found a new confidence.

Before the distribution, I had my doubts about building strike support under a banner calling for the abolition of the wage system. Since that's a revolutionary idea that has not been heard for generations, I thought people might dismiss it as pie-in-the-sky. I was wrong!

--Bay Area Comrade

Debt Crisis Reveals:

US IMPERIALISM GOING DOWN, OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNISM COMING UP

October 16—As we go to press, Congressional leaders announced a deal to postpone the debt crisis and end the partial government shutdown. This deal is supposedly an Obama victory, but workers shouldn't celebrate. Washington negotiations will likely lead to more cuts in Medicare and Social Security. And with Chinese capitalists declaring that "the world should start to 'de-Americanize,'" the crisis pushed the planet closer toward world war.

"What is this debt ceiling crisis anyway?" asked a student.

"It's another Republican excuse to stop Obamacare," another student exclaimed. "That's the connection to the government shut-down."

"It's like the government maxing out its credit card," someone else explained. "Usually Congress just raises the limit, but Tea Party Republicans are refusing to do that unless their demands are met."

"It's more than that," a comrade declared. "It's a symptom of the deep crisis of US capitalism and its empire. Obama had to cancel plans to attend economic summit meetings in Indonesia and Brunei. This article says that his 'pivot to Asia' has been stalled by 'strife in the Middle East and strife with Capitol Hill. ... China is a clear beneficiary.'" (NYTimes, 10/3)

"It's an oligarchy," another student burst in. "Corporations do whatever they want. We should talk about the TPP [Trans-Pacific Partnership]. Governments will have no control over corporations at all."

"That's in this article, too," the comrade replied. "Obama wants the TPP trade deal signed by the end of the year, but now that seems less likely."

The comrade explained that with US imperialism's economic and diplomatic power in decline, they are more likely to use their military power sooner, rather than later. "So what does that mean for us?" she asked.

"We need to work for revolution now!" one student answered, as others nodded.

Dollar at Risk: World War Sooner Than You Think

What's at risk for U.S. capitalism is the "privilege of the dollar," explained business analyst Floyd Norris (NYTimes, 10/11). Norris compared the present crisis to President Franklin D. Roosevelt's devaluation of the dollar in 1935, trying to rev up the US economy in preparation for World War II.

US capitalists can borrow money in their own currency and then print more, making each dollar they repay worth less. When capitalists in Argentina and Thailand faced debt crises, they had to submit to harsh policies imposed by the US-controlled IMF and World Bank. Now IMF and World Bank leaders are in New York, along with Chinese and other capitalists, scolding—but only scolding—the US.

Defaulting on debts could raise the long-term cost of US debt, further weakening the US imperialists' economy and influence. "Why risk destroying the United States' world standing over a dispute about health insurance?" Norris asked. And, as *Red Flag* has explained, Health Reform (like Education and Immigration Reform) is part of the US rulers' war preparations.

Tea Party Crosses the Line

When Congress didn't pass a budget last spring, an automatic "sequester" went into effect. The imperialists didn't like these across-the-board cuts, but they could live with them—temporarily.

In September, top military chiefs told Congress that continued sequestration would mean restricting military capabilities and cancelling or delaying weapon system purchases. "We will not be able to use prior-year funds to mitigate shortfalls as we did in [fiscal] 2013," said Adm. Jon Greenert.

Tea Partiers pose as pro-military, but they won't put the money where their mouth is. So now Wall Street and mainstream Republicans are turning against them. Even Dan Danner, who led small-business opposition to Obamacare, complains that "The interests of the business community ... don't seem to be their top priority."

Likewise, immigration reform is "favored by business groups and [Republican] party leaders but stymied in the House by many of the same lawmakers now leading the debt fight." (NYTimes 10/9)

The biggest capitalists are smacking down the Tea Party because it's sabotaging the war plans of US imperialism and the functioning of the capitalist political system (democracy).

We Need Communism, Not Democracy

Establishment liberal Robert Reich worries that only 17 percent of Americans say they are basically content with the government. He pleads, "It's our government, and the most important thing you can do ... is to make it work for all of us."

The Chamber of Commerce, the AFL-CIO and the United Way joined forces to say that "it is important that we turn to the normal processes our government has for resolving these issues."

These "normal processes" of capitalism and its political system don't work for "we the people," the students concluded.

"But do enough people agree with us?" one worried. "Most students have been programmed not to care."

"Come to an MTA transit division, or one of the pro-immigrant marches, and you will see how many workers welcome *Red Flag*," the comrade replied. "Here at school, whenever our friends distribute papers, 80 students take them in under an hour."

"I need to learn more about communism," another student said.

Mexico:

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND TEACHERS WELCOME RED FLAG

MEXICO--We carried out the most recent sale of our newspaper *Red Flag*, in a university in the center of Mexico, in the classrooms. This time, we were four comrades and it was suggested that we form two teams. I thought I would form a team with a more experienced comrade, but it wasn't like that. They told us that the reason for this is that it would help us take more initiative and get experience in speaking in front of a group, which would strengthen our training and our revolutionary communist practice.

Each team started at one end of the classroom building. We went to each classroom. We asked the teachers for permission. Most of them agreed graciously; others told us to come back later. The most advanced comrades on each team gave small speeches about ICWP and *Red Flag*. They explained that the cause of the current problems of Mexico, and the rest of the world, is capitalism. At the same time, we left *Red Flag* with each student at their desk. At the end of the speech, we asked for a voluntary donation to continue producing *Red Flag*. Many youth gave donations. This sale and distribution of *Red Flag* was successful. We distributed over 260 newspapers and we finished sooner than we had planned.

After the distribution in the classrooms, we visited an old friend, a professor of this univer-



sity. We gave him some copies of *Red Flag*. He very gladly took our newspaper, said he had read it once, and promised to read it and share it with some of his fellow teachers and students. He told

us to visit him more often and we will.

This is the third time that I have gone to sell and distribute *Red Flag*. This time, before starting the distribution of the newspaper, I was excited because this would be a new experience. During the distribution I got nervous because I was in front of many youth, but when we finished I felt a great satisfaction because we were successful and because I learned more from the comrades. Now I have more confidence in how to sell and distribute our newspaper.

In each group there are students who have pro-capitalist ideas and still have illusions about capitalism. They think that when they finish their studies they will have secure jobs, that they will be supervisors or capitalist bosses. But the majority of them will be unemployed, or have a miserable wage.

Most are very receptive to our communist ideas. They agree that capitalism is rotten and is beyond salvation. The workers, soldiers, teachers and students must understand that in the capitalist system there are no options. The capitalists impose their laws and reforms to exploit the working class more and to increase profits. The only option is to join ICWP to destroy capitalism and build communism.

---Comrade in Mexico

LETTERS

LETTERS

LETTERS

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

THIS IS THE PAPER OF THE WORKING CLASS. WE GET NO FUNDING FROM THE CAPITALISTS, THEIR FOUNDATIONS OR NGOs. PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY TO HELP PAY FOR THE COSTS OF PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.



Germany: No Human Being is Illegal!

Commitment to Strengthen ICWP in Mexico

A few days ago, we organized a lunch in some comrades' home to reorganize the Party's work in Mexico. To start the discussion, a comrade prepared an analysis of the international situation and mentioned that in 1916, Lenin described imperialism as the highest stage of capitalism. We understand that we are in this stage since capital and production are concentrated in big monopolies. It was mentioned that inter-imperialist rivalry is resolved through war and that the US and Chinese bosses are preparing for this. We analyzed the ways that energy, education and finance reform in Mexico respond to these policies of war and how they affect all of us.

About the Party's work, we agreed to have meetings every three weeks to discuss Party documents and analyze the activities of the collectives. We agreed to have social activities with friends, relatives, and sympathizers to bring them closer to us. We have already carried out the first event. It was also proposed to make a list of the people we know who work in industry and are in the army to find ways to reach them and inform them of the Party's political line. We also agreed to collectively write more for the paper so that a letter or article is written by more than one person. Some comrades were put in charge of being involved with the teachers' movement of the CNTE (National Coordinating Committee of Education Workers) to bring them ICWP's ideas.

The main outcome of this meeting was the commitment that each member and sympathizer made to strengthen the Party in Mexico and to look for new strategies to reach more friends and relatives with urgency and patience and also a collective plan for follow up work. We

want the party to grow and we want to be prepared so that the working class storms heaven with a Communist Revolution.

--Comrades in Mexico

Distributing *Red Flags* and leaflets at a BART Station

Last week, while distributing leaflets and *Red Flag* at a BART station, I talked with a young African American male who said that he was enrolled in a state college. I showed him the "Self Sufficiency Standard for Bay Area: \$74,541" leaflet which compared the average gross pay of BART workers (\$76,551) with government workers in the nine-county Bay Area. He was surprised that in some wealthy counties, government workers' average gross pay was far less than \$74,541. I pointed out that the average gross pay for the school district from which I retired was \$32,013, less than half the Bay Area self sufficiency standard. He then talked about college financial aid and that he had taken out a \$2400 loan, repaying it at \$50 a month. I told him about my grandson who went to the same state college for one semester, got a \$2400 loan in September, 2011 which accumulated interest and grew to \$2600 by January 2012. My grandson's mother paid off the loan; he dropped out of that school and now attends a community college. I advised the student not to finish college with a home mortgage amount of debt and not to take out more loans. I pointed out, from the leaflet, that the wage system benefits capitalists and enslaves workers. I showed him *Red Flag* and asked him to read about the ICWP and building for a communist society without money and debt. He took the paper and said that he would read it.

--NorCal Comrade

What We Fight For!

Friends, I am a *Red Flag* reader. I have sent this suggestion that I would like to see in every issue of the paper. Obviously you can make the changes you think are necessary. But I think that for new or casual readers, it would be good to have something like this. Thanks for your consideration.

What We Fight For:

We fight for a world without the expropriation of that which our hands produce in the earth. The final objective is to put an end to social injustices, providing for everyone according to his or her needs. This way of living can only be achieved under COMMUNISM.

Red Flag and the International Communist Workers Party, guided by communist ideology, leads the industrial workers, farmworkers, soldiers, and students to organize from North to South, from East to West, to confront and destroy capitalism.

Historically, no country has been communist.

For example the Soviet Union, China, and Cuba fought and sacrificed the workers' blood with the hope that socialism would be the transition to communism.

ICWP vows that in order not to repeat the errors of the past, the doctrine of Karl Marx should be surpassed and the advance should be directly to COMMUNISM, since socialism is a reform or extension of the capitalist system that maintains some aspects of capitalism, like wage slavery at the hands of another group of elite bosses.

* We fight to end the bosses' wars that murder the workers of the world to protect the bosses' profits and empire.

* We fight to abolish money, exploitation, slavery, racism, sexism, and individualism.

* We fight to put an end to borders, patriotism and nationalism that are used to divide the workers.

* We fight to protect the globe and care for the environment, so that all can have a dignified life.

Communism is ready to blossom! The only disaster for humanity is capitalism, which implements fascism and terror in the form of its courts, police, and assassins, trying to make workers remain passive and confused so that they don't rebel against their true enemy.

Join ICWP, the Party that will lead the communist revolution under a Red Army until the final victory! Together we will exercise justice. The new dawn will be glorious. Long live the workers of the world!

RED FLAG responds:

Thank you, comrade, for your suggestion and for your dedication to helping develop the political line of the ICWP.

Three and a half years ago we took on the task of creating a "communist paper of a new type." We have struggled ever since to have every article explain part of "What We Fight For," and for every issue to reflect all the main aspects of our Party's line. This includes articles about the class struggle and inter-imperialist rivalry, among many others.

Of course, some articles are better than others at explaining what communism means in action today and what communist society will be like in the future. We are all learning.

We don't want readers to see our "communist program" as something separate from the class struggles (worldwide or close to home) going on today. That's the main reason why we don't have the kind of statement you suggest for every issue.

However, we are interested in hearing many more opinions on this subject. Do other readers think we should reserve space for a statement of principles in every issue? And what comments do others have about the statement proposed above?

—*Red Flag* editorial collective



COMMUNIST AND CAPITALIST CULTURE

To join study groups that will be discussing this topic contact us at www.icwpredflag.org

BOOK REVIEW

Lord of the Flies =

RULING-CLASS LIES!

William Golding's *Lord of the Flies* argues that man is naturally selfish and violent and we must strictly control this impulse through rules and fear of punishment to avoid chaos. We say *capitalist social relations* favor violence and individualism, while communist social relations encourage selfless collectivity. What do you think?

The book depicts the children of England's elite. Their plane crash-landed on an island and while being evacuated to the safety of other countries during WWII, they must discover how to survive long enough to get rescued. Ralph is elected leader. He rules briefly, to ensure a "civilized" conduct that mirrors their 1940's British society. The violent Jack holds more influence as time passes. He uses force and fear to "win" leadership from Ralph.

Golding believes, as we do, that man struggles with the contradiction between selfishness and collectivity. We use Marxist dialectics to understand this internal contradiction, so we can solve it. However, Golding thinks our selfish and violent nature is best controlled by external means. One character warns against growing crisis by asking, "What are we, ...humans ... or savages?" He proposes stricter obedience to the rules because they're "the only thing we got [to keep us in line]!"

Golding describes how, without fear of punishment, the boys now feel free to live more "naturally." That is, they now ignore responsibility and getting rescued and occupy themselves with hunting and pleasure seeking. As communists, our ability to "live naturally" comes once we destroy capitalism and start producing directly for society's needs. However, we must start building communist social relations now, as we mobilize the masses for communist victory.

The boys destroy the island as they hunt Ralph. They're about to kill him, when they are rescued by the British Navy. An officer thinks they are pretending and reprimands them for abandoning proper English conduct.

While we certainly have the capacity for selfishness and violence, communist social relations encourage a selfless and collective society. Communists should view this struggle dialectically. Where capitalist and communist social relations contradict, we must ensure that communist social relations win. We must discourage selfishness and other anti-social behaviors now – inside and outside our party – and address them with comradely struggle when they do arise, **not by a set of rules.**

"Lies My Teacher Told Me"
What else do they make you read in school?
Send in your own book reviews!
Share your ideas with other students and Red Flag readers.



Friend, brother, comrade...
From here I greet you
With these lines that I hope
embrace you
With the heat that these cold days
demand
From this distance in land
And from this closeness of our
struggles.

I want to greet you with this brief
message
Wherever you are,
And for you to know
That I am here walking with you
Shoulder to shoulder,
All of us together.
We will be fighting from different
roads and trenches,
But our goal is the same.

We have reproached those who
abandoned struggles
They never should have left;
We have taken on this commit-
ment
It is not easy,
Now more than ever it is not easy
And also, now more than ever our
struggles are in force.
Neither you, nor we, are alone.
Justice, love and liberty are with
us
We fight for those who fought and
died
For this real and close dream.

We are a family,
From the past to the future
That we are building today.
We don't know each other,
But it is enough to know that we
are communists
To know each other.
So long.

LOVE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL WORKING CLASS

El Salvador—it was a night that was both ordinary and special like every night, and maybe it wasn't. Yesterday I had the opportunity to present a book that I wrote, a history that belongs to everyone, even though sometimes we do not realize it, in the theater of this city. A history that goes some feet past some memories of love.

Among those present, some seats were occupied by our comrades from ICWP. I say ours because even though you, the reader, don't know them, we are all comrades. And our struggle unites us no matter where we are. And not only were they attendees, they helped me and collaborated to help make the presentation possible, from the beginning of this attempt of the writer that I'm trying to be.

The story of the book is the story of the tireless love of man for woman. A man who is moved by feelings of love. And this feeling is what brings us and what has us here.

. I can't conceive of a communist who is not guided by feelings of love and justice, solidarity. Participating in this fight is the most beautiful and humane argument that we can give to life.

Capitalism is what it is: a weapon of mass destruction for the masses. And we are what we are: this struggle that comes from the past for this worthy future today. As capitalism develops indifference toward life; we develop this love without borders like the sky, that we must reflect, like the sky is reflected in the sea. Capitalism with its individualist vision, egotistical and charitable; we with our communist vision of the masses, humane and supportive.

Many times it means to abandon individual dreams, so that the dreams of all are possible. It's a beautiful sacrifice. If that isn't love, what is?

Soon we will fill the streets, the squares, the parks and the hearts of the world. As someone already said, "What good is the life of one person if humanity is at risk?"

Thanks to the comrades of ICWP for knowing and feeling that, although some have abandoned this real dream, this love and this struggle is more relevant than ever.

Until the victory!
--Young Red Poet

Create communist
culture:
Write for
Red Flag!