

# RED FLAG



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

## WORKERS, STUDENTS AND SOLDIERS MUST MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

### Reject Secret Boeing Deal To Partner With The 1%



from us since Mid-October was that they “didn’t want to be distracted by outside issues.”

Ironically, two million English workers went on strike this same day. That must be the kind of “outside distractions” these traitors are worried about.

District president Wroblewski calls this agreement “unprecedented.” Its timing was certainly unprecedented! Never before has the union agreed to a four-year extension 10 months before the old contract expires-- in the middle of the holiday season no less. No banging or marches in the factories: just worry about paying the bills!

We can only assume the mis-leadership wants us also to not be distracted by outside influences, like the mass struggle and heroism of workers around the world. The general strike in England is only the tip of the iceberg.

Last week, hundreds of thousands walked out

in Portugal against capitalism’s austerity cuts. Ten thousand soldiers and their families joined the demonstrators, organized by the National Association of Sergeants.

In Greece and Portugal alike, workers have set up mass workplace meetings to discuss their political response to capitalism’s crisis. One such meeting of Greek electrical workers vowed never to “cut off power to poor unemployed, poor pensioners, and workers.” They have led the movement to organize neighborhood Defense Committees to stop any attempts to withdraw electrical services. More outside distractions!

Millions are striking and marching from Europe to Africa to the Middle East against capitalism’s attacks. The bosses are desperate to silence the anti-capitalist message as it spreads to the US. Imagine the effect if key industrial workers like Boeing workers joined the fray.

### Forget Class Solidarity, Snuggle Up To The Bosses

The job of these trade union traitors is to short-circuit the masses’ growing willingness to answer capitalism’s **See BOEING, page 2**

SEATTLE, WA, Nov 30- Boeing union leaders dropped a deal worked out in secret with the Boeing bosses on our laps this morning: a four-year contract extension. We have to vote on it by next Wednesday. Their rationale for keeping their plot

### LA: Oppose MTA Union No-Strike Regime

## STRIKE AGAINST CAPITALISM

As we go to press, MTA drivers received the “latest” MTA contract proposal last week. They have until December 6 to mail in their ballots approving or rejecting it. James Williams and the General Committee are encouraging everyone to approve it. Their motto: “You deserve it and you have earned it.”

But, this proposal is worse than the one that hundreds of us had already rejected. To get us to put the noose around our necks, these bosses’ lap-dogs have thrown in a \$1,000 signing bribe if we approve the contract before Christmas.

There is no limit to these scum’s treachery. The voting is by mail to avoid a repeat of what happened when we rejected the previous proposal. They are scared of our massive anger and of our taking matters in our hands to fight for our interests. Besides, voting by mail allows them to easily manipulate the results.

### Under Capitalism the Cards Will Always be Stacked Against Us

In the new proposal, many “accidents” (flat tires, broken mirrors, etc.) will now be considered “incidents.” But, there is a catch. A new accident policy – not mentioned in the proposal – will eliminate the 18-month period in which to remove accidents from our records. They will stay there indefinitely – if they show the same pattern.

Let’s say you have an accident while making a right turn on a yellow light. Then, you have two more similar accidents. Whether the accidents occur in the 18-month period, or 5 or more years later, you will be terminated because you show a pattern of being “accident prone.” No driver will be safe – especially those on MTA’s “special list.”

### Treacherous Transit Union Officials Are Helping US Bosses Institute A No-Strike Regime

This four-year contract is an economic disaster. For every dollar we gain, inflation will devour at least three, and there is no COLA (Cost Of Living Allowance). COLA “remains inactive during the term of the agreement.”

Politically it is devastating. The UTU traitors are imposing the US bosses’ no-strike regime on us. The bosses have been trying to get the MTA board and the transit unions to agree to submit all contract disputes to binding arbitration.

The unions were willing to comply, but MTA refused their

offer. These bosses don’t want any interference in their corrupt contract deals with local businessmen and politicians.

US bosses, therefore, got the union hacks to do their bidding. The last strike was in 2003. So far they have gotten 8-strike-free years. The new proposal will extend it to 12.

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## RUSSIA-CHINA BOSSES' AXIS CHALLENGES US BOSSES OVER SYRIA

In 1998, Zbigniew Brzezinski, a major strategist for US imperialism, wrote about possible rising challenges to US imperialism, "Potentially, the most dangerous scenario would be a grand coalition of China, Russia, and perhaps Iran ...". He also stated that this was a remote contingency. Events are proving him wrong on this later count.

Today, the China-Russia axis is challenging US imperialism on every continent. The Middle East and Asia Pacific are major areas of contention.

China's rise is threatening to eclipse the US from the Asia-Pacific region, the new economic center of the world. The US bosses want to dedicate more resources to face China in this region. Yet, as they "retrench" from the Middle East, they leave a vacuum. Iran is filling it, challenging the decades-old US-Israel hegemony of the region.

As US troops prepare to exit Iraq, Iranian influence grows greater there. The same is happening in Afghanistan. If the al Assad government in Syria, supported by Iran, survives its present crisis, Iranian spheres of influence will stretch from Afghanistan all the way to the Mediterranean.

This would put tremendous pressure on Saudi Arabia, forcing it to accommodate to Iranian geopolitical interests. As it is, the Saudis are already veering to China, their biggest trading partners and importers of their oil. For over half a century Saudi Arabia has been the cornerstone of the US world oil empire, crucial to US imperialist world domination.

According to STRATFOR, a major US think tank, the US bosses have three choices regarding Iran: live with what emerges, cut a deal with it, or go to war. "All are dubious," it concludes, "so

toppling al Assad is critical. It changes the game and the momentum.

**"But even that is enormously difficult and laden with risks."**

Encouraged by their success in Libya, US imperialism, and its NATO and Arab League allies, seem to be planning a similar "humanitarian intervention" in Syria. But, the Russia-China axis, key geopolitical ally of Syria, together with Iran, is adamantly opposed.

Russia deployed warships at its Tartus naval base in Syria shortly after the US stationed a naval carrier strike group with support vessels off Syria. It is rumored that Russian military advisors are helping Syria install advanced air defense S-300 missiles and radar systems. This will make it extremely risky for NATO to set up a "no-fly zone" as it did in Libya.

The Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs spokesman said on Nov. 25, "The Syrian people must decide their own fate, without 'tips' from outside. We absolutely do not accept a scenario of military intervention in Syria."

The stakes are high. Without Syria, Russia's capability to operate in the Mediterranean will be greatly restricted. If it repeats its betrayal of Libya's Gadaffi, its prestige around the world will be destroyed. Iran will be further isolated, with Hezbollah and Hamas becoming fair game for the US bosses. The next stop of the "Responsibility 2 Protect" could well be Teheran.

**China also has much at stake**

Syria is an important hub in the New Silk Road the Chinese imperialists are building. It would give China more immediate access through the Mediterranean to European and North African markets. But, more crucial to the Chinese bosses'

long term survival is Iran.

As the US encircles China both economically and military - while the war drums of their eventual and inevitable clash beat louder - bypassing the sea lanes and the straits controlled by US is becoming a life and death question for Chinese imperialism.

Iran has the energy resources and the geography to deliver them safely to China by land. The US is bent on denying China this energy.

**Only Communism can end capitalism's cycles of bloodbaths**

As US imperialism continues its inevitable decline and China and Russia their rise, their rivalry for world domination is sharpening. As current events are proving, its resolution through global war becomes inevitable. Only communism can put an end to this inexorable law of modern capitalism with its constant economic crises, carnage, and massive destruction.

Communism will eliminate money and markets. We will depend only on the international working class's labor power. Money hides the fact that it is our labor power, and only our labor power, that produces all the value in society. The capitalists transform this value into money and make us believe that money is indispensable.

Many in our class believe we can't live without money. But, humans lived for over eighty thousand years without classes, exploitation or money. We can and will do it again but at a higher level. Communism will once again rule a world without classes, exploitation, money or borders. This time it will be conscious scientific communism, not based on scarcity, but on collectively producing and sharing the products of our labor according to need.

**BOEING from page 1** economic attacks with political strikes and demonstrations. Anti-capitalist politics provides fertile ground for the development of a mass movement for communist revolution. When push comes to shove--as it is in this period--reformist trade unionism is about preserving the system.

That's why the union/company partnership has included "unprecedented" reactionary politics in this contract extension. They state point blank, "The parties desire to establish a new working relationship to insure critical mutual objectives are met." For instance, one objective is to meet "cost and productivity pressures from existing and future competitors in both the commercial and defense businesses." The union has already signed on to these speed-up programs for over 1,500 machinists on the 777 line.

The deal institutionalizes this class collaboration with a new joint Union/Boeing Council to meet every month. "In reviewing productivity [this council] will assess such areas as employee engagement/involvement, the job classification system, multiple machine operation and [utilization] of non-Boeing labor." In other words, a blank check for harassment and subcontracting!

For the first time, our pay will include deadly performance incentives. "It's a transformation of the relationship between the company and the workers to focus on ... performance and incen-

tives," said Sen. Cantwell, D-Wash.

When all else fails, the union traitors threaten us. If you don't agree to this, the company will take to new 737MAX plane and move somewhere else, they warn. (Even the promise to produce the new plane in Renton has a loophole you fly a jet through. The contract reads, "the company will produce the 737NG and 737MAX models in Renton, to the extent production can be feasibly completed in the current and existing 737 Renton facilities. Since the company is going to increase the production rate, they will soon run out of room in Renton.)

The only real answer to these "unprecedented" attacks by Capital is to take production out of the hands of these profiteers and their lackeys in the union leadership. Communism will mobilize the masses to produce what we need where we need it. Other workers will no longer threaten our jobs; rather, we can welcome the extra hands.

"Production for Need, Not Profits!" should be one of our slogans as we build for a political strike against capitalism. Snuggling up to the bosses in secret won't save us or our fellow workers. Communist revolution should be our goal.

No matter what happens with this contract building the communist movement remains our priority. We invite you to join us

in distributing *Red Flag*. Help us bring this vision to every demonstration, occupy sit-in and strike now raging around the world. Join the ICWP!



**Twice workers beat back the secret negotiations between Boeing and the union now they're trying it a third time.**



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## SUCCESSFUL CADRE SCHOOL DEVELOPS COMMUNIST LEADERS

El Salvador—Workers from factories, the fields, the schools and young students from several places in the Americas met to discuss and understand the advances that the International Communist Workers' Party has made. There were reports about the deepening capitalist crisis and the moves to wider wars. After the presentation of Mobilize the Masses for Communism, carried out by young comrades who are giving a lot of leadership, the discussion was opened. There was broad participation with serious questions and comments mainly by young workers and students. Among them:

"If there are strikes under communism, how would ICWP deal with that?"

Comrades said that in a communist society, led by a mass party of millions of communist leaders, there won't be a contradiction between the leaders and the masses of workers. If workers in a factory have problems with production, safety, or anything else, they would meet and resolve them using communist principles.

If there's a third world war, would we participate, or only take advantage of the moment to build the party?

Will there be laws in a communist system?

If we produce more food than we can use, what will we do with it? Will we trade it for other things we need?

The group tried to answer every question that was raised. This helped deepen the understanding of the party's line and to show that communism

will be a highly organized society that will be led by principles, and that under communism, the ideological struggle will determine how we build a society that meets workers' needs.

"All of us develop ICWP's line in the discussions that we carry out at the cadre schools and in our day to day work of building the Party. When we write to *Red Flag*, that's how we get stronger," said a young leader.

A youth said, "It's necessary to prepare cadre for the revolution, as a party that will spread the need to build a communist society around the whole world."

"Money exists because the means of production are in the hands of the bourgeoisie, but when the means of production are in the hands of the working class, it will be different. We'll produce based on need," said another comrade.

"The richness with which the new communist society is being described is very inspiring and has to be reflected more in the newspaper," commented a comrade.

The principle of "to each according to need" defines everything. Collective work will be an important practice. Discipline was and will be fundamental.

"It's the first time that I'm here and I have several questions. Maybe they're simple but I consider them important," said a young university student.

"For example, what's the history of this party? Where was it born? In what countries is the

party?"

"I belong to the fmIn, but since I've met ICWP, I've found my ideology," said another youth.

"A veteran comrade told me about this party, and I like it. He gave me *Red Flag* and I commit myself to organize more youth."

"I feel part of this party. I feel good."

The comrades who came who work in the factory talked about all the obstacles they confronted to get permission from the bosses in the factory so they could be at the school.

They say that now they are sure of the road that they're going to follow: to "build a communist society, since we in the factory are exploited by the bosses, who only want to fill their own pockets."

We discussed the need and importance of organizing inside the armed forces of the bosses to win soldiers, the sons and daughters of the workers, to the fight for communism.

We ended by singing the *International* with great enthusiasm.

The youth put forward plans to visit comrades in the fields, to organize a get-together that they'll take advantage of to work and organize for ICWP.

We consider that it was a successful cadre school since 28 people participated, the majority of whom were youth. All of us came away inspired to deepen and spread the fight for communism.

### Down With Capitalist Education!

## STUDENTS MUST JOIN RANKS OF WORKERS, SOLDIERS IN FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, Nov. 17 – Hundreds of students joined hundreds of striking teachers on picket lines at two Cal State campuses today. The protest was organized by the California Faculty Association (CFA) against pay cuts, fee hikes and class reductions. The day before, militant student protests disrupted the Cal State Board of Trustees. It was meeting in Long Beach to raise tuition by 9% on top of a 12% increase last July and a 15% hike last year. The one-day strike, which shut down CSU Dominguez Hills and East Bay, included busloads of faculty from campuses up and down California.

Students from ICWP and their friends walked the picket line Cal State Dominguez Hills, carrying signs saying "Capitalist Crisis Demands Communist Revolution," in English and Spanish. They distributed *Red Flag* and our manifesto, *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*, to the demonstrators. Teachers and students gladly took the literature and some donated money. Some gave their contact information to continue receiving it. Some friends from the Occupy movement who were there said they want to keep getting and distributing *Red Flag*.

CFA is fighting the Chancellor's attempt to pit students against teachers. It raises the slogan "We are, we teach, the 99%." But its radical-sounding slogans can't disguise the shallow reformism of its leaders. They blame the Chancellor's "management first" priorities instead of the crisis of capitalism for the sharpening racist attacks. Some teachers even grumbled about a colleague's poster that did target capitalism. "It really did contradict their program of fighting for higher taxes and the Democratic Party," remarked an observer.

The Dominguez Hills (Carson) and East Bay

(Hayward) campuses were targeted because of their large multi-racial populations of working-class students. Many students fear that current trends are killing their chances for a "middle-class" career. ICWP and *Red Flag* brought the message to these students and teachers that they must look to communist revolution, not capitalist schooling, for a better future for our class.

CFT signs said "Fewer Classes, Higher Fees, CSU Is Run by Thieves." But it's capitalism itself that legalizes the theft of workers' labor power, the real source of the bosses' profits. Now the world is in the midst of a general crisis of capitalism. This crisis is behind California's plummeting revenues, the Governor's attempt to slash workers' health and retirement benefits, CSU's increasing use of lower-paid part-time and temporary instructors, and the skyrocketing tuition.

As *Red Flag* has explained (v. 2 #21) the interrelated declining rate of profit and crisis of overproduction leaves no choice for the world's rulers but all-out war – sooner rather than later. They are restructuring schools, colleges, and universities to prepare for this war on the cheap. They need CSU-trained technical personnel for war industries. They need CSU-trained teachers who will

push patriotism, racism, and other pro-boss ideas on tomorrow's soldiers. And they need CSU-trained "law enforcement" agents to beat workers into submission, as the CSU cops tried unsuccessfully to do at the Long Beach demonstration.

As another ICWP sign said at the Dominguez Hills rally, "Down with capitalist education!" This system cannot possibly "start making decisions based on what is right for the 99%" as CFT demands. Only communist revolution, led by industrial workers and soldiers, can put "the 99%" in power. Students being attacked by the cuts and the capitalist crisis need to join the ranks of industrial workers and soldiers to mobilize them for communist revolution. Then we will make our own decisions based on the needs of the international working class. Students and teachers must make this cause their own. We cannot waste this opportunity to build a mass party to mobilize for communism!



Students Confront Cops at Cal State Long Beach

## Pacifism, Trade Unionism: Reject Capitalist Ideas Inside Occupy Movement

### **WORKERS, STUDENTS, SOLDIERS: SPREAD RED FLAG, BUILD ICWP**

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 30—Early this morning, 1400 LAPD cops rode MTA buses from Dodger Stadium to City Hall, where they cordoned off Occupy LA and arrested everyone who didn't leave. Almost all of the 300 arrested occupiers had been "trained" in non-violence and didn't fight back, although many said they oppose capitalism and want a new system.

Pacifism helps perpetuate capitalism. It hides the important truth that workers have the power to get rid of the capitalist bosses and build that new system, communism. Workers have paid in blood for illusions that we can win by negotiating or working with the bosses. We must prepare to go on the offensive, when we will use mass revolutionary violence against the violence of the bosses' state. We can and must build a mass International Communist Workers' Party and its mass red army to destroy capitalism with communist revolution.

The Occupy movement is a contradiction. On one hand, it shows the masses' deep-seated anger stemming from the world-wide capitalist crisis, revealing the potential for communist revolution. On the other, it reflects the bosses' dire need to restructure their financial and economic system to prepare for World War III and to channel angry workers and youth into a movement they can control.

**Tax the Rich?  
No, Ax the Rich!**

Historically, in times of capitalist crisis, the capitalists have had to set the masses in motion for their own ends. Popular calls for banks and corporations to pay "their fair share" or "more taxes" form part of this agenda today.

Many Occupy spokespersons and unions call for taxing the rich. They call for stopping the banks' greed and for investing the bosses' profits back into production. They also call for pacifism in the face of police terror.

These demands support the top imperialists' plans. Today, US corporations pay about 15% of their income in taxes. But from 1941-1945, during World War II, US corporations paid about 89% in taxes. Preparations for the next world war require that the richest give up more of the profits they've stolen from workers. These funds won't benefit the working class. We will pay for world war with cuts to jobs, retirement and health care, higher taxes, and with our very lives.

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The top imperialists also demand that investors put money into war production, whether or not they get high returns on their investment. To wage wider war in defense of their empire, the bosses must discipline their own class as they viciously attack the working class.

#### **Workers and Youth Want to Talk About Communism**

As capitalist crises unfold, the masses that face tremendous attacks (mass unemployment, racist police terror, brutal cutbacks) are becoming tremendously angry. The ICWP and *Red Flag* are offering communist leadership to direct their anger at capitalism, to build a mass communist party, and to develop communist concentrations in industry and the military.

Many have welcomed this leadership. "I never really thought of it that way," they say. "I never heard of this party and newspaper. What you're saying sounds new." In one Occupy meeting, a worker whom we'd just met guaranteed that everyone present got *Red Flag* and the ICWP's manifesto, Mobilize the Masses for Communism (MMC).

This movement has also led to sharper discussions with workers, including MTA drivers. For example, many drivers who recently took *Red Flag* like the idea of refusing to drive buses to help cops attacks workers. One driver said, "The buses should be used to take workers to their jobs—not to attack them."

At a demonstration calling on people to withdraw their money from the banks, many workers and youth took *Red Flag* and MMC as we said communism will abolish banks and money. One young woman then attended an ICWP meeting. She asked many good questions about communism and why capitalists go to war. She wants us to meet her friends.

#### **Workers Reject Union Traitors, See Importance of Red Flag**

A comrade approached a worker who was talking to a union leader. Did they want *Red Flag*? The union leader wasn't interested, but the worker said, "Yes—absolutely." The comrade asked him to donate some change. The worker said, "That's not enough for such valuable literature," gave \$1, and took another paper for a friend. The unionist sheepishly said, "Give me one too" and contributed \$1. The worker later took MMC and promised to stay in touch.

worldwide shows — are questioning capitalism, fighting against it, and looking for radical solutions.

Our strike can help to point them in the right direction, and show the leading role of industrial workers in the revolutionary movement. For this, we must be organized and politicized. We need to read and distribute *Red Flag*, and join the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP). **No Time For Passivity and Demoralization — Let's Organize and Fight For Communism!**

Williams and his gang's job is to keep us demoralized and passive. We have a great responsibility — being in the position to paralyze the second most important city in the country. Let's use our collective strength to help lead the fight against capitalism and for communism.



**The main printed signs at Occupy LA have been those paid for by the Los Angeles Central Labor Council**

Another group of workers gladly took the paper. A unionist standing with them folded his copy into his pocket instead of reading it. One worker asked scornfully, "Are you ashamed of it?"

Both times, the workers saw the importance of the communist *Red Flag*, rejecting the union traitors, who want to contain the workers' anger and direct it to reforming capitalism.

ICWP students and friends taking part in Occupy actions have stressed that only an organized working class with its mass party can make revolutionary change capable of ending capitalism. They have seen that the masses welcome our struggle to direct the movement against capitalism. They now understand better our obligation to build a mass communist party that develops workers into communist critical thinkers.

The masses can't live in the old way. Down with the imperialists' reforms! This is our opportunity to mobilize the masses for communist revolution. We can show that the world's workers have the collectivity and know-how to produce what our international working class needs. Join our Party! Recruit others! Spread *Red Flag*! Prepare for the violent mass struggle that will give birth to our new society!



## **TRANSIT from page 1**

### **If workers always lose strikes, how come US bosses don't want MTA workers to strike?**

When they go on strike, most workers lose economically. However, if they didn't strike they would lose even more. The bosses would love for us to be always passive so they can attack us mercilessly.

However, this is not the main reason they hate strikes. They hate strikes politically. They understand that workers can be politicized to organize very political strikes against capitalism and for communism.

Such a strike by MTA workers would have a tremendous impact on workers, soldiers, students, and others locally, nationally and internationally. The masses — as the Occupy Movement

The LA Occupy Movement is planning a day of action to close all West Coast ports on December 12. When we go to the docks, the union leaders want to subvert our class hatred by winning us to poisonous nationalism. The bosses want to pit US and Chinese workers against each other to prepare for war against China. (See Editorial, page 2) Capitalism pits worker against worker but we need to build unity among the world's workers to destroy capitalist competition and build a communist movement based on cooperation.

The masses are in motion — let's help give them leadership by organizing a political strike against capitalism and for communism.

## NO MORE MORTGAGES, NO MORE BANKS!

**PORTLAND, OR**, Nov. 17 -- OccupyPortland demonstrators took over a downtown Wells Fargo branch demanding a moratorium on mortgages. Although someone hung a sign calling for "revolution" in the window, the moratorium demand is anything but revolutionary. A revolutionary would ask why do we need mortgages at all?

The demonstrators that burned dollar bills in front of the line of cops protecting this bosses' bank were pointing-- wittingly or unwittingly-- to a more effective solution. The whole of the bosses' finance industry must go.

All around the world, masses are moved to real heroism as they fight the capitalist beast. In many Mideast countries, tradition demands that sons ask their mothers if they can "go to war." Mothers are not waiting for these requests. They are demanding in a mass way their sons (and daughters) confront even the armed military.

If our brothers and sisters are to make such sacrifices, we must demand real solutions. In this case, housing must be provided on the basis of need, not ability to pay. In short, no more mortgages.

Millions in the U.S. are saddled with housing debts they can never pay. At the same time, tens of thousands of condos stand empty because no one can afford to live in them.

In nearby Seattle, a 71-year-old black woman was about to be kicked out of her home of more than fifty years. She sent all the necessary paperwork to the finance company trying to qualify for Obama's mortgage modification.

As in thousands of other cases, the bank "lost" her correspondence. She would have been out on the street if her neighbors hadn't organized a multi-racial demonstration in front of her house. The foreclosure company gave her a temporary reprieve.

The foreclosure crisis is the child of capitalism. Why must we beg for moratoriums and reprieves when it is our class that built all these shelters? It's illogical that the bosses' bank and finance companies end up owning them. But that's capitalism for you!

Communism is the only way to permanently end foreclosures by eliminating mortgages themselves. After the revolution, we can put the millions of skilled, unemployed construction workers back to work building the shelters we need. As an added bonus, we can free the millions employed in the useless finance industry to perform useful work. No more begging for what is rightfully ours!

**EUROPE**-In 2008, Josef Ackermann, CEO of Deutsche Bank, commenting on the US banking crisis, said, "European banks are sound and strong, based on the strength of the Euro, unlike American banks based on speculation and greed." But on Sept 5, 2011, Ackermann admitted, "Numerous European banks would not survive having to revalue sovereign debt held on the banking book at market levels."

The European financial crisis has worsened and threatened the collapse of key banks. The capitalist bosses have no insight or control over how severe the crisis is.

About a month ago a French/Belgian bank, Dexia, failed. Dexia is a key bank that issues municipal bonds to cities in the US and Europe. But only four months ago, the European Banking Authority, after doing the so-called stress test, declared Dexia to be one of the safest banks, able to survive the most adverse economic downturn. Exactly 86 days later Dexia collapsed.

More banks were likely to collapse because Greek, Italian, and Spanish governments failed to repay their debts to the banks. The German and French banks were likely to be engulfed in this debt crisis. There was a risk that the banks would stop loaning and transferring money (a liquidity crisis like the one in 2008 after the failure of Lehman Brothers.)

### US financial bosses led by Goldman Sachs saw an opportunity to control Europe in the midst of this crisis

The rulers in Italy and Greece have been replaced by bankers with strong ties to the US ruling class. The new Prime Minister of Greece is a member of the Trilateral Commission. The new Prime Minister of Italy, Mario Monti, and the new head of European Common Bank (ECB), Mario Darghi, are both ex Goldman Sachs bankers.

The IMF (International Monetary Fund) is



headed by Christine Lagarde, also trained by Goldman Sachs. The IMF, ECB and the European Financial Stability Facility (ESFS) will now, in cooperation with the governments from Greece and Italy, unleash more attacks on the working class through massive wage and pension cuts, tax increases, privatizations and cuts in healthcare, education and public services.

After installing pro-Goldman Sachs bankers in Europe, the US Federal Reserve moved decisively last Wednesday to coordinate a move to flood European banks with dollars, as they did in the US in 2008.

They are using desperate measures, printing more dollars to bolster capitalism, European banks, and the US empire. They're trying to save the banks because capitalism has to have banks to extend credit to capitalists for production.

### And the US bosses are desperate to save their empire.

In an unprecedented move in October, German capitalists asked Chinese capitalists to help bail them out of the crisis, and made it clear that they would accept Yuan denominated bonds. The US bosses see this as an attack on the primacy of the dollar. They are printing dollars to pump into European banks.

The US bosses are trying to bolster capitalism, control Europe and stop the Chinese capitalists from advancing. This is also a huge attack on the working class. The banks will demand that the working class repay this dollar debt. The flooding of the dollar and resulting inflation will essentially wipe out a huge dollar-reserve the Chinese bosses are holding.

As one worker said, this dollar infusion is like putting gas into a broken car. The car runs for a while, but it's still going to break down. The infusion will temporarily stop banks from collapsing but won't stop the crisis of overproduction from deepening. This makes the fight for control of shrinking markets sharper as each bloodthirsty capitalist-imperialist tries to save themselves and their system at the expense of their rivals and, most of all, at the expense of the world's workers.

It's the time for the international working class to make a decisive move. In the mobilizations against attacks on workers, workers need to build ICWP and spread *Red Flag* and MMC. Only communism will eliminate banks, money, the market and production for profit. We'll produce solely to meet the needs of the world's working class.

### What Exactly Would That Look Like?

Seven-hundred rain soaked demonstrators closed the University Bridge today. More importantly, many were eager to discuss a communist future despite the serious (even by Seattle standards) downpour.

The Service Employees International Union and Occupy-Seattle formally led this demonstration, but many participants were searching for answers beyond the official slogan of "Jobs, Not Cuts." I personally distributed 25 Red Flags and 11 *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* pamphlets.

Almost everyone I approached wanted one or the



other or both. I could have sold more, but I got into a number of long discussions.

Some said they agreed with communism, but ironically, the best discussions occurred with some young people that were still looking for a "better" capitalism.

One young man in his 20's thought we needed direct democracy. "Let the 99% really have a vote," he argued.

"Voting won't change a thing if we still have capitalism," I answered. "We need communism."

"How would communism be so different?" interrupted his co-worker.

"We won't have the 1%, we won't have money," I began to answer.

"But what would that look like specifically?"

"I can't tell you specifically. We'll figure that out together under the leadership of the Party."

### Even Veteran Comrades Can Learn New Things

When we evaluated our work later at

a club meeting, I realized I could have gotten more specific if I had asked where they worked. Then we could have discussed how their work place would have been different without money, and how production for need would change everything.

These topics, how society will function without money, the illusion of voting, and communist incentives, seem to pop up frequently when we are distributing our literature. We all liked the idea of publishing a series of leaflets that target in on a specific subject. We'll pass them out at rallies, and post them on the website. We encourage all comrades from other areas to write short flyers to share on specific aspects of communist life.

I have been doing this work for many years. There have been times when it seemed difficult to engage fellow workers and friends in political discussions at this level. But that is obviously not true now. Masses are mobilizing against capitalism...what a great opportunity to build a movement for communist revolution.

--Seattle Comrade.

## CONTINUING THE DEBATE ON LAWS IN A COMMUNIST SOCIETY

### SOCIAL NORMS, CLASS DICTATORSHIP, AND THE LAW

Social norms are things a society says that people must do, what they must not do, what they may do, what they should do, what they shouldn't do. In capitalism, should and shouldn't are matters of "Ethics" while must, mustn't, and may are matters of "Law." Sometimes Law enforces ethical or pro-social behavior, but mostly it doesn't.

Class dictatorships always enforce the exploitation of the many by the few. We are used to thinking of norms in terms of Law, but pre-capitalist class societies justified and maintained private property differently.

The earliest known legal codes date from Babylonia, four thousand years ago. They recorded particular decisions of kings who dictated norms and penalties. All distinguished between social classes. Different laws applied to free men and slaves, men and women.

"There must be a union of those who cannot exist without each other," wrote Aristotle, "hence master and slave have the same interest." He argued for a division between mental and manual labor: "That which can foresee by the exercise of mind" was naturally master, and "that which can with its body give effect to such foresight is... by nature a slave."

Many slaves disagreed. They rebelled and fought back.

Feudal lords and kings ruled by tradition and precedent, claiming "divine right," not through a

legal system. Not all peasants were intimidated by religion. They, too, rebelled, embracing "heresies" that justified their rebellion.

Ancient and medieval writers imagined "laws

in the streets, and to steal bread."

Capitalism "fetishizes" the law, treating it as god-like. It fills books with laws, rules, regulations, and penalties for every possible social norm. Don't spit on the sidewalk - \$100 fine. Don't eat on the bus. Don't loiter. Do show cops your ID. Take out the trash on pick-up day. New York City traffic rules alone fill a 108-page book! Thus, capitalist law provides a thousand excuses to harass, repress, and control the working class.

Large chunks of law (corporate, contract, torts, trusts, etc.) help capitalists resolve disputes among themselves. Only a small part of "criminal law" deals with violations of fundamental ethical principles. Even here, workers and the rich are treated differently by the cops and the courts.

Capitalism divides Law from Ethics because class dictatorship requires it. For example, many human societies recognize that collective survival demands something like the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you." Exploiters don't want to be exploited, but they need to exploit us! You won't find the Golden Rule in any capitalist law book.

*The next article will consider societies where social norms are expressed and enforced very differently. What can we conclude about how the masses will rule under communism?*



of nature" as God's dictates, much as social laws were dictated by kings. God was not bound by His laws, but could break them with miracles, as kings were not bound by social laws.

In contrast, capitalism tries to hide its dictatorship behind "the rule of law" as if law were neutral. But law is the capitalists' main tool to subject and exploit the working class.

"The law, in its majestic equality," wrote Anatole France ironically in 1894, "forbids the rich as well as the poor to sleep under bridges, to beg

#### Dear *Red Flag*

The article in the last issue about laws or no laws under communism framed the issues clearly and helped advance the discussion. This letter comments on some of the points that article asked to be clarified.

As I understand it, a law is a rule that requires that something specific be done or not done, which applies to everyone or at least to a large category of people, and which will be enforced by some kind of coercion if persuasion fails. The obvious cases of laws like this are those that forbid murder, rape, drug dealing, drunk driving, arson, etc. I think the working class will need these laws and other kinds of rules as well, like the rules of particular workplaces or schools, although it seems wrong to call these laws.

I think it is necessary for workers to adopt and live by laws under communism. This was, incidentally, Marx's view of pre-class societies of the past. He thought that the laws of early societies, which he called "customary law," were enforced with very little coercion. With the rise of the state, however, new laws were decreed by "an authority external to the small natural group [of people] and forming no part of it,...wholly unlike customary rule." Later "a vast and miscellaneous mass of customary law was broken up and replaced by new institutions" of the state by the Roman Empire (Ethnological Notebooks of Karl Marx, p. 335).

As far as I can tell, the objection to laws under

communism is based on the idea that something is a law only if it is enforced by a powerful state apparatus. This implies that a law cannot be made and enforced by the party, although some people who say this expect the party to enforce something, which they call principles instead of laws.

The *Red Flag* article asked several questions about laws under communism. One is how police, courts and jails would be different under communism than under capitalism. Another is whether formal systems of law undermine the political struggle to mobilize the masses for communism.

I think that laws do not contradict mass mobilization for communism. Some laws are enforced best by mass mobilization. If we find ourselves in very difficult circumstances, it may be necessary to pass laws about rationing, say, food or gas. Certainly the best way to enforce such a law is by mass mobilization, where many people will comply willingly, and will see to it that others comply even if they aren't willing.

The drug trade might be suppressed in a neighborhood by the local party organization leading raids on drug houses. But something has to be done with any dealers who survive the raids, which means trials and jails.

If the identity of a criminal is known, many people can be involved in catching him or her. To collect evidence and track down unknown criminals, however, requires people whose job is investigation and who are trained for it.

Under capitalism, investigators are cops, so they are recruited and trained to have contempt for workers and push them around. Communist investigators would be recruited and trained on the opposite basis. We might decide that only workers recommended by their party unit would be sent for investigator training. Service could be limited to, say, 5 years, or extended only if many people from their community vouch for them.

Serious punishment shouldn't be handed out without an objective determination of guilt that most people will accept as valid. So trials are needed, but that doesn't mean procedures have to be complex, or require professional lawyers or judges with arbitrary powers. Juries of workers, selected because many people respect their judgment, can make good decisions if they have solid evidence to work with.

Broad political principles define our outlook and methods for constructing communist society. Mass mobilization is our main approach for doing this. But creating communist laws and effective and fair ways to enforce them is important in the fight to achieve and maintain communism. When the mass communist party replaces the capitalist state, workers will expect us to see to it that the people who commit crimes against workers are punished. If we don't do this right, we will undermine confidence in our ability to run society and put our principles into practice.

Red Reader

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### Boss-Union Attacks Increase Comrade's Commitment to ICWP

Mexico—I'm writing my first letter for *Red Flag*, telling you all one of many experiences I've had as a worker. A few days ago the bosses of a textile factory fired some women and men workers. It made me really angry, since the way they did it was really unfair. They always think about their own well being as bosses without taking into account the needs of us workers. We're confident that we have a secure job and from one day to the next, with their hands in their hips, they tell you, "Thank you very much, we're sorry but the truth is that sales are down so we have to make cuts in the number of workers." They don't think about leaving 60 people without work, the majority single mothers who don't depend on anyone else to pay for the expenses of the children, food, education, or sicknesses.

Supposedly they have a union, but it's worthless. The day that they were fired, the workers came to work and in their cards to punch in they found a notice: "Please come to the office of Human Resources tomorrow at 8 am, Sincerely, Union and Human Resources."

In general when you start working, they make you sign a blank piece of paper. This is your voluntary resignation. Both the union and the bosses wash their hands, saying, "Ok, you resigned. We're not firing you."

This has given me more conviction to keep organizing our Party, ICWP, in the factories and schools. Little by little, I'm learning how the capitalist system works and how it kills us. Every time I see more the need to destroy it and fight for our future and that of our children.

In the past, I've helped distribute *Red Flag* in the schools and factories. Today I have more motivation to do it. My confidence and the need for communist revolution grow day by day in me.

--Comrade Worker

### They Own the Law and the Courts

A friend was one of a handful of people walking quietly with an "Occupy" banner down the street. A cop stopped them to as if they "understood the laws of engagement" and asked for the "leader." My friend reports:

"I said that we all are. Our policy is not to have a police liaison. All of our activities are posted openly on our website. I was really angry.

"Later I figured out what made me so angry: The cop said that she was just doing her job, but that job is to put us in check. I should have said, "You are only doing your job, upholding the law, and you think you are being 'neutral,' but the laws in this country protect property over people, the rich over the rest of us. So by doing your job, upholding the law, you will be protecting them, you will be on their side, not ours. You will not be neutral.

"What are you doing to stop the banks from destroying our economy, from foreclosing on homeowners? What are you doing to stop the corporations from taking over the country? NOTHING! And do you know why? Because THE LAW does not allow you to do anything. It only tells you to put us in check, to make sure that we don't cross the line onto corporate property. The law tells you to protect them as they rob us blind, as the plunder the common wealth of our society. They own the law and the courts, so by upholding the law you fight for them against us!

"That is why you stopped us tonight--to put us in

check!!!

You are one of us, the 99%, but you work for them."

That's what I should have said. Maybe it would have made her think twice before merely obeying orders....or maybe not, but at least it would help me keep my eyes wide open to the reality that we are up against."

—*Red Flag* reader

### Student Refuses to be Motivated by Money, Speaks up for Communism.

I walked into my fifth period class like any other day, expecting the teacher to give us an assignment. We were told to copy some notes. As soon as we were done, he started his lecture of the day. "Every single one of you in this class needs to graduate and go to college to do what you guys are determined to do; work for this system" he said. He continued, "Work to make money because you CAN NOT have a living without it. You need money to eat and to have a home."

As I heard his words I thought to myself, is this really what I want to do? Do I really want my life to be commanded by the need of money? Hell NO I don't. So I decided to speak up.

I interrupted him and said, "That's what the system wants us to do."

When he heard this, he looked shocked and then replied "You sound like someone I've heard before, but please continue. Explain to me what does the system wants us to do." He seemed curious to hear my response.

I replied, "Well half the things in here are built by us, the working class." I should have said, "Everything in here is made by the working class!"

He interrupted, asking "And?"

I said, "Hold on, you didn't let me finish. The bosses want us to work for them because they profit from what we build and all that we do. You will

never see or hear a rich man or a boss building something or doing something good for the working class. Now if we would and we will have a communist world, we won't have to worry about money or about bosses. We would all be equal, no one better than others. No one will be showing off what they can have and what others can't because it won't be that way no more."

After this the teacher smiled and said, "I personally don't like communist people but you have earned my respect because you explained it and made your point clear so therefore I respect you."

Now, I think to myself that I'm happy I got a chance to have this talk in the middle of the class with him because the whole class was listening to me, the whole class heard what we need to do and that is bring communism in. This experience has given me courage to distribute *Red Flag* to the students in my class, which I promise to do.

A High School Communist

### Who are our real enemies? Who are our real friends?

Workers mobilizing massively worldwide are refusing to live in the old way. But many don't understand that all the evils they oppose are manifestations of the same brutal, bloody capitalist system.

They don't yet see that we belong to a class of people who must work to survive and that there is

another class that owns the factories and ports we work in, the buses we drive and/or ride in, the schools, and everything else. Workers everywhere have the same interest in fighting to end the system that creates our misery and exploitation. We have the need and the power to build a new communist system in which our labor produces directly for the needs of our class.

Understanding this, workers and youth begin to see more clearly who our real enemies and friends are. The Occupy Movement has popularized the idea of the "99%" and "1%". But that's not a real class analysis. We communists explain that our enemy is the ruling capitalist class and their capitalist system.

The Occupy Movement argues over whether the police are part of the "99%". Some say they are also wage slaves. But most agree with us that the police protect the interests of the ruling class by threatening, jailing, attacking, and killing us.

LAPD Chief Beck and the media portray LAPD as "professional" compared to the orchestrated police violence elsewhere. The same ruling class-owned media attack the occupiers as "unclear" of what they want. But they can't hide the true racist nature of the LAPD and all other cops under capitalism.

Our class must learn to identify our true aims and our true friends! Our aim must be to destroy the capitalist system, through armed revolution, so we can build the communist system we need. Our key friends are industrial workers, who produce everything. Students are important. Soldiers are also vital.

Revolutionary soldiers played a key role in the Paris Commune, Russian, and Chinese Revolutions, by arming and guiding their class brothers and sisters in the fight for workers' power. Many in the Occupy Movement are negative about military personnel. Instead they should criticize the bosses who send them to kill and die fighting their working-class brethren.

Most soldiers enlist because they need a job or money for school. Because they are sent all over the world to fight for the bosses' interests, not their own, and because they have weapons, we need to flood the military ranks with communist fighters who will mobilize their fellow soldiers to turn the guns around on those putting them in harm's way to attack other workers.

If we see that capitalism has nothing to offer us but misery and a slow death, we know we must destroy it. To do this, many need to join the industrial and military working class and mobilize these sectors for communist revolution. We have been taught to "get educated" to avoid such occupations, but that's where the power is to win the fight for a new world where workers run everything collectively for our own interests.

—LA Red



## Miners' Strikes in Africa and South America Show:

# SHARPENING COMPETITION BETWEEN US AND CHINESE IMPERIALISTS

Striking miners at Shougang Hierro in Peru and Chambishi Copper in Zambia know for certain what some academics and armchair Marxists are still debating: China is an imperialist country that has penetrated Africa and Latin America. China's economy is booming on the backs of Chinese workers, including the coal miners who die at an average rate of six miners per day, thousands of whom have been on strike against their exploitation this year alone. The profits that the Chinese ruling class sucks from their labor have been invested, among other things, in mines where they exploit Zambian and Peruvian miners also.



### "Casual" Workers in Zambia Walk Out

Chinese-owned companies have invested at least \$2 billion in Zambia in the past few years, creating about 20,000 jobs. The majority of these jobs are in the mines, where most workers, although they may have been working there for decades, are considered casual laborers. They earn from \$70-\$100 a month and pay \$20 for the rental of a mud hut.

Thousands of Zambian miners went on strike for higher wages and safer working conditions in October. At least 1,000 workers at Chinese-owned Chambishi Copper Mines were fired for participating in the strike. This is only the latest in sharp attacks on Zambian miners by their Chinese bosses. In 2010, at least 13 Zambian coal miners were shot by their Chinese managers at

the Collumn Coal Mine. No one has been prosecuted for this crime.

Human Rights Watch (HRW) released in November a report on the conditions of Zambian workers in the Chinese-run copper mines. "Sometimes when you find yourself in a dangerous position, they tell you to go ahead with the work," said one miner. "They just consider production, not safety. If someone dies, he can be replaced tomorrow. And if you report the problem, you'll lose your job." This sounds like a quote from a worker at the Massey Energy Company, responsible for the Upper Big Branch Mine, West Virginia, USA, disaster of April, 2010, where 29 miners died in an explosion in a coal mine.

Newly elected Zambian President Michael Sata ran on a populist message that included criticism of foreign investors. Sata had historically been virulently against the Chinese presence in Zambia, although he toned down his rhetoric during his most recent campaign. Once in office, he helped negotiate a wage increase for the Chambishi miners, accommodating himself to the Chinese bosses.

HRW, while it cried crocodile tears for the Zambian employees of Chinese firms, has nothing to say about the working conditions in the mines owned by South African, Australian or other companies. As we have pointed out in Red Flag (Vol 2 No 21), HRW is an arm of the US foreign policy establishment; their concern is for the US's decline vis a vis China, not the wellbeing of the workers.

### Peruvian Miners in Struggle

China has billions of dollars of investments in South America as well. One of these is the Shougang Hierro Marcona iron mine, owned by China's state-run steel maker Shougang Group. The conditions there are dangerous as well, with 450 accidents in 2005, including 22 that left workers disabled. Wages are the lowest in Peru's

mining industry, but profits have doubled in the last ten years.

1134 workers at Shougang's Marcona mine went on strike last August, seeking higher pay. Seeking the intervention of the newly elected government of Ollanta Humala, they have been forced back to work while their demands are being negotiated.

An August, 2010, article in the *NY Times* quoted a Marcona union official: "When the Chinese arrived, they talked about things like solidarity and the equality of man. If this is the brotherhood they praise, then one day sooner or later, the Chinese must be made to leave." The *NY Times* is no defender of solidarity and the equality of man either. The *Times*, US bosses' mouthpiece, is engaged in the same kind of propaganda campaign as HRW, building support for their US imperialist masters in their next war with China.



The international working class has no stake in this fight. As the miners in Zambia and Peru know, there is no lesser-evil imperialist. As the competition between the US bosses and their Chinese rivals intensifies, WWII is inevitable. As we build ICWP and spread Red Flag to factories and barracks around the world, workers can be won to fight, not for one imperialist or the other, but for our own class, turning imperialist war into a revolutionary war for communism.

## GARMENT WORKERS MUST ORGANIZE RED FLAG NETWORKS IN THE FACE OF BOSSES' ATTACKS

Los Angeles, Ca.—Recently the owner of New Fashion garment factory met with the over 100 men and women garment workers in the factory and told them, "We're in a crisis and we're going to close, unless the workers make more of an effort, produce more and don't waste time." Then she continued saying, "I don't care about firing anybody, even those who've worked here the longest. Those who don't work fast enough will be fired..." In a joking tone she referred to a worker who had worked for the company for 35 years... "Look at this worker, she can barely move, with effort she can walk. What can we ask of her, except to produce more?"

Many workers were very mad and in murmurs they insulted the boss. Others also felt impotent in the face of the attack, since because of the lack of organization and unity there wasn't a massive and immediate answer to these insults. We should have responded with a political strike and forced the owner to apologize, showing the others the role of exploitation and the need to end it with a communist revolution. Strikes where we stop production are what hurt the bosses the most because they stop the flow of their profits.

The threat has become a reality. Little by little they've been laying off workers, especially the older workers, and replacing them with young workers. Those who are left have been subjected

to more pressure to get out more production for less money. However, some have seen this bitter experience as an urgent call to build groups of *Red Flag* readers to continue the struggle, whether it's in this factory or in any other one.

The bosses and their system are cruel exploiters and murderers. Many of these laid off workers were those who helped with the strength and power of their labor to build the empire of this company, which has workers here and in Aguas Calientes, Mexico, with annual sales of several tens of millions of dollars.

During the meeting the boss said, "If you think that you're going to sue me in court, I want to tell you that I have five good lawyers, and you'll only be wasting your time."

The laws and courts are weapons of the bosses. Our goal can't be to try to beat them with their own laws. Instead we should organize together with other industrial workers, soldiers, and students in a mass communist movement that puts an end once and for all to this cursed capitalist system that can't meet workers' needs. We need to build a new society without bosses, or exploitation, a communist society where we workers will no longer be slaves, but instead free workers producing and distributing according to our needs.



ICWP has published our manifesto *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*. It's 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.

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