

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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



CHILE

HUNGARY

INDONESIA



CANADA

The world's workers and the broader masses are rising up. How can we do better at leveraging this tumult into political action on the job and in mass organizations?

This question leads to two more: How do we define a revolutionary period? And Is this tumult something special or more of the same?

Let's start with the third question. At Boeing, workers, young and old, were visibly upset at the murders of South African miners. "After all these people went through [fighting apartheid]!" said a new *Red Flag* reader. "And US politicians never even mentioned it in the debate!"

But we haven't made a persuasive enough case to convince workers in general and our comrades in particular that this is not just more of the same.

Here we have 100,000 industrial workers fighting, many dying, but still more fighting on, for months, in the context of extreme racist oppression in a "post-apartheid" regime.

Originally the world's masses were only victims of the global capitalist economic crisis. Now they have become active, changing the picture.

First, there was the Arab Spring. Last week, the masses rebelled in Jordan. Europe, especially Greece and Spain, has seen street fights not seen for a generation and general strikes coordinated across national borders.

Workers in Mexico, Honduras and El Salvador have engaged in mass strikes against attacks on their standard of living. In the US, thousands were energized in Wisconsin, in the Chicago teachers' strike, and in the Occupy movements.

The photographs on these pages are examples of a few of the struggles that took place in one month, October, 2012.

There was a miners' strike in Chile last month at the same mine where the famous cave-in took place in 2010. The government sent the survivors to Disneyland. Now it has sent in the Chilean marines as the strike spreads to Bolivia.

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SOUTH AFRICA



INDIA



SPAIN



MEXICO



HONDURAS



THAILAND

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PUSH THE BOSSES' SYSTEM OFF THE CLIFF

SEATTLE, WA — Most people know to beware of politicians bearing gifts. My friends start making jokes about our “last supper” whenever the Boeing bosses buy us lunch. Add our union misleaders to the list.

General Vice-President of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) Mark Blondin sent in an op-ed piece to the *Seattle Times* titled “Fiscal Cliff Would Kneecap our Military” (11/13/12). He bemoans that “the left urges an infusion of federal dollars to accelerate economic recovery, yet has been strangely silent about the defense jobs that will be lost under sequestration [automatic cuts of a trillion dollars beginning Jan. 2].”

Apparently Blondin thinks it's all right if some of the most oppressed workers in our state lose their unemployment benefits. He organized a campaign to keep 787 production in Washington State in 2011. He had us rally to give the company \$3.2 billion in state subsidies. The most obnoxious part of this plan was to gut the unemployment benefits of seasonal farmworkers.

He defended this racist attack on mostly latino/a workers at every union meeting. It's time for others to take cuts, he protested, while sporting a super-expensive designer-label suit. The irony was not lost on IAM members as he debated with rank-and-file members.

We often wondered if this was the same suit that was spoiled by greasy chicken bones thrown at him and district president Wroblewski when they tried to stop us from walking out four years ago.

Blondin is not alone. The whole labor move-

ment will be focusing its attention the next couple of months on getting a deal to avoid sequestration.

The AFL-CIO chief Trumka and the leadership of the supposedly competing union federation Change to Win met with Obama immediately after the election. They vowed to devote their organizations to helping him get a budget deal.

They focused on getting a deal to nominally increase the income taxes on the richest 2%. These tax increases are another Trojan horse. It is political cover for a massive attack on Social Security, Medicaid and Medicare.

And these tax increases won't even affect the wealth of biggest bosses. Just take a look at the budget plan of the corporate group Fix the Debt. While supporting an increase in income tax for the richest 2%, it introduces a basket of “pro-growth” tax reform.

One item alone, to eliminate taxes on overseas profits, would save the corporations \$134 billion alone! The CEOs in Fix the Debt, including those from Boeing, JPMorganChase, General Electric and every other major U.S. company, would receive huge bonuses based on this windfall, wiping out any “sacrifice” in income tax. These are the same CEOs that demand massive cuts in “entitlements.”

It is no coincidence that the unions are lining up with corporate America in focusing on cuts to fix the debt. The multi-billionaire Peter G. Peterson, former chairman of the Rockefeller Blackstone group, has been financing this push for years.

His foundation funnels money to every think-

tank from the right-wing Heritage Foundation to the union's Economic Policy Institute. Peterson himself was the head of the Council of Foreign Affairs (CFR), possibly the most influential think-tank in the country. He wrote a lead article in their house organ, *Foreign Affairs*, saying we had to gut so-called “entitlements” if the U.S. was to remain the top imperialist power in the world. “It's weapons or walkers,” he concluded.

The Obama administration is quickly giving a political face to this cabal. His top aides pushed for such an initiative in a call to 30,000 volunteers last week. They are planning a media blitz, presidential barnstorming and fake rank-and-file rallies. A manufactured groundswell to kneecap the working class!

Instead of cutting “entitlements,” we need a world where the working class truly gets what it is entitled to, which is everything we produce. There will be no need for Social Security, Medicare, etc. in communism. Even retirement pensions will be rendered obsolete.

Everyone will get what he or she needs throughout his or her whole lives. A safe, healthy life with clean air and water and nutritious food, with excellent healthcare and education will be our lifelong entitlements, because only we are capable of producing them. And no more CEOs to steal from workers!

We should look now to the example of workers fighting back from Greece to South Africa. Now is the time for a political strike to make clear that the working class will no longer stand for seeing our lives destroyed under the auspices of capitalism. Let's push the bosses' system off the cliff!

Gaza Crisis:

WORKING PEOPLE HAVE NO COUNTRY.... AND WE NEVER WILL

November 20— Israeli soldiers crossed into the Gaza Strip on November 8 and killed a 13-year-old Palestinian who was playing soccer in his yard. The Palestinian-nationalist Hamas leadership responded by sending missiles deep into Israel, which then used a drone to assassinate the Hamas military commander, al-Jabari.

Two weeks later, 5 Israelis and over 140 Palestinians (mostly civilians) have died. As we go to press, a cease-fire was announced in Cairo, negotiated by Egyptian President Morsi. Israel also agreed to begin discussing its blockade of Gaza. This blockade (enforced by Egypt until the Arab Spring) shut down 95% of Gaza's industry and most of its fisheries and agriculture. Four out of every five people depend on food relief, and many lack running water.

Palestinians are paying a heavy price for a huge mistake of 20th-century communism: thinking that nationalism could ever be a good thing for the masses.

They are not the only ones. From El Salvador to South Africa, wherever so-called left-wing nationalists hold power, the working class must fight these capitalist oppressors. Those who organize to “end Israeli apartheid” must learn from the militant South African miners who are rising up today against the sellouts who once led the anti-apartheid movement there.

Jewish and Arab communists in Palestine from 1922 to the mid-1940s supported a Palestinian state. Later they supported the establishment of Israel as a Jewish state in 1947-48, then switched back to pro-Arab nationalism in 1954. The Israeli Communist Party (Maki) split in 1965 between Jewish-nationalist (Zionist) and Palestinian-na-



tionalist factions.

Now Palestinians in Gaza are caught between competing capitalist-nationalist butchers, both flying the banners of fascist theocracy (Jewish or Muslim). Israel's Netanyahu, facing a January election, has formed a coalition with openly racist parties that want Arabs deported forcibly from a “Greater Israel.” Hamas, with roots in the Muslim Brotherhood and ties to Islamist fundamentalists in Gaza, is just as bad.

The only solution to the continuing crisis in the Middle East is for the masses to reject nationalism in all its forms and mobilize for communism.

But not the reformism of 20th-century communism with its calls for “equality” and “labor rights” or the formation of communes (“kibbutzim”) within capitalism! Real communism means uniting the masses to overthrow all capitalist governments, tear up the laws that enshrine private property, smash all borders, and organize production to serve our collective needs.

During the Arab Spring, the Egyptian industrial working-class proved that it could act as a force independent of imperialists and national

capitalists. They, like the South African miners, could become a critical force for communism. *Red Flag* readers who are fluent in Arabic, Hebrew, or Farsi must help translate our manifesto *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* and help spread it worldwide.

There are wider and more lethal wars on the Middle Eastern horizon.

The conflict allowed Israel to test its new “Iron Dome” air defense, built with \$100s of millions from the US. Israel's attack threatened to “undermine other U.S. objectives in the region.” It “created a wedge in relations with officials in Egypt and Turkey and highlighted the limits of U.S. influence in the aftermath of the revolutions that swept the region last year.” (Anne Gearan, *Washington Post*, 11/19)

While US capitalists-imperialists continue to support Israel diplomatically and militarily, they fear that this latest fight will make it still more difficult for them to deal with the Iranian nuclear weapons issue and the civil war in Syria. (*New York Times* editorial, “Hamas's Illegitimacy,” 11/20/12)

The pacifist Chris Hedges wrote that “Gaza is a window on our coming dystopia” and that present global crises “are fostering a class war that will dwarf anything imagined by Karl Marx.” Unlike Marx, liberals like Hedges can't imagine that the working class will win!

But our International Communist Workers' Party has confidence in the masses, who are already fighting back with courage and commitment. From the fields to the sweatshops, from the schools to the barracks, from the refugee camps to the front lines, communist ideas can and will become mass ideas. That's the key to victory!

Masses in Motion Around the World**POTENTIAL FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION****Continued from Page 1:**

There is a global class war intensified by the global crisis of overproduction. It is not how war is usually characterized, but it's war nonetheless. Workers are fighting with every weapon around. Our strategy of mobilizing the masses for communism means that we must help the workers obtain effective political weapons.

The bosses are in trouble

The South African mine wildcat strikes lasted longer than anyone expected. This was more than simply a justifiable fight for a living wage. The bosses were surprised, too. In October, the past South African president, Mbeki, quoted Marx to justify the African National Congress's capitulation to capitalism in 1994. When the bosses quote Marx to justify a sellout, you know they're in trouble. Obviously, these wildcats have forced political questions to the fore. Now it's up to us to learn and teach the lessons.

If the period is not the same, is it revolutionary?

Lenin talked about four points which define a revolutionary situation:

1) The ruling class can't rule in the old way. The crisis forces the ruling class to fight amongst

themselves.

2) Professionals, petty bourgeoisie and others waver between revolutionary forces and the ruling class.

3) The working class is ready to fight. It exhibits tenacity, self-sacrifice and heroism.

4) A revolutionary party steeled in theory and practice exists with unbreakable ties to the working class.

Ours is not yet a revolutionary period, but one of great potential. We can see much evidence globally of the first three points. That makes it even more important to concentrate on the fourth, which brings us back to our first question:

How can we leverage this worldwide ferment to build the party internationally?

First we must consider the distribution, publication and writing for our paper. In response to this crisis, we have made modest progress. The comrades in New Jersey who wrote about their experiences in Hurricane Sandy increased their distribution ten-fold. An Occupy contact now distributes twenty papers in her Midwest school. Los Angeles MTA drivers have increased their distribution on the job. That's an improvement, but not nearly enough.

We call for a political strike against capitalism at Metro. Wouldn't it help these MTA comrades if we organized a more serious campaign around our understanding of the political nature of the South African wildcats?

We distribute 700 papers to Metro workers, mostly outside. We write about Metro in most issues. In some areas 30% of the workforce reads our paper. 100 workers take extra papers for their fellow workers and families. All to the good!

We don't know the vast majority of these 100. But what about those friends and comrades we do know who already network with our paper? We should struggle with them to reach out to the other 100-plus who take extra papers.

We want to take the lessons of the bravery and tenacity of the international working class to the shop floor, barracks and classrooms. This requires building deep ties among the working class through a million house visits, having people over to our houses, walks, camping trips, birthday parties, wakes, etc.

We can bring this struggle into the enemies' camp by mobilizing our base to fight in the unions, making the contrast between reform ideas and revolutionary communist ideas sharper for thousands of workers on the job. We can link South Africa to political strikes, to what the unions are doing now. We can make it a major debate in the classrooms.

**TUNISIA****ENGLAND****PERU****GREECE****PANAMA****ITALY****BULGARIA****SWEDEN**

The bosses tell us polls measure the pulse of the people. We know better. The working class is educated through struggle, including those of us in the Party. Struggle with our fellow workers, students and soldiers about the meaning of South African wildcats and the uprisings around the world will lead to real education and to a real understanding of the mood of the masses.

We are entering a new period. We must rise to the occasion, building on the heroic struggles around the world by spreading *Red Flag* and ICWP, thus giving real meaning to international solidarity.

**JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL
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Transit Workers:

END THE INSANITY OF CAPITALISM

LOS ANGELES--“At our last union meeting we found out that in January we’ll pay \$100 a month for our health coverage. A 100% increase from what we pay now,” said an MTA driver at Division 10.

“Our union officials are just like those corrupt politicians in Bell, California: they pass rules to benefit themselves. Our local chairpersons don’t pay for their health coverage,” another driver at Div. 15 commented angrily.

“We now have to pay \$200 out-of-pocket for overnight stay if admitted to the hospital,” another driver at Division 18 told us.

These and other betrayals by UTU officials have MTA workers fuming. They are beginning to move against these traitors and MTA’s reign of terror.

We in the ICWP say that we need to organize to put an end to capitalism, the source of all the evils we suffer.

Insane capitalism can’t meet our needs

In 2010, “Non-profit” Blue Cross made over \$5.5 billion in profit. To get an idea of what this humongous figure means, consider:

If we counted a dollar per second, it would take us fifteen years to count all this money. If all MTA workers were paid \$80,000 per year, it would pay our salaries for nine years.

Yet, these \$billions go to increase this insurer’s capital fund,



which stands at over \$52 billion, to build fancy buildings, and to pay the salaries of its CEOs and top managers.

In 1993 Blue Cross spent 95 cents on health care for every dollar received. Today it spends only 64.4 cents. Non-profit Kaiser Permanente and for-profit Pacific Care are not any better. We end up paying higher premiums, larger co-payments and deductibles for worse and worse health care.

While the insurance companies raise their rates, the MTA bosses and the whole capitalist class, aided by the union, are bent on slashing our wages and benefits.

Capitalism’s insanity driven by its need for maximum profits

The world’s bosses – who live from our exploitation – must maximize profits to stay competitive, or they go under.

To avoid this, they must intensify their war against us, deepening our exploitation: paying us less, working us harder, and cutting or eliminating our benefits.

That is still not enough. Their dog-eat-dog competition eventually leads to war among the capitalist-imperialists because those unable to stay in the race resort to war to destroy their competitors.

Thus, capitalism’s story is one of never-ending wars, periodically punctuated by world wars. That’s where it is heading now, and that’s why they intensify our exploitation.

Should we suffer capitalism’s insanity forever?

We don’t have to. We don’t need the bosses and capitalism’s logic that puts money above people and condemns us to be wage slaves forever.

We need to rule society: to control the factories and fields in order to organize production to meet the needs of the international working class. For this, we must smash the capitalists’ state (their courts, laws, police and army) with an armed revolution for communism.

Some say it is impossible, because they are “so powerful.” Appearance is one thing; reality, however, is another. They are the weakest ruling class in history because they depend on us, their gravediggers, for their economic and military might.

If we refuse to work, their economic might is paralyzed. If the army, composed of the sons and daughters of the working class, refuses to defend them and instead turns the guns around they are history!

Their racist murderous police forces are unable to protect them against massive uprising, much less armed insurrection. The LA 1992 rebellion proved this eloquently. The LAPD refused to go into the streets and the bosses had to call out the National Guard to cope with the situation.

That is why ICWP not only organizes workers in the factories, the fields and other industries, but also in the military.

Communism is the only sane system

We can have a sane world if we eliminate capitalism, its money and its quest for profits. A communist society will guarantee that our health, our most valuable possession, is society’s primary concern.

We can all contribute to this struggle. We can help by economically contributing to *Red Flag*, and distributing it to coworkers, family and friends – especially those in basic industries and the military.

Organize *Red Flag* study-action groups on the job to politically lead our fight back against the MTA and US bosses. Join ICWP.

Airport Workers:

OUR STRUGGLE MUST BE FOR COMMUNISM

LOS ANGELES, November 21, 2012—Over 1000 airport workers and their supporters demonstrated today in front of the LA Airport (LAX), demanding Aviation Safeguards honor their contract and pay for their health insurance or be expelled from the airport. Despite the heavy cop presence, the demonstrators slowed the airport traffic for hours on the busiest travel day of the year.

Our communist ideas were well received by these workers. They eagerly took our 350 leaflets that called on them to fight for communism, and the only 100 *Red Flag* papers that we had.

Over 250 of these workers are continuing a year-long struggle against Aviation Safeguard. ICWP applauds their militancy and perseverance to struggle against these racist bosses. Like hundreds of millions of workers worldwide, they are in struggle against the ravages of capitalism, which, even in “good” times, is incapable of meeting our needs. Now, in times of crisis, it’s much worse.

The union’s strategy had been to pressure the Department of the City of L.A. that supervises the airports to force Aviation Safeguard to resolve the problem with the workers. Having failed in that, now they are trying to directly pressure the LA City Council, including Mayor Villaraigosa, since they license these companies allowing them to work for the airlines.

Lower wages and benefits for workers are the order of the day, while the capitalists-imperialists live extravagantly and spend billions on their

wars for profits and empire. We can’t fight this capitalist barbarity with reformist struggles that depend on the bosses’ laws to get what we need.

That’s why unionism is a mortal trap for us. The union contract tightens the bosses’ chains of wage slavery around our necks, while the bosses are free to do with us as they wish.

Unionism tries to do the impossible: reform capitalism so that it meets our needs. But the bosses maximize their profits by intensifying our exploitation. We can’t change this law. We have to destroy it along with the bosses and the capitalism that spawned it.

The unions help elect capitalist politicians. No politician is our friend. They all implement the bosses’ terror against us while trying to fool us into believing that voting will solve our problems. Voting only serves to legitimize and make us accept passively the bosses’ dictatorship over us, while blinding us to the revolutionary communist alternative we need.

Communism is our struggle

In communism there won’t be money, racist bosses or exploiting supervisors. Communism will guarantee the best medical care possible for all, educating millions of workers with the most advanced scientific knowledge. Putting this knowledge into practice, no one will only be a doctor, scientist, teacher or

janitor. Everyone, including the leaders, will do many things because no one is better than anyone else and we can all develop these abilities.

Imagine the impact that our demonstrations would have on those millions of workers in struggle worldwide, if we had red flags and signs saying “Down with Capitalism! Let’s Fight for Communism!” These masses are questioning capitalism and looking for radical solutions. Our political actions against capitalism can point the way to communism.

We are much more important than the bosses make us believe. Let’s recognize our importance and act accordingly. Our historic role is to bury capitalism and build communism. Let’s start by reading and distributing *Red Flag* and joining ICWP to prepare ourselves and our class for the future battles ahead.



Communism: Our Heritage and Future Part VII

“ALL THINGS IN COMMON...TO ALL ACCORDING TO NEED”

Earlier, we described communist themes in early Christianity: “All who believed were together, and had all things in common. They sold their possessions and goods, and distributed them to all, according as anyone had need.” (*Acts* 2: 44-45) Early Christianity advocated unity (“love”) among all people, including Jews, Romans, Gentiles, Greeks, and the pagans called “Barbarians.” (*Acts* 17:26)

This movement was driven underground in the 4th century, when the Roman emperor Constantine made a very different version of Christianity the official state religion and a battle-creed for empire.

By the twelfth century, however, as feudalism matured in Europe, Christian communism re-emerged. The mystical theologian Joachim, or Gioacchino da Fiore (1135-1202) distinguished between the “reign of justice” (or “law”) which existed in unequal society, and the “reign of freedom” in the new egalitarian age to come.

His followers (Joachimites) expected that the Church’s hierarchical, authoritarian structure would collapse, replaced by a leaderless communal state. They found support for this view in the Book of Revelations.

The Joachimites were extremely popular in their own time and for centuries after. For example, Gherardo Segarelli started a formal Apostolic Christian movement in Lombardy in 1260. Its members tried to live according to the communist principles in *Acts*. The movement grew slowly, spreading across Europe mainly among the poor.

Thomas Aquinas attacked the Joachimites and Apostolic Christians. In 1263, a papal synod declared their views heretical. Segarelli was hounded by the Spanish Inquisition and burned at the stake in 1300.

Fra Dolcino (c. 1250 – 1307) became the new leader of the Apostolic movement. The “Dulcinian heresy” went further than Segarelli, calling not only for the fall of the church hierarchy but of the whole feudal system.

Dolcino and his partner Margherita Bonin-

segna (Margaret of Trento) taught that the people would free themselves from oppression by creating a new egalitarian society based on mutual aid and respect. Property would be held in common, and men and women would live as equals.



Poster Celebrating the 700th Anniversary of Margaret and Dolcino's Uprising

Dolcino and Margaret rebuilt a sizeable Apostolic community, which the Inquisition quickly attacked. The 1400 surviving members retreated to a fortified mountaintop. Men and women fought hard, side by side. But they hadn't mobilized the masses for communism and were defeated by the combined opposition of local villagers and soldiers.

Margaret and Dolcino were tortured and burned at the stake in 1307. But their ideas did not die. The next year, Dante's poem *The Divine Comedy* placed Joachim in Paradise.

Peasant Rebellions: Beginning of the End of Feudalism

Revolts of peasants and sometimes urban workers rocked Europe throughout the late 13th and 14th centuries. The largest included the Ivaylo rebellion in Bulgaria (1277-1280), an up-

rising in Flanders (1323-1328), the St. George's Night Uprising in Estonia (1343-1345), the Jacquerie in France (1358), the Revolt of the Ciompi in Italy (1378), Wat Tyler's Revolt in England (1381), and the Harelle in France (1382).

The masses fought bravely, but mainly for relief from oppressive taxes or foreign domination, not for revolution. These struggles were important in the transition from feudalism to capitalism, but the historical record has not revealed a direct influence of communist principles.

For example, Wat Tyler's Revolt, a massive armed uprising of men and women, called for “equality among all people save only the king.” It demanded that church property be confiscated and divided among the commons. And it called openly for the abolition of serfdom. But it wasn't a communist uprising. Instead, Wat Tyler aimed to replace feudal serfdom with wage labor.

When the rebels converged on London, the radical Lollard priest John Ball preached a sermon that famously asked, “When Adam delved and Eve span, who was then the gentleman?” This rhyme echoed down the centuries, as we'll see in a future article.

Next: *15th Century Central Europe: “What's Mine is Thine.”*



Wat Tyler's Revolt, England, 1381

OBAMA IN MYANMAR: PIVOT TO WAR

Obama's visit to south east Asia clearly shows that the dominant sector of the US ruling class is strongly committed to its “pivot” to Asia-Pacific. It is their strategy to “peacefully” try to contain the rise of China. History, however, warns us that a world war is on the horizon.

And, even though neither ruling class is ready for war right now, the conditions for it are ripening and preparations are underway. The US rulers for instance have made a conscious decision not to engage, if possible, in any more Middle Eastern military adventures in order to focus on China.

That is why, at his first press conference the Wednesday after his second electoral victory, Obama emphatically stressed the possibility of a diplomatic solution to the Iran problem. He also made clear that the US is not about to arm the Syrian opposition, much less send US troops to help them overthrow Assad.

Economic opportunities or military alliances?

Obama pitches the economic and jobs creation opportunities of his trip. Facts, however, are stubborn. All the countries in the region, except the Philippines, do more business with China than with the US.



The US bosses' plan to change this is TPP (Trans Pacific Partnership), a free-trade zone that excludes China. The Asian bosses, however, plan to create the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) one of the world's biggest trade agreements, which includes China. It will overshadow the TPP and accelerate the global economic shift to Asia-Pacific.

World economic centers don't shift peacefully. The US bosses know it and their “pivot” strategy is to prepare for that eventual confrontation. The *Washington Post* claims that not discussed about the strategy is the “effort to integrate Southeast Asian countries” that fear China's rise “but [which] need some help uniting against the neighboring giant.” (11/10/12)

Strait of Malacca crucial to this strategy

The Strait of Malacca is the narrow sea passage between Malaysia and Indonesia. Over 80% of China's imported energy must pass through it as well as the bulk of its exports.

See OBAMA in MYANMAR, page 6

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

Behind the Dollar:

BOMBS AND BLOOD

After the crushing defeat of Nazi Germany at the gates of Stalingrad in 1943 by the heroic Soviet Red Army, the US capitalists saw a huge opportunity to control the world's markets and economy. The vast British empire was weakened, much of Europe and Japan were in ruins and the Soviet Union had suffered enormous destruction. At Bretton Wood, the US, the world's largest creditor nation in 1944, led a conference of the allied countries to rebuild the war-devastated economy. Serious disagreements emerged at the conference as the British delegation, led by economist Keynes, tried to block US domination. The US proposal to create the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund ended inconclusively.

US Bosses Impose Will With Atom Bomb

In the summer of 1945, the US dropped atom bombs on Japan. A few months later, Britain, along with all other allied powers, unanimously accepted the US proposals from Bretton Woods. By using the most lethal weapon of mass destruction, the US bosses guaranteed that the US dollar was accepted as the reserve currency by every nation. This also gave the US veto power in the IMF, thus ensuring that US imperialists can borrow money without limits. To ensure complete US domination, in the waning years of WWII, when the German army was in retreat and Japan had collapsed, the US carried out merciless fire-bombing of Germany, Japan and even parts of France to destroy their industrial base and terrorize masses of workers.

Marshall Plan--Control Industry, Stop Communism

As World War II ended, the rebuilding of Europe commenced under the US-led Marshall Plan. Its aim was to ensure the US military occupation of Europe, dismantle German banks and heavy industry and undermine Britain and France. It ideologically and financially countered communism as millions of workers in the world

were looking for an alternative to capitalism. It allowed the US to force European countries, in spite of their huge reserves of coal, to convert their power plants from coal to oil. This they had to buy in dollars from Middle Eastern countries controlled by the US. Japan's rebuilding also involved the US occupation of Japan by half a million US troops and the dismantling of Japanese banks and heavy industry.

The victory of the Chinese Red Army in 1949 and the heroic role of the working class in the Soviet Union in defeating Nazi Germany inspired millions of workers around the world to fight capitalism. To ensure that masses of workers in Japan and Germany did not embrace communism, the US carried out a policy of major concessions to German and Japanese capitalists. In Germany, the focus of the US-led policy was to manufacture sophisticated machines for US the heavy industries. A major German company, Siemens, which had built the Nazi war machine, was allowed to produce machine parts for US corporations. Today Siemens is a major supplier of crucial machinery for Boeing. The aim of rebuilding Japan under US occupation was to use cheap Japanese labor to produce consumer goods such as home appliances, electronics and automobiles.

Decline of One Imperialist, Rise of Others

Since WWII, US imperialism has steadily declined with the emergence of China, Germany, Russia, etc. The unprecedented productive capacity of China, Germany, Japan and other emerging capitalist countries has caused the decline of dollar. However, since the dollar is still the major reserve currency in the world, its decline constantly destabilizes the world economy. The relative decline of the dollar is forcing either hoarding of dollars or creation of credit by the US ruling class. In either case it accelerates the decline of the dollar, along with its market.

The domination of US imperialism and the

power of the US dollar were created as a result of WWII. The financial institutions such as the IMF, the World Bank, and various trade agreements which continue to serve US imperialism are being challenged by the Chinese and other imperialists. However weak the dollar is today, it can only be replaced through another major imperialist war. The oil wars in Iraq, Iran, Libya, Syria and other wars raging around the world show that US imperialists will not give up their domination.

Communist Revolution Will End the Rule of Money

As the US, China and other imperialists prepare for a world war to determine which currency will dominate the world, the only choice the working class has is organize a communist revolution and to build a communist society where there is no money and there are no imperialist bosses. Our next article will be about how society can be built without money and the ideological struggle involved in it.



Obama in Myanmar from page 5

With a military base at Banda Aceh, a small island at the tip of Indonesia, and its overwhelming naval power, the US currently controls this strategic passage way and its adjacent sea lanes.

One of the US' main military objectives is to guarantee China's continued dependence on this strategic strait and sea lanes. That means denying China access to other routes, either by land or sea. For this Myanmar is crucial.

Myanmar is crucial to China's need to break out of the US iron encirclement

Myanmar is what some Chinese diplomats call "China's second coast." It is China's gateway by land to the Bay of Bengal in the Indian Ocean. This route bypasses the Strait of Malacca.

Soon China's oil and gas supplies from Africa, the Middle East, and Myanmar itself will be transported over land by pipelines being built from Myanmar's coast to China's western provinces.

Roads and railroads are already being built connecting Myanmar and China. Myanmar will become the hub for Beijing's projected high-speed rail network linking China with the countries of Southeast Asia, South Asia, the Middle East and Europe.

It would enable China's exports and imports to and from the world's market to bypass the Malacca Strait. It would also serve as a "steel highway" to transport military troops and equipment, massively and rapidly.

Myanmar is central to China's future blue water navy

Naval power will play a decisive role in decid-

ing who will dominate the Asia-Pacific region and the world. China is building a navy to challenge the US dominance of the seas.

Myanmar with its deep water ports provides China an escape from the shallow waters of the South China Sea, where it's navy, especially its submarines, can be hemmed in and destroyed by the US and its allies.

Let's prepare to turn the guns around for a communist revolution!

Only communism can put an end to capitalism's unending need for wars and world wars. We call on the youth of all countries to join the military or go into the basic industries to organize soldiers, sailors and industrial workers for this fight. We call on all workers, soldiers and youth to join ICWP to mobilize the masses for communism to end the horrors of capitalism.

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LETTERS

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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.

Young Communist: From School to Industrial Work

"I thought that you were going to study something more political," a friend told me when he found out that I was going to study to be a technician in electronic engineering. I answered, "It's political, much more so than sociology."

Since childhood, thanks to the family into which I was born, I was interested in careers like sociology, philosophy, psychology. I always had the idea that these were careers in which I could express what I thought, in which I could put into practice the theory and in which I could be part of an organization of students.

But gradually I began to realize that I was wrong. I realized that the reality of the working

class isn't found in the four walls where you sit and see "how they kill our dreams," as the phrase says in the classroom of the national university.

Friends and family ask me, "Why are you going?" Or they tell me, "Stay. Study a career in the university." What they don't understand is that I'm not where my family is, because my family is the whole working class. I'm going to be closer and to turn myself into part of this big family, the family that moves the world.

The decision to leave friends, family and the whole atmosphere in which I've grown up is for an historic debt. It's not only me. There is a history behind me, a history of struggle and love for the international working class and it's my duty and need to continue this struggle.

The big changes in the world have never been generated in an office. Practice is where

reality exists, the reality of the worker.

In the oppression of the workers, in the conditions of poverty in which the workers live, in the anger of the workers, in the mediocre education of the workers' children, in this is my decision, in leaving to one side the individual and taking a step for the common good. My decision is for everyone, my decision to go to another city to study a trade in which I'll be side-by-side with other workers as one more of them. I will learn from them and they will learn about my communist ideas and the need for a revolution for a communist world.

From being a student I want to pass consciously to being a revolutionary communist worker.

Young Comrade in El Salvador

Advancing Communism in our Family

In a week of intense political activity, we shared the latest edition of *Red Flag* for the first time with a couple of relatives. We asked them to read it. The next day they told us that they read it in three hours. They were interested and eager to discuss their agreements and disagreements. They said that we would talk about it for 5 minutes, but it was a very good discussion that lasted for 2 hours. They told us that many of the ideas they read they had already thought, but that some older people had told them not to try to change the world. They believe that a better society is possible. We told them that that society is communism.

Among their disagreements is that they have hopes that the change can be through the parliamentary road, through fair laws, with good leaders in the governments. They mentioned that the Party seems to be very obsessive, but acknowledged that to achieve a change of the dimensions we're calling for, you have to be obsessive.

There was more agreement than we expected and they are very open to knowing about communist ideas. "What you propose is not nonsense like Obrador's ideas. You really propose a revolution to change society. This implies that that you must be very firm in your goals so that they don't get weakened over time...the task is great...it's hard to change people...but it's possible," one of them commented to us.

They agreed that it's the conditions of capitalism that make humans show their bad side. We told them that communism will create the foundation for the whole working class to develop all their creative potential for the benefit of all. We asked them to write their ideas about the Party and communism. On the next visit we'll take *Red Flag* and the manifesto, *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*. After this excellent discussion, my partner told me, "Finally I feel that we've advanced and discussed communism with my family." We'll advance further with firm steps.

--Comrades in Mexico

"An Entirely Broken System"

"Since Obama has been re-elected, things are going to change for the good," are the rumors some of my friends and family believe, but this is not true. I don't understand how they

could put so much faith into a politician or proposition to fix a failing system. For example, Proposition 30 is supposed to increase the income tax for people who make over \$250,000 and more a year to pay for education. But it won't even benefit the students' future, because it will only pay to stave off some cuts—for now. They will raise sales tax ¼ percent which will fall heaviest on workers, while all grocery, gas, and most necessities are sky-rocketing. This proposition won't benefit the working class in the long run, and neither will any other proposition.

When people start to realize that no matter who is in office an entirely broken system can't be fixed. Its time we think of alternate ways of running our society and go against what is in place. It's very clear that it does not and will not work.

--A Friend



Spain: Workers Rise Up

"The police are an institution that takes care of the bankers," said a worker while the riot police got down to attack with sticks the whole crowd of workers who were concentrated in the center of the city. The Spanish workers again rose up and denounced the whole capitalist system. The workers need a revolution and a communist political line which neither the unions nor any other movement can offer except for the International Communist Workers' Party. The unions called on the whole population and the population did its work...and now what will happen? Nothing! The unions have already received their salaries and those on strike (more than 5 million workers in Spain) continue suffering the consequences of a rotten system that only serves to make the rich richer and the poor poorer.

There are many workers who've been jailed and many others who've been hurt by the attacks from the local police. The working class is

determined to act and to struggle against imperialism. We have to keep working to develop the political cadre who will take the course of these struggles to a communist revolution. We have to work doubly hard to be able to take a correct communist political line that will help us build a communist world in which we don't need money and where all workers will have housing, health care, education, and correct nutrition. Only in communism can we achieve a society like this. We can't allow the reformist ideas of the union sellouts and the electoral politicians keep the working class trapped in the capitalist system which is only capable of massacring the poorest workers.

The International Communist Workers' Party has the only political line that will make us the winners of the class struggle. We have to continue studying dialectical materialism and keep learning from the errors that have been committed in human history. Join ICWP and distribute *Red Flag*, our communist newspaper. Become part of a new era, A COMMUNIST SOCIETY LED BY THE WORKING CLASS. LONG LIVE COMMUNISM!

--Comrade in Spain



ICWP's manifesto *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* is available in English and Spanish. Order your copy or copies. Please send donations for the costs of printing and mailing. We also ask for your suggestions and criticisms and help in translating it into more languages.

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CAPITALIST CULTURE FROM A COMMUNIST PERSPECTIVE:

Please send in drawings, photos, or written contributions (no more than 300 words).

Capitalist Lies**Top 10 Lies We R Taught**

1. Communism is dead.
2. We have "freedom" of speech, beliefs, expression.
3. Cops are your friends/only bad people go to jail.
4. We have "equal opportunity."
5. The U.S. smashed the Nazis.
- 6. Bad people go to jail.**
7. We need to vote to change things.
8. Capitalism runs on "supply and demand."
9. The government checks and balances ensures that nobody has too much power and our government works for the people.
10. Slavery ended because of "anti-racism."

MOVIE REVIEW:**Judge Dredd**

In the movie *Judge Dredd*, Dredd is one of many cops whose job it is to be judge, jury, and executioner. The poor and unemployed are criminalized and jailed/killed randomly.

Three "bad cops" paid off by drug traffickers who control a building, enter the building to protect the criminals and kill Judge Dredd and his trainee before they arrest/kill a drug lord named "Ma Ma."

A theme in the movie is that there are good and bad cops. But this is a lie. Cops are good for the capitalists, not for us. This movie shows us a glimpse of how rich drug traffickers/criminals are protected by the government. However, it leaves out the fact that the primary function of the police force is not to protect workers' communities, but to protect capitalist interests, keep workers in fear and from organizing revolution.

Judge Dredd is preparing the viewing population for the inevitable capitalist remedy (fascism and a police state) for the bosses' worsening crisis and impending World War III. **Our response to this will not be submission or desperate, unorganized revolt as in the movie, but revolutionary mobilization of our masses to fight for and win a communist World.**

**CAPITALI\$M****The Truth of the Matter:**

As of 2007 there were 1 in 100 persons in the USA behind bars (1 in 3 African American males in the USA can expect to spend time behind bars) and the numbers have only increased since 2007. However, since we ARE NOT EQUAL UNDER THE LAW we rarely see the largest criminals (those in the ruling class) behind bars. Growth in the U.S. prison population has been driven in large part by the rate at which individuals are incarcerated for drug offenses despite there being little evidence to suggest that higher rates of incarceration affect drug use rates or deter drug users.

Only communism will be capable of eradicating problems of addiction. Two major known protective factors against drug use are ties to the community and parent bond. Under communism people will no longer be reduced to using commodities to endure long work hours. Useless jobs essential to capitalism (such as bankers, politicians, insurance agents, FBI, CIA, police, etc.) will be obsolete and everyone capable of working will have opportunities to contribute to society—resulting in shorter work hours and more time to dedicate to family and community. Under communism, working within our communities to figure out needs and meeting needs will be part of daily life. Social isolation and individualism will be struggled against, not promoted, as under capitalism. Lastly, money will no longer be an obstacle to doing enjoyable things/having hobbies.

The "War on Drugs" has largely been a war on the poor, the unemployed, and African Americans (studies have found that drug use rates do not vary greatly by income or race). As capitalists push for cuts in wages, health care, social welfare, education, ect. to support imperialist wars abroad, they must also protect against worker rebellions. Capitalism requires social control of the working class to maintain their profit system. Unemployed masses were a large part of uprisings in the 1960's. By jailing the unemployed, least skilled, and those most affected by racist capitalist oppression, the ruling class can increase their attacks on us all.

In the first 9 months of 2012 more than 300 people have been killed by police in the U.S.—that is more than all U.S. military fatalities during the same time period (280 killed as of September 2012). Since 9/11 and the start of the Occupy Wall Street movement we have also seen an increase in government repression through the use of Grand Jury investigations. The main objective of Grand Juries is to disrupt political dissenters/organizations deemed "anti-American." Grand Jury investigations were used widely in the 1850's targeting escaped slaves; in the 1970's targeting the Vietnam Anti-war and Women's Movements; and today are being used to target anarchists and communists.

The time to organize for the overthrow of capitalism is NOW. To join this struggle **contact us, the International Communist Workers' Party.** Reading *Red Flag* is not enough—help distribute it to others and urge them to join the party.

**COMMUNISM****KICK THE BOSSSES IN THE ASS!****POWER TO THE WORKING CLASS!****Television Review:****Last Resort**

Are U.S. Bosses Ready for a Showdown with China across Asia?

Episode One of TV's *Last Resort* showed a US Navy nuclear sub commander disobeying orders to fire on Pakistan. Stripped of command, he takes the sub on the run. The Navy fires on them, blames Pakistan, and launches a "counter-attack."

The commander takes a seemingly moral stance against nuking Pakistan, but only because the order breaks the chain of command. After the attempt to sink the sub, the "rebel officer" declares, "We do not obey a country that tries to murder its own." This sounds okay, until we see that he says this only after they're personally attacked, ignoring how capitalism murders "its own" in the U.S. and also workers around the world with state violence and a lack of food, clean water, shelter, health-care.

How Last Resort Serves the Bosses' Needs

First, it claims trigger-happy war-makers are rare among military command. We know capitalism's in worldwide crisis and that the US rivals scramble to take advantage. The bosses' profits are falling sharply and the "cure" is to destroy their competitors' ability to produce goods – their "productive capacity" – particularly through war.

Second, *Resort* is one way the ruling class uses the mainstream media to push patriotism on us. We're supposed to think the system works and that they use the military to protect us, but they only protect their own interests.

The 1/5/11 *Red Flag* editorial "Wikileaks, Iran and Nuclear War" talked about the U.S. plans for a possible attack on Pakistan, which is linked to Afghanistan, but more importantly, has ties with China. Recently, the U.S. bosses pivoted attention from the Middle East to southern Asia and the Pacific.

As the US gears up to confront China in an effort to save their status as a declining power, WWII approaches. If we concentrate on strengthening our organizing inside the bosses' military, we can turn their inter-imperialist war into revolutionary war for communism. It's working class soldiers in ICWP, not a few "rebel officers," that can change history!