

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

Hundreds of thousands protest against government in Uoagadougou, Burkina Faso
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Learning to be communists

LOS ANGELES HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS MARCH IN SOLIDARITY WITH STUDENTS IN GUERRERO

LOS ANGELES, November 12—As we reported in the last edition, the student collective at George Washington Preparatory High School wrote a petition of communist solidarity with the students in Iguala, Guerrero, Mexico. “Our goal is to abolish the capitalist systems and to put into place a communist system...it will be a society where everyone works according to their ability and everyone receives according to their needs... the only solution to all of this is to organize ourselves for a communist revolution, here and there...” said the petition in part.

The comrades had planned to circulate the petition, but the collective let events in the school get ahead of them. On Thursday, November 6, students walked out in solidarity with the students in Iguala. They carried a banner saying “They took them alive; we want them back alive! We are Iguala! 43!” and signs that said, “I am Iguala!” “No borders, no police, no problem!” and “Abolish Capitalist Governments!” Many wore shirts with the number 43 and “I am Iguala.”

Students shouted, “Forty-three! Let them free! Iguala! Iguala! Iguala!” and “What do we want? Justice! When? Now!” Several latino students and one African American young woman helped to lead the chants.

Their chants could be heard inside the school. They marched around the school, and when they got back to the front, the school authorities forced almost 80 of them into the school auditorium.

There they insulted them and threatened them with expulsion and deportation.

“When I heard that,” said Edwin, “I went up on stage and took off my shirt and held it up to one of them so he could see it better. It made me want to fight more.”

“The administrators were saying that we didn’t know why we were protesting and that it was a waste of time,” said Ana. “They told us that next time we have a protest to let them know before hand. But we know that we can’t trust them. We also shouldn’t be afraid of them.”

Several students went up on stage, defying the administrators and speaking to the other students. “Mr. Partida, the administrator who threatened us with deportation, turned the protest into an assembly,” said Lisa. “That gave me a chance to say that we’re students, just like them. This could happen to us. Their struggle is our struggle. Their pain is our pain.”

Later, some students met on the stairs inside the school to make plans. The next morning the students repeated the protest march. “The principal tried to convince us that there were other ways to do what we wanted to do without protesting, that this wouldn’t help us at all,” added Alicia.

This time, after the students circled the school, they were forced to come back through the front door. With their white shirts, signs and banner, and with their fists held high, they walked in

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MEXICO: MASSES REBEL AGAINST STATE-SPONSORED TERRORISM

MEXICO—On November 7, the Attorney General reported that, according to official investigations, the disappeared students from Ayotzinapa, Guerrero, were killed and incinerated. The students’ parents don’t accept this. They demand evidence. They accuse the Attorney General and the federal government of negligence in the investigations.

The international working class has repudiated these acts. Workers and students in South Africa and Los Angeles have sent messages of communist solidarity. There have also been marches, vigils and YouTube videos in Turkey, Greece, Iran, India, Honduras, Ecuador, Palestinian refugee camps, and many other places.

In Iguala, in Guerrero, and in Mexico City, angry masses have burned government buildings, including the front door of the National Palace in the Zócalo (main plaza) in Mexico City. The masses are showing their rage against capitalism.

Capitalist Governments Are the Biggest Terrorists

The majority in these protests see the disappearances as a State crime. They see the collusion between the criminals and the government, not just in Iguala where it is obvious, but at all levels of the government. It involves all the bourgeois Parties, the banks, etc. There is an open fight over the thriving drug business.

Some see clearly that the goal of the regime is to use drug trafficking and the “war against drugs” to control and suppress the population. They are militarizing the whole territory, jailing

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Mexico City



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**THIS IS A
THREE
WEEK
ISSUE**

South Africa:

COMMUNIST CONFERENCE OPENS EYES AND POSSIBILITIES

“Those were the best two weeks of my life,” said a young comrade. He spoke for everyone who attended the recent communist school in South Africa.

“It has opened my eyes. Now I cannot go back to the old ways, I am an organizer for ICWP for life,” said another.

A third comrade, beaming confidently, said, “It is a choice between capitalist mass murderers who are planning world war, or a communist society led by our Party. We will win the working class to our side.”

We must use this experience to advance our Party everywhere to a new level with confidence and urgency.

Learning Communist Theory

A comrade generously opened his house to us. As we did not have enough chairs, we sat round a circle on old paint buckets and bricks.

We began by discussing *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*. This document describes the strengths and weaknesses of past revolutions to overthrow capitalism. We identified the need to build for communist revolution. We recognized that to mobilize the masses for communism requires vigorous struggle against revisionism and the poison of nationalism.

Then we spent two days of intense study on communist dialectical materialism, using our Party’s new DVD presentation. Comrades learned how contradictions develop and how they are resolved, how new things emerge from old, universal aspects of laws of development. We integrated this learning concretely by putting it into practice to build and struggle for communism.

Lastly we studied communist political economy. The key is how capitalist bosses exploit the working class by stealing as profit most of the value our labor produces. Fierce competition among capitalists drives them to maximize profit. They use most of this to upgrade factory machinery. As they replace workers with machines, their rate of profit declines.

The bosses attempt to reverse this decline by exploiting workers more. They use racism, sexism and nationalism to divide and super-exploit large sections of workers, especially non-white and immigrant workers. Capitalism is a crisis-ridden system that leads to imperialist wars. This internal contradiction can only be resolved by our Party leading the masses to communist revolution.

Putting Theory into Practice

Every day we visited workers, distributing the *Red Flag* and other literature, and we visited an auto factory. Comrades learned that practice is primary. It deepens our understanding of theory.

We encountered strong nationalism among honest workers. The African National Congress and others have used the fact of centuries of racist super-exploitation of black workers to build nationalism to divide the working class. Our comrades vigorously attacked this nationalism whenever it surfaced. They were resolute and fearless in advancing communist internationalism.

A comrade who is a mass organizer was sharply criticized for nationalist tendencies. The new ICWP comrades who led this ideological battle were never personal. They clearly and fearlessly

advanced our understanding that we can only eradicate racism by replacing capitalism with communism. The comrade mass organizer concluded, “I’m still and will remain for the communist cause until capitalism is abolished in our revolution.”

Nationalism portrays black workers in South Africa as victims. A comrade proudly replied, “I am not a victim, I am a revolutionary. I stand shoulder to shoulder with black, white and coloured workers.”

Ideological struggles like these led many workers to join ICWP. This included some who had been attracted to nationalism and realized they were wrong. Many more are thinking seriously about joining.

Communism Can Win

The old communist movement did not believe that workers can be mobilized directly for communist revolution. But the comrades who struggled have emerged as confident communist mass organizers. They are proving that communism is possible. As one comrade said, “the bosses are sitting on a thin ideological shell.”

We ended two weeks of activities with a lively braai party (BBQ). It started in the afternoon and lasted past midnight. Comrades worked hard to organize for it and cook a delicious meal. Over 45 workers came. A group of students expressed willingness to spread revolutionary ideas. More intense ideological struggle against nationalism won many to see that “communist revolution is the only solution and ICWP is the only Party that can do it,” as many workers declared.

Criticism and Self-Criticism Advance Communist Struggle

The ICWP leadership in South Africa met to critically assess our work and how we can advance it. We all agreed that we learned a lot and gained confidence that we are able to mobilize the masses. This revolutionary process, as a comrade said, “exposed our weaknesses and showed that we have lot of work to do.”

Our deepening commitment was made real by a comrade who makes very little money and sometimes has to go to bed hungry. He said that he would financially guarantee the transportation of the comrades to attend ICWP meetings. This is just one example of how our intense struggle has created communist relationships among us of the kind that the bosses fear most.

As the leadership meeting ended, we got a message from a new comrade: “I have lined up three teachers who want to know about ICWP.”

“We are unstoppable and we will overcome every obstacle,” the comrades concluded.

Take These Lessons to Build ICWP Everywhere

The experience of struggle in South Africa to build ICWP has changed our lives. A young comrade said, “I don’t have a life separate from struggle. I breathe communism, talk about it and put it in practice every moment.”

Comrades, friends, and *Red Flag* readers everywhere must critically assess the strengths and weaknesses of our Party. We, too, must find more ways to build communist relationships, to grow, and to deepen our commitment in practice.

Forward to Communism! Forward!

Inspired to Struggle

We are profoundly inspired by the growth of the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP) among industrial workers and youth in South Africa. A year ago, this work did not yet exist. Now we have so much to learn from it!

We hope that the articles and letters from South Africa in this issue of *Red Flag* will lead you to share the paper with many co-workers, friends, classmates, neighbors, and relatives. Let us know if you need more copies, or if you can help distribute the paper outside workplaces or schools.

Equally important, many more of us must join our comrades in South Africa in the revolutionary practice of criticism and self-criticism to advance the struggle.

What do you see as the strengths and the weaknesses of *Red Flag*? Of the Party’s work as described in its pages? Whether you’re a Party member or a casual reader, we need to know your opinions.

We ask Party members and friends who are doing communist work, even in a small way, to ask yourselves some hard questions:

How is your situation like the one described in South Africa, and how is it different?

Is our work reaching the limits of the possible in your area? What must we do more, or better, to reach and smash those limits?

Can you get more papers to co-workers or friends? Organize meetings or social events with them?

What can we do to deepen and extend relationships within and beyond the Party?

Can you contribute more time, or money, or both? Can you get others to contribute, too?

What do we most urgently need to study and write about?

What else do we need to do?

We look forward to your letters and articles on these and other topics.

Red Flag editorial collective



The ICWP manifesto, *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*, is available in English and Spanish. Order your copy or copies at the address below. Please send donations for the costs of printing and mailing. We ask for your suggestions and criticism.



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BOEING: NO MORE GAMES OF MUSICAL CHAIRS MOBILIZE FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

SEATTLE, WA — IAM Local C ousted its current president in October. The past president John Lopez, along with a new slate of administrative candidates, won in what has been nicknamed “a game of musical chairs.”

Local C is one of four union locals that make up IAM District 751, the Boeing’s blue-collar union in the Seattle area. Each Local contains employees with particular job titles.

Under communism, Local C will not exist because workers will not be divided by the jobs they do. Machinists will be engineers; everyone will take turns performing multiple tasks in the factory. We will end the chasm between mental and manual labor.

Lopez attacked the losing candidate who stood next to Boeing Commercial Airplanes boss Ray Conner at the August ground breaking ceremony for the new 777X wing plant in Everett.

In a short speech that day, the losing local president said that although he hadn’t supported the contract extension narrowly passed in January, the union had to live with the outcome and move on.

The contract extension set up a de facto no-strike regime until 2024. It eliminated defined pensions and attacked a whole new generation of workers.

All That Glitters Is Not Gold

Lopez put on a more militant front, but union elections and changes in union leadership do not negate the laws of capitalism. The International, the company, and the federal and state government all plotted to railroad this contract extension through.

The inevitable crisis of overproduction when

China’s commercial jet production comes on line in the next decade forced their hand. Too many manufacturers will be chasing too few customers, forcing prices down below what it currently costs to produce jets.

Commercial Airplanes Chief Ray Conner admitted that the order backlog is made up of planes sold at prices 50% cheaper than it costs the company to produce them. Boeing had to sew up orders before the Chinese start producing commercial jets.

“We no longer can get a premium for our reputation and quality,” he admitted. “It’s all about cost.”(Read: attacking the workers.)

Don’t Tell Us What We Already Know, Tell Us If Communism Will Work

Local C has nearly 6,000 members. Only 800+ voted. Most who voted were appointed shop stewards and paid union bureaucrats. An even lower percent voted in the District president elections some months back.

The trade union idea of fighting for a fair share under this capitalist crisis becomes more and more irrelevant. That’s what Boeing union members are telling us with such low election turnouts.

While the union tries futilely to convince us it is still relevant, about a dozen Boeing workers have attended ICWP’s bi-monthly expanded meetings. We discuss how communism can fundamentally change society and our lives (see Ebola discussion, page 6).

Crises of overproduction will become an historical relic when we produce for our needs, not for the bosses’ profits.

Production for need will allow us to re-design factories into educational and cultural centers. We

won’t allow the world’s billion industrial workers to waste their human potential slaving away for the capitalist’s profit.

The battle against international Capital will no longer be hamstrung by capitalist illusions embodied in trade unionism. So not only will Local C no longer exist, but also the whole union apparatus will no longer hamper our struggle.

Decisions will not rely on elections and the palace politics that accompany them. The working class will decide based on consensus arising out of mass political struggle initiated by our Party.

Mobilizing the masses for communism means the end of exploitation for profit, hence no contracts to define that exploitation.

Rather than dwell on the futile voting game, we need to mobilize masses for communist revolution.



“Restorative Justice” is a Capitalist Ploy

COMMUNISM FIGHTS TO MEET NEEDS, NOT TO ENFORCE LAWS

There was famine in northern China in 1960. Drought shriveled grain in the fields. Rural laborers barely survived on wild herbs and tree leaves, or died.

But in the village of Dazhai, fields were green and crops flourished. The collective mobilization of labor, on communist principles, had improved and irrigated the land. Gates and windows in Dazhai were not locked, as theft was virtually unknown.

Ears of corn began disappearing from fields. One night, harvest guards caught two thieves from neighboring counties. When they brought the prisoners to Brigade offices, the Party secretary Chen Yonggui stepped in.

“Have you eaten?” he asked the prisoners, to the dismay of the guards who were ready to beat them. “Why did you steal our corn?”

“I couldn’t stand the hunger,” one replied.

Chen Yonggui had food brought to them. He dug into his pockets and gave them a few coins and grain ration coupons. A prisoner protested, “I stole, Secretary, you should punish me.”

“This is a new society,” Chen replied. “Our people are hard put, so what kind of argument would I use to justify that I should live and you should die? When you guys get back home, I wish you would try to find a way to deal with natural disasters.”

Many Dazhai people were angry. Chen organized a meeting of key leaders and explained his thinking: “We’d be committing a crime if we didn’t save [people] when we see them dying. And for the price of a meal you get the chance to teach them.”

During the Cultural Revolution, Chen Yonggui and Dazhai were celebrated for their successful

mobilization of production. Their bigger contributions, conscious efforts to build communist social relations, were overlooked. These efforts were hobbled by the socialist policies of the Chinese Communist Party. And by 1980, Chen Yonggui and Dazhai were attacked as the Party moved openly to consolidate capitalism.

The story of the thieves is a great example of what we can learn from Chen Yonggui’s early efforts to mobilize masses for communism. It turns upside-down the ideas of “justice” we’ve all been taught in capitalist society. Instead of enforcing laws, he fought to meet everyone’s needs.

It’s in this context that we should view the new City of Los Angeles Restorative Justice project. The City Attorney is setting up “neighborhood courts” in South LA and Van Nuys to use “trained community members” to handle misdemeanors like graffiti. If an individual takes responsibility for an alleged violation, the court would quickly decide how he or she can “make it up to the community,” for example by repainting the wall. The individual would not face criminal charges. That could help the bosses unclog their courts and jails on the cheap.

More important, LA rulers are trying to win workers to the fascist idea of helping to enforce capitalism’s property-protection laws against

their neighbors.

The individual will supposedly receive social services like job training. But capitalism cannot provide meaningful work even for those with “jobs.” It can’t provide constructive outlets for the energy and creativity of our youth. It can’t guarantee everyone the basics of nutritious food, adequate shelter, and a healthy environment, even as McMansions spring up and upscale restaurants flourish.

As Chen Yonggui said, isn’t that a crime?

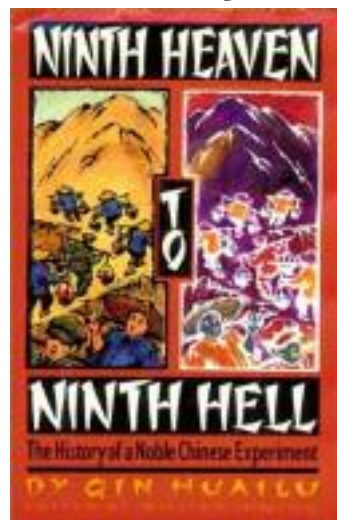
The LA neighborhood courts are supposed to handle “quality of life” issues. But will slumlords or sweatshop owners be hauled into these courts to make amends for racist exploitation?

If you make a mess, you should help clean it up if you can. And the idea of “justice” as “restorative” (making amends) instead of punitive (getting even) certainly seems attractive.

But it’s still the opposite of the communist approach to the corn thieves. They were not made to labor in the fields. Instead, their motives were investigated, their immediate needs were met, and they were encouraged to take leadership in the future.

When we envision communist society, we shouldn’t have the illusion that anti-social behavior will disappear right away. But we shouldn’t plan to carry over capitalist notions of “laws” or “justice” either. Instead, we should engage in a broad discussion now about how to turn episodes of anti-social behavior into opportunities to mobilize the masses for communism.

Ninth Heaven to Ninth Hell: The History of a Noble Chinese Experiment (1995), by Qin Juailu, edited by William Hinton. Pp. 148-152



SOUTH AFRICAN AUTO WORKER WELCOMES RED FLAG

It was an unusually cold, windy Sunday in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. As it happens rarely, the monthly pay day for the workers happened to fall on the first weekend of the month. The workers were very busy getting all their necessities for the month and it was very difficult to have our regular meeting. Ever energetic and quick to adapt to challenge and last minute changes, comrade John of ICWP suggested we meet his friend Charles, an autoworker who works for GM.

We arrived at Charles' home in the afternoon. He lives in a modest home with his two young daughters and wife. He has worked for GM for 8 years and has seen hard times when he was without work for over a year. GM discontinued production of the Hummer and so the big guy and his family had to struggle.

Charles invited us into his home with warmth. As soon as we sat down in the living room, he

wasted no time. Because of comrade John's efforts, Charles is familiar with *Red Flag* and has talked to his fellow auto workers about ICWP. "How are you going to succeed? The Soviets and Chinese revolutions failed." Immediately after posing this all-familiar doubt, he partially answered his own question by saying, "It is going to be a very difficult task."

Indeed, it is, it will be. But is it impossible? We talked about how difficult it is to build a car. Charles and millions like him around the world take on this difficult task every day and their hard, difficult work is transformed into profit for the capitalist class.

A comrade who had participated in the communist school a few days earlier said, "Revolution is like building a car. If, in the process of building a car, you think it is difficult and give up, the car is never going to be built. To build for

revolution you have to learn from the past mistakes and be patient and persistent about building our movement that will eliminate money." We talked about the four articles in *Red Flag* about the auto industry -- "We make cars, they make profit."

Comrade Charles told us about corrupt, capitalist NUMSA and how workers don't trust them. Where does it leave the workers? It is a choice between pro-capitalist NUMSA or ICWP. "Come to my house next Sunday," says Charles. "I will invite some co-workers who are mad as hell with capitalism and NUMSA." Mobilizing the masses for communism is taking deep roots.

The most experienced member of ICWP in South Africa said, "We are crawling here and soon we will take baby steps, we will learn to walk and then we will run. There is no going back."



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chanting. For several minutes they stayed.

How can we put communism on the agenda?

During those days there were wide discussions all over the school. A young teacher asked another at their break, "Why don't they do something about a local or community issue?" The second replied, "I think it's good that these young people are developing an internationalist consciousness."

On one hand, this protest march of solidarity was the first one that these students had organized. Many took tremendous leadership. Each one took responsibility for different things.

Although there were anti-capitalist signs in the protest, there weren't any signs that were openly communist. The Party club didn't meet to guarantee communist signs or chants. The day before more than sixty *Red Flags* were distributed out-

side the school, but the club failed to guarantee the distribution of *Red Flag* in the protest. In order for these young people to develop as communist leaders, the Party must put more effort into carrying out more collective and more communist political work.

We have started to correct these errors. The club has met to discuss how to avoid the reformist mistake that capitalism can be improved—that there is something called "justice" that capitalism can provide in Guerrero or anywhere else. We need to emphasize with our fellow students and teachers that capitalism is guilty for the crimes of Iguala. As long as capitalism exists, these crimes against the working class will continue—we need to fight for communism.

AYOTZINAPA from page 1

thousands of youth, and killing political opponents. The killings of immigrants in San Fernando, Tamaulipas and of the supposed criminals in Tlatlaya, and the disappearance of the Normal school students, are to overwhelm and terrorize the whole working class.

The displacement of the rural population to the cities creates "informal" sellers for the drug corporations. Many who stay in rural areas feel forced by poverty to become cultivators and transporters of drugs.

The recent reforms in the labor law, education and others open the door to greater exploitation and poverty for the working class by national and international capital. The bosses do not want opposition to their plans of providing wage slaves and natural resources to local and imperialist bosses.

We are tired of being slaves. Let's fight for a new society in which, as free workers, we forge our communist future.

Angry Masses Need Communism, Not Reformism

As the International Communist Workers' Party we have distributed *Red Flag* and our man-

ifesto *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* in the marches in October and November. We have had political discussions with workers and students in the classrooms about the need to destroy this system and build a society based on producing to meet the needs of the international working class and not for profit.

However, the revisionists (fake communists) and the anarchists control the protests. They focus them on the removal of President Peña Nieto, if possible, once the Governor has resigned. Some have scheduled a National Popular Assembly in Ayotzinapa with the plan to advance toward a "new constituency" and a "new constitution." They talk about "people's power."

We don't need to change the hangman or have a new constitution based on exploitation and private property. What we need is to eliminate this capitalist system and build a new system based on workers' communist power.

Liberals are channeling protests toward "a democratic peoples' state" for the recovery of sovereignty. Against privatization they demand that companies return to being part of the capitalist State. They lead the rebellious normal students to chant, "For a free and sovereign nation!"

Working people have no nation, and not borders. Under capitalism we are always wage-slaves.

Students demand "free public popular education," believing that they are opposing the corporations. But even if education were free and "popular" it will only help to keep alive the murderous capitalist system. The students, future workers, soldiers or teachers, are only trained to produce the bosses' profits and promote their ideology. In a communist society, education and work will be based on producing to meet the needs of the working class.

Kofi Annan and several ex-Presidents worldwide have produced a report for the United Nations asking for the legalization of drugs, seeking to lessen the violence that its trade brings. Reforming capitalism is their agenda.

The working class doesn't need to reform capitalism. It doesn't need democracy. The working class needs to organize into one communist Party worldwide, the ICWP.

We will avenge the murder of the students and workers in Mexico, El Salvador, South Africa and other parts of the world by overthrowing the bourgeoisie and their system of wage slavery, and by building a communist society worldwide. Join us!

U.S. China Climate Deal:

WHEN THE BOSSES TALK OF PEACE, GET YOUR HELMET

Nov. 12—The *New York Times* trumpeted this week's China-US climate deal as a "major" accomplishment of Obama's Asia trip. The article said that Presidents Xi and Obama reached two agreements designed to avert military confrontations in Asia. They agreed also to drop tariffs on information-technology products worth a possible \$1 trillion in trade.

The appearance was of lasting friendship: handshakes, amicable deals, embraces, and toasts. The essence is different.

The article admitted this but downplayed it: "For all the talk of collaboration... they are fierce rivals for global economic primacy. ... A conference of Pacific Rim economies held in Beijing... showcased China's growing dominance of Asia, but also the determination of the United States... to reclaim its historical role as a Pacific power."

The *Times* conceals the fact that the US and China are locked in a deadly struggle for world domination. This is sharpest in Asia Pacific. It will inevitably lead to war, world war, no matter how many agreements the imperialists sign.

That's the nature of the capitalist-imperialist beast. Only a communist revolution can put an end to such a monstrous inhumane system.

US Bosses Can't Compete Economically With China

The US backs the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). This free-trade pact includes 12 Pacific Rim countries. It excludes China and Russia. It is a centerpiece of the US bosses' efforts to increase their economic investment in Asia. They hope to regain their clout in the world's most dynamic economic region.

China backs the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) which Xi proposed at the Asia Pacific Economic Community (APEC) conference. APEC agreed on a two-year study to establish the FTAAP which would eliminate trade barriers across their 21 countries.

Xi emphasized the growing power of China and his vision for building the Silk Road Eco-

nomie Belt and Maritime Silk Road. He pledged \$40 billion to build the infrastructure for these.

He also promised \$1.25 trillion in total outbound investment over the next decade, and \$50 billion for the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. Bloomberg confesses that this bank "will make the World Bank and Asian Development Bank look like archaic vestiges of a bygone geopolitical age."

No "Soft Power" without Economic Power

Obama initiated his "pivot to Asia" in 2011. Its central objective was to rebalance US interests from the Middle East and Europe to Asia Pacific. Since then the US has begun to build closer economic, military, and diplomatic ties with Pacific Rim countries.

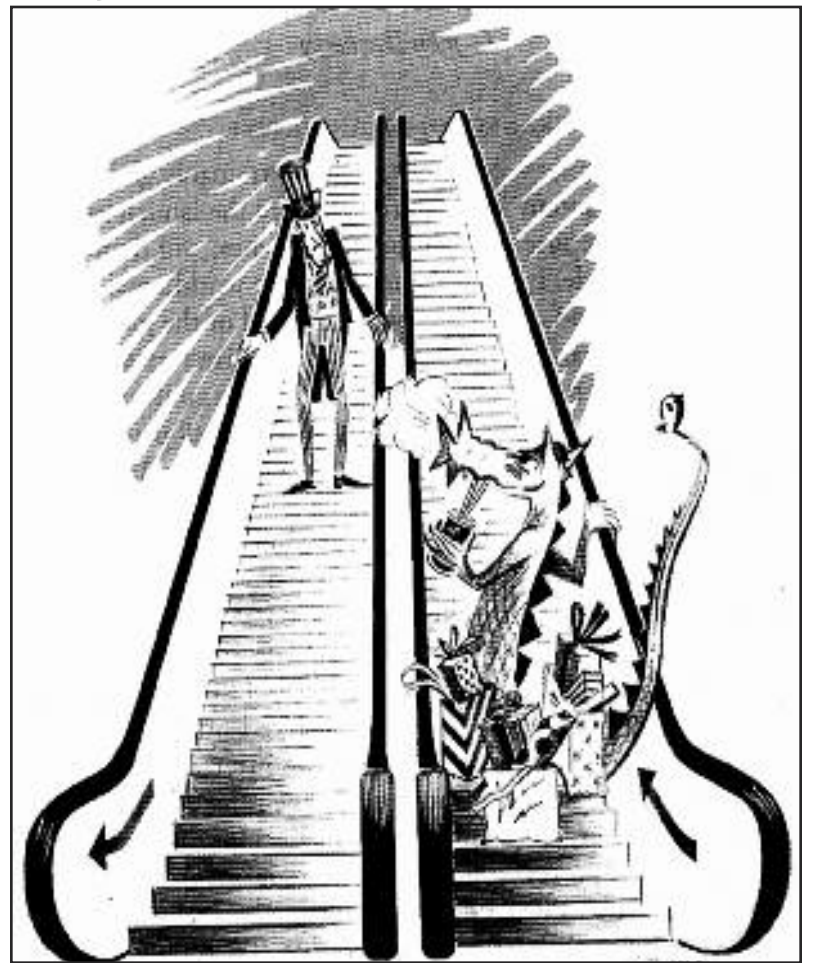
However, the US lacks China's economic power. Its achievements have primarily been regional military alliances, especially with countries which have territorial disputes with China. Currently, more than 250,000 U.S. troops and 200 ships are based in the Pacific. By 2020, 60% of its warships will be there.

The pivot's avowed objective is to contain a rising China. The unspoken truth is that it's to prepare to confront China militarily.

Chinese imperialists not asleep

China's recent energy mega-deals with Russia and other pipelines built over land from Myanmar and Central Asia to China's interior are to bypass the US-controlled Pacific and Indian Ocean sea lanes, especially the Strait of Malacca.

The Silk Road projects are to move the bulk of Chinese trade away from those sea lanes. An added advantage is being able to use bullet trains



Chinese imperialists build nationalism in preparation for war.

While Xi's government prepared to host Obama, Xi praised a young blogger best known for his anti-American vitriol. "This rising anti-western sentiment, bordering on xenophobia, has emanated from the highest levels of the Communist Party," reported the *Times*.

Chinese bosses hope this nationalism will distract Chinese workers from class struggle. They need to win them to fight for their empire.

Less than 50 years ago, masses of urban and rural Chinese workers, soldiers and youth mobilized to fight for communism. Their fatal errors allowed the red bourgeoisie of the Chinese "Communist" Party to defeat that heroic movement and become the imperialists they are today.

We have learned from their victories and their mistakes. Today the International Communist Workers' Party fights directly for communism. We need to win Chinese workers to join ICWP and renew this struggle at a higher level.



to mobilize whole armies over long distances quickly.

November 9 – Thousands of Arab Israelis protested Saturday against the Israeli police murder of a 22-year-old Arab Israeli man in Kfar Kana. The man had assaulted a police car but retreated before the cops started shooting. Protests escalated Sunday (a working day in Israel) with a general strike and demonstrations outside universities and other government buildings. About 20% of Israeli citizens are Arabs. They experience increasingly intense legal and extra-legal racism. Some protesters called for turning this political strike into an "intifada" (uprising). Such an uprising is growing more and more likely. Israeli fascism is tightening its grip and masses are rejecting official "leaders" in Israel/Palestine. When political strikes and uprisings begin to raise communist banners, the masses will be on the road to the only lasting solution there and everywhere.

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HAVE YOU HEARD THE NEWS?

SEATTLE, WA — “Every day the news says we should trust the CDC [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] and their smart doctors, and that people are succumbing to irrational fears,” mused a Boeing reader. “The truth is those guys have messed up big time. No wonder people are leery.”

Now that the capitalist media has found the Ebola epidemic, they are busy pushing a racist, pro-boss line. To read the newspapers, you would think the main contradiction is between science—as represented by the Western medical establishment—and ignorant workers’ fears, inflamed by politicians.

Some articles say outright the problem is human (read workers’, especially poor African workers’) behavior. Forget about the preventable epidemic caused by imperialist impoverishment.

“I think it goes beyond just messing up. I think the capitalist medical establishment has blinders on,” answered a comrade. “Take my doctor for instance. We were discussing how the Chinese revolutionaries eliminated schistosomiasis and other plagues on the working class. I asked him if he had heard of the barefoot doctor program.”

“‘Yes, I have,’ my doctor assured me, ‘but you can do things in a totalitarian system that you can’t if you have to take everybody’s opinion into account. You can just issue a decree and everybody has to follow.’”

“Nothing could be further from the truth,” I answered. “Tens of millions mobilized to eliminate epidemics that had plagued humanity since antiquity. A million Chinese became barefoot doctors, bringing healthcare and medical knowl-

edge far and wide.

“And they helped train tens of millions to deliver varied healthcare services. The masses were the force behind this reinvention of healthcare. The political battle between relying on a few experts or the masses raged for over a decade.

“My doctor was shocked. With all his schooling, he had never learned this basic truth. In communism everyone—particularly those involved with healthcare—would have a thorough knowledge of this massive case history.

“He wrote down the title of a book I recommended, *Away With All Pests*. My physician promised to discuss this book the next time I come in. Now I have to find some other excuse to visit the clinic!” concluded our comrade.

ICWP Growth Will Change The Debate

“That’s what worries me,” said the Boeing reader, by way of justifying his hesitancy to join the Party. “Good ideas like the barefoot doctor approach become popular because the old way is so terrible. But then people and institutions become ossified. They become as bad as before.”

“Look at what happened here,” argued our comrade, referring to the *Red Flag* editorial ‘Tens of Millions Opened the Door to Communist Healthcare.’ “Workers didn’t become ‘ossified.’ There was a war going on between capitalist and communist ideology.

“Communist healthcare was eventually defeated by the force of the socialist (i.e. capitalist) state. Millions fought for a communist vision, but were under-

mined by their illusions about socialism and Mao. Even so, they left this legacy for us. We have an obligation to build on that legacy.”

More capitalist epidemics will surely follow if we allow the bosses’ media and medical establishment to define the debate. Capitalist ideology says the masses, especially the African masses, are stupid. They have to be manipulated by the best and the brightest for their own good. Such is the nature of capitalist medicine.

Communist ideology relies on the wisdom and fortitude of the masses. Masses can be both red and expert. That is the nature of communist healthcare.

In general, capitalism says workers aren’t fit to rule. Hence, the bosses build structures and institutions that rely on experts—experts indoctrinated in capitalist schools for decades.

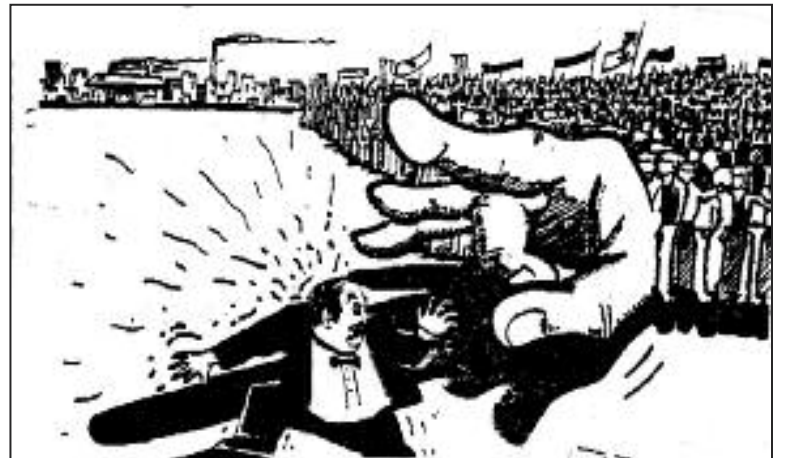
Mobilizing the masses for communism puts the future in the hands of our working-class brothers and sisters. The more workers like our Boeing friend join our Party, the more it will allow us to appeal to our better natures. The sooner we will be able to build the communist world that we need.



The photo above shows nurses in Oakland, CA, marching in solidarity with Dallas nurse Nina Pham and demanding that hospitals take action to protect nurses from Ebola. On Nov. 12 and 13, Kaiser nurses in Oakland and throughout Northern California struck for two days to demand better training and protective gear to care for Ebola patients. Their concern is justified because capitalist healthcare is driven by profit, not by concern for the safety of the working class. They need to join the fight for communism where workers’ health and safety will be society’s main concern.

Read our pamphlet:

**BIGGER
INDUSTRIAL
WORKING CLASS:
BIGGER
COMMUNIST
POTENTIAL
WORLDWIDE**



Available at:

www.icwpredflag.org

CONTRADICTIONS from page 8

The actual history of the USSR and China showed that this picture is fundamentally wrong. In the USSR, the contradictions that existed between the working class and the peasants who sold them food led repeatedly to peasant resistance and sometimes to mass protests. In a grand compromise in the mid-’30s, peasants were organized into collective farms but allowed to keep their private plots and animals and sell their products. This private business constantly interfered with the operation of the collective economy.

More important than the peasant question was the growth of a new class of capitalists consisting of party leaders, factory managers and military officers. A series of internal struggles included

large-scale arrests and executions in the ‘30s, and local rebellions by workers in the ‘50s. By the 1960s, workers’ political power in the USSR had been defeated and replaced by a wealthy “red” bourgeoisie that renounced revolution and advocated “peaceful coexistence” with imperialism, as it became an imperialist power itself.

No Contradictions are “Non-Antagonistic”

Scientific study of how contradictions are resolved, including the analysis of the evidence from class struggle, war, and natural science, etc., leads to the following conclusion:

Contradictions are only resolved or moved toward resolution by intensifying the struggle of their opposite sides, by increasing their negative relationship to each other, eventually destroying

one (or both) sides. The way a contradiction is made more intense depends on the particular processes inside it.

The idea that the contradictions of socialism were “non-antagonistic,” that they could be safely ignored or “managed” out of existence was a disastrous myth. This myth disguised the capitalist nature of socialism and made it seem harmless to keep the wage system, rather than turning to communism. Communist dialectics recognizes that contradictions don’t die out, but are resolved by struggle and intensification, an idea essential for the mass mobilization for communism.

The next article will discuss further how contradictions are intensified.

LETTERS

LETTERS

LETTERS

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

“We are internationalist”

“The Homeland” written by a farmworker without a country touched my heart very deeply. The farmworker in his writing depicts the life experiences of many if not millions of us around the world. I grew up in South Africa under apartheid and we were made to believe that we have a country, a nation to defend and die for. We were made to be patriots as we were growing up. This love of one’s country has, up to this day, deep seated false roots of black and africanist nationalism. As the farm worker correctly points out, many have died in defense of their fatherland which they shouldn’t have.

I am reminded of the soldiers who died in the first inter-imperialist world war. The war was between the imperialists for the division of the spoils amongst them, which had nothing to do with the soldiers. Again in the Second World

War millions of soldiers perished with nothing to show. Others died in exile in direct combat because of false and dangerous nationalist dogma. This calls for us to fight tirelessly to reject this poisonous nationalism.

We are internationalist: we know no country, no nation, and no borders. We have no illusions, that is why under the banner of our Party ICWP we mobilize the masses for communism. Only communist revolution will resolve the main contradictions between the bosses and workers. Currently, the bosses’ system is dominant, putting pressure and making deals with the bosses only suits them well and only serves to perpetuate their rule. We must intensify our fight using workers’ struggles as a powerful motor force for change.

--An Internationalist Comrade

**FOR A WORLD WITHOUT BORDERS,
FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM!****Letters from South African Comrades Who Participated
in Communist School****Toothache Didn’t Stop Communist!**

At the communist school, we had two weeks of intense struggle, numerous meetings, sharing everything we had and overcoming obstacles created by capitalism. A very dedicated comrade, in spite of his acute pain caused by a decaying tooth, did not miss a single meeting. We decided to take the comrade to a dentist. After several dentists who refused to provide service we found the one who diagnosed the pain as caused by iodine deficiency. This is an easily preventable disease but capitalism has no solution for the masses of workers.

--A comrade

Ideology Can Be a Material Force

After the school, my outlook has totally changed. Because now I know how capitalism works, how it exploited the working class. And the study of dialectical materialism was a big part of explaining the contradictions in society. Because without the surplus labor that the bosses take from us, there will be no capitalism. But what keeps capitalism going is this – see, among the workers there are similarities and differences. Now what capitalists do is that they highlight the differences and make similarities secondary. So this separates us from other fellow workers. This causes disunity among us and we don’t unite to fight the system as one class.

Tomorrow I have to take my son to a clinic. And I am going there with **Red Flag**. I am going to mobilize the nurses and other workers. I learn fast and the school has given me tremendous confidence that I will put in practice.

--ICWP organizer.

Understand the World to Change It

What I learned from the communist school is that the bosses are like vampires. For them to survive, they suck the blood of the workers.

Nov. 8, Los Angeles—About 150 angry workers and youth demonstrated their rage against the Mexican and US governments in front of the Mexican Consulate for the disappearance of the 43 students from Ayotzinapa, Guerrero, and deepening attacks on the whole working class. Most of them gladly received **Red Flag and the message that we need a communist revolution to get rid of the murderous bosses and their capitalist system of exploitation and terror. Many were clearly moved when they heard that workers from South Africa sent their communist solidarity to students and workers in Mexico. This made more real the idea that we are one working class and need one Party that fights for communism worldwide. The neighborhood around the consulate is full of workers who need **Red Flag** and we need to get it there.**

The blood they suck from us is the surplus value which they make into profit. Workers produce everything under capitalism that has value. But for the bosses what we produce has no use value. They produce it only for profit. The unions help the bosses by forcing the workers to play by the bosses’ rule. So capitalism for me is something not good. We are supposed to kill capitalism. We must take it from the root and mobilize the masses. The only thing left for us is mobilize the masses for communism.

Now my eyes are wide open. I know many workers and I have a big family. I am taking the **Red Flag** to everybody. After the communist school, I met two workers from Nigeria and gave them the **Red Flag**. Similarly, I mobilized a worker from Mozambique. The Nigerian workers were saying “Viva Communism.” I will keep mobilizing and the next time you are here, the halls will be filled with new comrades. I am convinced that communism is the only solution.

--Revolutionary worker and musician

Communism Will Work

When I started the school, to me communism seemed a little bit far fetched. Because I was used to think that money is necessary for society to function. But when we get an understanding of the contradiction of capitalism, communism seems attainable. Communism is certainly a better alternative because everything will be run by the working class without the bosses. I think communism is going to work. I was very skeptical before but it is going to work. I am still reading the literature of ICWP. I will keep coming to the meetings and organize others like my friend who is here today for a meeting. I am going to organize many for the international meeting that is planned next year.

--A high school comrade

U.S. Still #1 Economy

Thank you for the clearly argued editorial in the last issue. I just want to take issue with one sentence. China is not the “leading economy in the world.” It is much more vulnerable than that. Although the US (the world’s biggest debtor nation) is threatened by the emergence of China (the world’s biggest creditor nation) the US is still the leading economy.

Forbes magazine surveyed the assets, market value, profit and sales of the top 2,000 global companies across 25 sectors of production from aerospace to utilities. US companies lead all sectors.

China, for example, builds and sells more automobiles than any other country in the world (surpassing the US) but it is GM and VW that get the biggest share of the profits from this market.

Although damaged by the massive economic crisis that erupted in 2008, US led global economic institutions like the World Bank and the IMF still carry worldwide influence, as does the US dollar.

Finally, as they saw in Libya, China does not yet have the military power to protect all its investments. By contrast, the US still militarily occupies several major economic powers, the Euro zone, Britain, Japan and South Korea.

It is this imbalance that accounts for the war mongering strategy of US imperialism in recent years.

--A Comrade



MASS UPRISING IN BURKINA FASO SHOWS NEED FOR COMMUNISM, NOT SOCIALISM

November 5—Last week, hundreds of thousands took to the streets of Ouagadougou (pronounced Wagadugu), the capital of Burkina Faso, a small but strategic West African country of 17 million people. The crowd of Burkinabé workers and youth sometimes swelled to over one million.

Trying in vain to stop the raging masses, the police and military viciously attacked them, killing several people and injuring many. The masses responded by unleashing their fury, storming and setting fire to the Parliament building and government cars.

Their unrelenting fury and determination forced President Blaise Compaoré to resign, abandoning his attempts to extend his 27-year-long rule. On hearing the news on October 31, the masses jubilantly celebrated their “victory” in the streets.

This moment, however, was short lived. On Nov. 2, hundreds of thousands once more took to the streets, to rage against the military’s announcement that they were taking control of the country.

Many protesters felt betrayed. They thought they were fighting for something different. As one protester put it, “Everyone is disappointed ... It’s the same system that they want to preserve and we’re fed up, all the youth are fed up. We don’t just want the president to go but also his whole system.” (*Le Monde*, Nov. 1, 2014).

Many of the protesters, especially the youth, are being influenced by Thomas Sankara’s anti-imperialist, nationalist, socialist views.

Thomas Sankara’s legacy holds no future for Burkinabé workers, South African workers or workers anywhere

Thomas Sankara was a military captain who led Burkina Faso from 1983 until 1987 when, at the age of 37, he was murdered in a coup orchestrated by his deputy, the now-resigned president Blaise Compaoré. Apparently his legacy is experiencing a revival in Africa where he is idolized



by many, especially the youth, as the “African Che Guevara.”

Le Balai Citoyen (“the citizens’ broom”), an organization that honors Sankara’s memory was part of the movement that ousted Compaoré. It was founded by Samsk Le Jah, a popular radio host and reggae singer sometimes called the “spokesperson for the Burkina youth.”

Also in South Africa, Julius Malema, founder of the Economic Freedom Party (EFP) and his supporters, wear red berets in the spirit of Sankara. They claim that they uphold Sankara’s “ideal that political power can and must be used for the common good.”

Also, in the spirit of Sankara’s nationalism and populism, they support the partial nationalization of South Africa’s mining and farming sectors, and say that the EFP is “the new home for voiceless, indigenous poor South Africans.” But, nationalization has never benefitted any worker. It is the national capitalists’ scheme to force their imperialist masters to give them a bigger share of their loot from exploiting the working class. Our comrades in South Africa have rejected this ideology and are struggling against it among the masses.

Socialism: Fatal Mistake of the Old International Communist Movement

Sankara was influenced by Marx and Lenin’s writings. Because of this and his populist views,

many consider him a socialist. However, he never declared himself a communist.

He was anti-Western imperialism, but had cordial relations with Russian and Chinese imperialists. This was his downfall, as this threatened the French and US imperialists’ control of West Africa.

History has proven, however, that socialism is no transition to communism. It is state capitalism with capitalism’s money, markets and wage slavery. The communists at its helm became capitalists. The socialist countries, like China and Russia, eventually

blossomed into free-market capitalism and imperialism.

This fatal error by the old communist movement, which has cost the international working class dearly, must not be repeated.

Burkinabé Masses had no “Victory” and Made no “Revolution”

Replacing one capitalist butcher by another capitalist butcher—be it civilian or military—is no victory for the working class. No matter who rules, as long as capitalism-imperialism exists, there will always be racism, sexism, exploitation, poverty, wage slavery and genocidal wars. Victory for our class is advancing the revolutionary communist movement needed to destroy capitalism-imperialism forever.

In today’s world that means reading, writing for and distributing *Red Flag*. It means joining the International Communist Workers’ Party and recruiting co-workers, soldiers, students, friends and family. It means contributing economically with what little or much we can in order to guarantee that ICWP and *Red Flag* can expand our work to mobilize the masses for communism.

These small incremental changes are the building blocks of the unstoppable force our class will become to change history in its interests. Our South African comrades are blazing the way. Let’s follow their lead!

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

ALL CONTRADICTIONS ARE ANTAGONISTIC

In our last column we described the Soviet textbooks that set up a new standard presentation of dialectics. This presentation was based on Engels’ three laws of dialectics and a list of opposite categories like actuality and possibility, appearance and essence, etc.

Soviet dialectics texts spread with the world communist movement and were translated into various languages. An English version of the Leningrad textbook appeared in 1937. Chinese students who studied in Japan used the Japanese and Russian versions to produce Chinese translations, which proved fundamental to the development of communist philosophy in China.

While the Soviet version of dialectics advanced the knowledge of dialectics world-wide, it also contained a fundamental error. This error was a philosophical version of the idea that socialism, with its wage system and inequality, leads to communism, and does so without a new revolution. This wrong idea is the so-called “non-antagonistic contradiction”

In his study of dialectics, Russian communist

leader V. I. Lenin came to the profound conclusion that unity is not the main aspect of a contradiction: “The unity ... of opposites is conditional, temporary, transitory, relative. The struggle of mutually exclusive opposites is absolute, just as development and motion are absolute.” This means that the struggle inside a contradiction does not tend to die out, but eventually becomes more intense and is resolved by the destruction of at least one side of it.

Socialist Dialectics

Beginning about 1930, Russian communists developed a different view of dialectics. They started to use the term “non-antagonistic contradiction” and its political counterpart, the concept of a “non-antagonistic class relationship.” This amounted to the claim that socialism doesn’t have the exploitation and class struggle that capitalism has. The Soviet textbooks defended the idea that the contradictions of socialism would gradually die out on their own or can be “managed” so that they don’t become intense and lead to rebellions and revolutions.



Spread of dialectics: 1933 Soviet text, 1937 English text, 1950s Spanish text, Mao Zedong’s notes on Soviet texts.

See [CONTRADICTIONS](#), page 6