



RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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



STRIKING WORKERS AT EGYPTIAN IRON & STEEL



MASSES IN ETHIOPIA DENOUNCE RACIST SAUDI BOSSES

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Jean Mart Capitalists Give "Gifts" of Layoffs & Abuse **FOR A WORLD WITHOUT EXPLOITATION**

LOS ANGELES, November, 2013—The following is part of a letter sent by some garment workers from Jean Mart to *Red Flag*:

"In this company, the quality inspectors and the ones who distribute the work commit many injustices against the workers. They humiliate, abuse, and offend the operators, whether or not they make mistakes. There is a lot of discrimination. They give preference to the people they like.

We tell the workers not to be afraid to report and struggle against these abuses. When the inspectors make a mistake that affects up to 1000 garments, they don't say anything, but when an operator makes a mistake with 8 or 30 pieces, they want to eat you alive. They treat workers like garbage, like we're not worth anything, as if they themselves were perfect. They demand that you do things that they don't know how to do. If they don't like a person, they give them a 'warning' about being fired."

The workers shouldn't see these

petty servants of the bosses as the main enemy. The main enemy is capitalism, and workers need to see that this anti-working class behavior reflects the social relations of the capitalist system. The bosses want to wash their hands, but they are the ones responsible. This is the capitalist mentality of the whip, which the inspectors and those who give out the work imitate.

The whole capitalist system is based on us workers being forced to sell our labor power to the boss for a miserable wage. This gives the bosses the power to abuse and fire us.

The workers here produce clothes for big companies like True Religion, Diesel, Lucky, and others. This puts between \$12 and 24 million in the bosses' pockets from the hard work, all year long, of hundreds of men and women garment workers.

To carry out their exploitation, the bosses manipulate a sector of workers, using competition, individualism and the illusion of

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Boeing Workers Ask, "What's Going On?"

COMMUNISM IS ONLY LEGITIMATE SYSTEM

PUGET SOUND, WA, November 16 —"Okay, what's going on? Why'd you ask that question about the backlog?" So began the meeting after the first crew meeting since we rejected the Boeing contract proposal.

The bosses wanted a "feel good" atmosphere after last week's class struggle. Mid-November saw the chants of marching workers echoing through the plants. Furious members filled the union halls, chasing down union leaders who dared to bring this contract extension to a vote. Machinists shouted, "Go back to D.C.!" at International Association of Machinists' International representative Mark Johnson.

"We just sold a record number of new 777X airplanes at the Dubai air show," bragged the boss at the start of the meeting.

"Were they sold at a discount?" we asked.

"The company sells airplanes based on their cost."

"No, they don't. Not any more!" The boss tried to change the sub-

ject, but we got back to it at our own meeting after the crew meeting. New hires and veterans discussed how the company's discounted backlog assures more attacks on us.

Commercial president Ray Conner wants to preemptively sew up orders for these kinds of jets with cheap prices. The only way that can be profitable is with cheap labor. The attacks will continue and intensify.

These 777X planes won't be delivered until 2020. By that time the Chinese will join Airbus and a host of other capitalists producing commercial jets. Too many manufacturers will be producing too many goods that we workers can't afford to buy.

"This is how capitalism has to work," said an old-timer. "It's called a crisis of overproduction."

These systematic crises lead to long-term depressions as the bosses are suddenly forced to cut production.

"A lot of people are going to lose their jobs," figured another new

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US-IRAN DEAL: ROADMAP TO PEACE OR TO WORLD WAR?

The recently announced US-Iran deal is not about peace or preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons. It is all about US imperialism pivoting to Asia-Pacific to prepare for the eventual military clash with China, its main imperialist rival.

This deal is vigorously being pursued by one sector of the dominant wing of the US ruling class, which knows they can't pivot to Asia-Pacific unless they "pivot away" from the Middle East. This can't be done unless an agreement is forged concerning Iran's "nuclear ambitions."

"The interim accord between Iran and the six world powers is a significant accomplishment," wrote Richard Haass, supporting the Pivot-to-Asia gang. He is the president of the Council on Foreign Relations – the most influential think tank deciding US national and foreign policies.

In his article (*Financial Times*, 11/24/13), he also lashed out at the US forces trying to derail the deal. Although also part of US imperialism's dominant wing, these forces view the Pivot-to-Asia strategy as surrendering the Middle East to the China-Russia-Iran axis.

John Bolton, Bush's former U.N. ambassador, speaking for this sector, called the accord an "abject surrender by the United States." (*Weekly Standard*, 11/24). Florida Republican Senator Marco Rubio called for new Congressional sanctions against Iran despite the deal. Democratic Senators Chuck Schumer and Robert Menendez said they would also support new sanctions.

Two former National Security Advisers, General Brent Scowcroft (retired) and Zbigniew Brzezinski, supporting the Pivot-to-Asia strategy, urged Congress on November 19 not to consider passing new sanctions which "...will risk undermining or even shutting down the negotiations."

Although the Rockefeller-led sector, behind the Pivot-to-Asia, seems to be gaining the upper

hand, the outcome of this rulers' dog fight is unpredictable. However, we can be certain of one thing: it is all about how best to fight China.

One sector is for the US overthrowing al-Assad of Syria, and then invading and conquering Iran. They think that their Iraq-Afghanistan problems could then be solved and the whole oil-rich region would again be under US control. Then China's dependence on Middle Eastern oil for its future economic growth and military power could be exploited to contain and curtail its rise as a rival power.

The Rockefeller gang thinks this is a pipedream. They know the Middle East can't be fought for piece-meal, and they have two losing wars to prove it. Furthermore, they know that bigger military adventures there, especially against Iran, could put US imperialism at a disadvantage in a probable military clash with China and Russia.

These bosses would rather concentrate their resources to contain, and prepare to fight, China in Asia-Pacific. Here they hope to build a powerful anti-China military alliance – which can't be done in the Middle East—with Japan, Vietnam, the Philippines, Australia, India and other Pacific countries.

Also, in the Pacific they could fully take advantage of one of their main military assets: their navy, the world's most powerful. Some of their top military strategists believe, as US Admiral Alfred Mahan (1840-1914) wrote, that "whoever controls the Indian Ocean controls Asia. In the 21st Century, the destiny of the world will be decided on its waters."

An agreement with Iran will free the US Navy's Fifth Fleet from being confined to the Persian Gulf, where,

many military analysts concur, it is a sitting duck for Iran's advanced anti-ship missiles, and its submarines and speed boats armed with Russian Shkval, or Squall, torpedoes, which can travel at 225 mph. The fleet can be much less vulnerable in the vast expanses and deep waters of the Pacific Ocean.

Some of the Pivot-to-Asia bosses' pundits hope that eventually the Iran deal could lead to the US allowing Iran to openly become the dominant Middle East power. In exchange, Iran would serve the US in the same function as it did under the Shah before 1979.

Whether this will happen or even if any deal will be signed at all is anybody's guess. We, however, know two things: the imperialists' competition for world domination inevitably leads to world war, and the bosses wage war against our international working class 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, year in and year out.

The bosses' wars for profits and empire can only be ended by putting an end to their war against our class. Join ICWP in mobilizing the masses for communism, the only way to end all wars forever.



RED SOLDIERS CAN END BOSSES' MIGHT

SEATTLE— The new socialist city council member advocates mass demonstrations in favor of a various reforms and socialism. (See article page 4)

When asked how we can match the bosses armed might she answers, "We can't!"

What is the road to her socialism then?

Look at Egypt, she answers. Millions demonstrated in the streets. The rank-and-file soldiers were hesitant to fire on the masses so the Mubarak regime fell.

Indeed, we should look at Egypt. We allowed the capitalists to survive and within a few years the military took over.

That's why it is crucial to build a base for communism in the armed forces. We need more than rank-and-file soldiers that refuse to fire on demonstrators. We need masses of soldiers turning the guns around on the brass and their capitalist masters.

This will not happen spontaneously. We need waves of military organizers experienced in the tactics and strategy of mobilizing soldiers for communist revolution, now and in the future.

AIRBUS AND BOEING WORKERS BATTLE INHUMAN CAPITALIST SYSTEM IN CRISIS

Capitalists are an inhuman group. They amass mountains of wealth and profit as a necessary platform to amass even more wealth and profit (and the masses be damned).

The trouble with profits, however, is that they are private. They belong to one group of capitalists or another and in times of crisis, when markets shrink, the profits of one group threaten the existence of another. "One capitalist," Marx used to say, "kills many."

Certainly the aircraft industry is littered with tombstones, like De Havilland and Hawker Siddeley in Europe or McDonnell-Douglas in the USA. These tombstones form the foundations on which the two giants of today's world aircraft industry - Airbus and Boeing – are built.

It's a huge market. According to some, the world's capitalists will need 31,000 new aircraft by 2031, with the Chinese market alone needing some 4,300 large passenger aircraft. Airbus is planning on selling some \$544 billion worth of aircraft in China in the next 20 years. Boeing wants in too. However, the chances are good that the weak recovery in the world's econ-

omy won't last.

In that case, the market (31,000 new aircraft by 2031) and its profits would shrink. Yet, the threat to Airbus and Boeing doesn't just come from the potential down-sizing of the market. It comes from their projected share of the market.

By 2018 at the latest, the first C919s are due to be delivered. Built in by Comac in China, the C919 is a direct rival to Airbus A320 and Boeing's 737. Comac, of course, has the inside track on the Chinese market. From the platform of the massive market in China, it will be able to achieve the economies of scale to rival Airbus and Boeing throughout the world. Suddenly the future for Airbus or Boeing doesn't seem so healthy.

This brings us to the second trouble with profits. They come from exploiting workers. When profits are threatened by a shrinking market, capitalists cut wages, benefits and speed up workers in an attempt to recoup their losses. Today both Airbus and Boeing workers are battling these attacks. (See page 4)



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AS CAPITALIST CRISIS DEEPENS, NEW COMMUNISTS STEP FORWARD

“I LIKE THE THINKING OF COMMUNISM.”

LOS ANGELES — In a recent ICWP high school study group session we had a discussion around the question of joining the party. “I don’t think I’m ready,” responded Luisa, who then added, “I am barely starting to know about communism, I don’t know enough.”

Henry asked, “What would my role be?”

“Yeah,” said Clarissa, “like what would be my responsibility?”

“Most of you already do what party members do. You regularly participate in *Red Flag* study sessions. You bring communist ideas to marches, you read and distribute *Red Flag* among your friends and teachers, you write for *Red Flag*. In many ways you are mobilizing the masses for communism already,” said the club leader.

“And that is what it means to join the International Communist Workers’ Party: to mobilize the masses for communism the best way that we can. Also, joining the party means being open to the political struggle of the collective to advance the work, to develop ourselves ideologically and widen the communist base. It means being part of a communist collective. We learn things by doing them.”

Frank added, “I support communism but I think we have the wrong people in government and there are a lot of lobbyist groups. There are no honest people, they are all corrupt.”

At this point, Lori responded, “Yeah, you are put in this position and that changes you. Before the Arab uprising the presidents were good to themselves, their sons and families. People change in power. Power corrupts.”

“Even if we have honest people in government, we would still have a capitalist mode of production and capitalist social relations. The factories, the land and all other means of production would

still be privately owned by the capitalist class. The masses of our working class brothers and sisters would still work the means of production in wage slave conditions.

“With communism wage slavery is eliminated as the masses will take control of all of the means of production. The masses will reorganize the mode of production in a new mass collective way to satisfy human need in which its main guiding principle will be from each according to commitment to each according to need,” said the club leader.

“I really like the thinking of communism but what are the consequences of joining the party and being a communist, like about future employment and stuff?” Mark asked.

“We have to be as secret a possible from the bosses and our enemies but as open as possible with our friends and those we trust. Government jobs will never hire an open communist. At times, like the saying goes, ‘when in Rome we have to do as the Romans,’” said the club leader.

“Yeah,” said Henry, “sometimes we have to lie to our enemies.”

“I wouldn’t be here if it wasn’t for Giselle and Marianne,” added Mark. “They brought me around. Yes, I want to join the Party,” he affirmed.

We invite students and workers from Egypt to South Africa, from the U.S. to El Salvador to join the International Communist Workers’ Party. As we mobilize the masses of workers for communism, let’s use *Red Flag* as an educator, an agitator, an organizer and a leader. Let’s create a mass communist international party that will be capable of smashing the capitalist state and build a new society based on the true fraternity of and the collective spirit of human kind. Join us. We have a world to win.

“I’M TIRED OF SO MUCH INJUSTICE.”

LOS ANGELES — MTA workers, members of ICWP, invited a coworker, a mechanic, to a meeting to speak to him more deeply about *Red Flag* and what it meant to join the party.

“First, we want to say that the working class should not depend politically on bourgeois parties. Whether they are Democrat, Republican, ARENA or fmln, they represent the interest of a sector of the bosses. These bourgeois parties are part of the state. Their main role is to hide and maintain the exploitation and domination over the working class.

“We, as a class, need our own party, a revolutionary communist organization— not to participate in the electoral circus— but rather to bring together, prepare and lead our class to take power.

“We have to learn from past mistakes when it was believed that socialism was a necessary step to reach communism or that the building of a new society required stages.

“Brother, this party that we are building is a party of a new type. Its main task is to spread communist ideas directly and aggressively. We raise the *Red Flag* from the dirt and the working-class struggle from its betrayal. Our party denounces all those who pretend to be with the working class but who consciously or unconsciously only serve as the bosses’ lackeys.

“Because this party is of the working class, it cannot be of a nation or even a continent. This organization has to be international, without ‘races’ or borders.

“In this party, each member contributes according to their commitment, which increases along with the growth of the political understanding of the need to accelerate and guarantee the communist revolutionary process. The party depends economically on the workers. In this way we are not committed to any boss.

“In the name of ICWP and *Red Flag* we want to invite you to become a member of the party and of this great cause and to dedicate your life to building a new society.”

“Well, that’s good. I accept. I want to be a member of the party,” answered the mechanic. “I accept, because I am tired of so much injustice. We have no defense and the union that is supposed to help us not only collaborates with the bosses, but is part of them. It cannot be reformed. We have to destroy it.”

“Comrade, we welcome you. It makes us proud and it inspires us that workers like you can be part of our party. Do you want to distribute more newspapers?”

“Yes,” he answered. “I’ll take ten to distribute to my family and friends.”

We finished the meeting with one more member in our party. We left with the firm objective conviction that many more will be joining our revolutionary communist cause soon.

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“power,” to attack the rest of the workers. The social relations of capitalist production mean exploiting workers for profit; the bosses are swimming in a sea of wealth while the workers barely scrape by.

In this company, like all others worldwide, the workers are exploited. When production orders go down, they are thrown into the street in a cowardly act, as if they were disposable. Recently many of these workers were sent home, unemployed on the eve of the Christmas holidays. The stress of the capitalist commercial “holiday” of buying, and the costs of survival are a double attack on the workers.

In a communist world, the social relations will be completely different. They won’t be based on exploiting masses of workers for the profit of a few. There won’t be wages, money, or bosses who steal the value workers produce. Collectively we will plan, produce and distribute everything according to workers’ needs.

We workers must see that, united with this communist vision, we are strong. Instead of using the bosses’ whip to attack our class brothers and sisters, we must unite as one fist to organize a

communist revolution to destroy the bosses and their system.

In a communist society, communist relations will be based on respect and comradeship among all workers. Everyone’s contribution will be valued. Communist education will fight to ensure that all workers see each other as brothers and sisters, not enemies. But the working class will take steps to punish those who mistreat their co-workers.

The bosses and their capitalist system are the enemies. Their state protects the individual boss so that he can send workers to the street without suffering any consequence. This shows that in capitalism, wage slavery rules.

The world does not have to be this way. We can and must destroy this murderous system and build a communist world in which the main thing will be to meet the workers’ needs and not fill the bosses’ pockets.

We invite all the workers of Jean Mart to continue reading our communist newspaper *Red Flag* and to join the International Communist Workers’ Party, as a present to the working class of the world, in the fight for a world without exploitation, bosses or discrimination.



Boeing Workers Reject Contract Extension

NOW, STRAIGHT-ARM CAPITALIST POLITICS WITH POLITICAL STRIKES

WASHINGTON STATE -- There's politics and then there's politics.

There is the politics represented by the photo of Boeing Machinists (IAM) president Tom Wroblewski, Boeing commercial president Ray Conner, Washington State Governor Jay Inslee and U.S. Senator Patty Murray.

There is the politics of the new socialist Seattle city council member Kshama Sawant.

Then there is the potential of a political strike at Boeing.

The key question is, "Which do we choose?"

Wroblewski hobnobbed with politicians and company brass in Olympia, the state capital, when Boeing factories erupted in revolt Monday, November 11. He hyped his role in engineering a special session of the state senate and house. They voted to give the company an extra \$9 billion dollars of our tax money to keep 777X production in-state.

Then he used rhetoric about democracy as a cover to bring the new contract extension to a vote. Thirty-two thousand angry machinists were having no part of it. They rejected the contract extension 2 to 1.

Worse, he's still at it. "I personally met with Governor Inslee," his Thanksgiving email brags. "They [the politicians] want us to keep talking to Boeing. I've told them that's what you want."

That's news to us!

Working deals in Olympia and Washington, D.C. has led to the concentration of wealth in the hands of the biggest bosses.

"Nowadays, it's become more than money," commented another machinist. "It's about power."

Legislative politics has contributed to undermining our potential power, while emboldening the bosses. In the end, the illusion of freedom in the bosses' democracy only ensures our continued impotence.

Many here and millions around the world are seeing that elections, legislation and contracts are a fool's game.



Wroblewski hobnobs with company and politicians ...while Boeing workers revolt.

Revolutionary Pretenders

This climate is ripe for mobilizing the masses for communism, but also for the re-emergence of pretenders.

Soon after the rejection vote, University of Washington economics professor Kshama Sawant won a city council seat. She made national news when she responded to Corporate's threat to move 777X production because we rejected the company's proposal.

"We do the work!" she said at a downtown rally last week. "Boeing should be owned by the workers."

"We are calling for the democratic public ownership by workers and the community," she told another rally in 2012.

"Sounds just like the ICWP," texted a Boeing friend. Not really!

The ICWP invites workers to mobilize the masses for communism; Sawant advocates socialism. Communism would end production for sale and the tyranny of markets. Capitalist finance, including banks and money, would end. Socialism maintains all these things.

Sawant promises that a socialist economy would not allow exploitation, but socialism maintains the capitalist mode of production, ensuring continued exploitation. Only communism can end exploitation by producing for need, not sale.

She criticizes Sweden for being capitalism light, but socialism itself is just another form of capitalism. Socialism was envisioned as a transitional stage to communism. It never worked. That's why we fight directly for communism.

The Way Forward

Boeing workers are used to the way economic strikes unfold. We would publicly fight over the employment conditions for months before the contract ended. The current crisis has thrown this out the window. It's not coming back.



This is the second time the union/company gang has opened the contract up while it was still in force. The legal possibility of a strike is gone in this scenario. Obscenely long contracts also help create a no-strike regime.

There is one way forward. We need political strikes that take aim at capitalism, pushing aside the system's laws, contracts and elections.

Organizing for these political strikes must reject the capitalist politics embodied in the IAM's trade union strategy or the pacifist, electoral strategy of the new socialist city council member. Organizing for these strikes must help in mobilizing the masses for communism.

The cornerstone of this organizing will be networks of *Red Flag* readers and distributors. The organizing around rejecting this latest contract extension expanded these networks. We distributed eight hundred communist leaflets entitled "No Extortion: Take Back What Is Ours" at plant gates and through our networks in two days.

Groups of industrial workers have joined the ICWP from the sweatshops of El Salvador to the factories of South Africa. Now is the time for Boeing workers to step up.

FOR MORE ON BOEING AND SEATTLE, SEE PAGE 2



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hire.

"And those that don't won't be making enough to live on," added another.

"Eventually the bosses will have to attack their international competition as well as us. Then they'll send us or our kids to war to fight some other exploited worker for the glory of profits!" added a third.

Masses Revolt; Rulers Lose Legitimacy

Given this scenario, workers all over the world are rebelling. For example, South Africa miners denounced the ruling African National Congress (ANC) as the racist exploitation of post-Apartheid capitalism became too much to bear. They attacked the United Mine Workers' offices because the union "partnered" with the ANC. Last week's demonstrations outside the IAM offices held similar potential.

The bosses are alarmed by the masses' anger with capitalism. Their call to next year's World Economic Forum at Davos focuses on the rulers "lost legitimacy."

"One of the most important issues facing the [capitalist] world is the growing vulnerability of political elites," warns Ian Bremmer of the U.S. bosses' chief think-tank, the Council of Foreign Relations.

Even more alarmingly, "The problem is not limited to political leaders; corporate decision-makers [i.e. bosses] face their own sets of risks."

The workers can't live in the old way; the rulers can't rule in the old way. Even the "middle class" is questioning their future under this system.

Communism Gains Legitimacy

The only legitimate solution is communist revolution. Communism will put an end to capitalism's endless overproduction crises.

We can rationally plan production based on the needs of the working class when we eliminate production for profit and sale. Collective mass struggle to secure our communist future will replace the tyranny of markets.

Even more importantly, we can change the structure and rationale for factories themselves. We can turn the factories into educational and cultural centers. The factories can be in the forefront of the struggle to erase the elitist distinction between mental and manual labor. Changing the nature of mass production sets the stage for the struggle to win generations of new communist leaders.

Capitalism is rapidly losing legitimacy. From crew meetings to union meetings, from in-plant marches to holiday social events: mobilizing our friends for communism is on the agenda. Mobilizing the masses for communism--this is our guiding principle, now and in the future. Join us!

UC STRIKERS & WORKERS EVERYWHERE NEED A DIFFERENT WORLD

IRVINE, CALIFORNIA, November, 20 – “I used to get that newspaper before. How can I get it again?” a UC campus worker asked a *Red Flag* distributor.

“Give me your contact information and we will get it to you,” answered our comrade, and wrote down the information.

“I would like to know more about your Party,” said a student after receiving *Red Flag*. She gave us her telephone number.

“I will write to your paper about racism against black students on this campus. But I’m not a communist,” said a student and gave us her telephone number.

These are some of the many conversations ICWP members had while distributing *Red Flag* and a leaflet to striking UC hospital and campus workers and teaching assistants. About half of the hundreds of workers participating at two picket lines gladly took our literature. They were part of the 35,000 UC workers staging a one day statewide strike against the University of California system’s continuous attacks on their wages and benefits.

Their response to our literature shows that UC workers are open to communist ideas, like millions of workers in motion worldwide against the

ravages of capitalism.

“They do those things to us because they have the power. Last year UC big bosses got a \$70,000 bonus. We got \$200. They charge us for parking. Last year I paid almost \$800,” said a campus worker.

“That is why we need a revolution. As long as they have state power they will oppress us, and we will forever be fighting them for crumbs. Whatever we win, they take back again. That’s why the union struggle is a futile, never-ending struggle. Only revolution can end it,” said our comrade, adding, “we need a different system, a different society and a different world.”

That was the message of our leaflet to these workers:

“We need a communist revolution and a communist society where the working class – without the capitalists, money, profits or empires – will be society’s main concern. Communist production will be for need. Nothing will be sold or bought. Everyone will contribute to society according to his or her commitment and abilities, and will receive according to need.

“A world without money will have a different set of social and production relations: communist relations. Communist education will play a big

role in developing these relations. Communist education will foster collectivity and cooperation, not capitalism’s individualism and competition that reproduces the dog-eat-dog mentality of the capitalists.

“Communist education will unite theory and practice to break down the division between mental and manual labor. No one will only do mental work and no one will only do manual work. The farm worker and the agronomist will be the same person; so will the construction worker and the engineer; the orderly and the doctor.

“Communism will eliminate the fancy titles and diplomas that capitalist education fosters. No one is better than any one. We are all useful to society and as such we should all be treated with the same respect and appreciation, and most importantly, should receive everything we need to live the most comfortable and dignified lives possible.

“Only in communism – with no money to put a price on our labor or lives – can everyone have the best health care possible. Only in communism can we have our needs fully guaranteed from cradle to grave.”

The response of these workers and students shows that our future is bright! That future is communism! Let’s hasten it by joining ICWP!

TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIPS: US-CHINA CONFLICT SHARPENS

“Our commerce on the ocean and in other countries must be paid for by frequent war.” — Thomas Jefferson, 1785

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is a free-trade treaty being negotiated by the US, Australia, Brunei, Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, Vietnam and (more recently) Japan, Canada, and Mexico. It is the “capstone of the U.S.’ rebalance to the Asia-Pacific.”

US imperialists hope that TPP will “add billions to the U.S. economy and solidify Washington’s political, financial, and military commitment to the Pacific for decades to come.” (Bernard Gordon, *Foreign Affairs*, July-August 2012.)

China was excluded from TPP talks. Its leaders correctly see TPP as a US effort to limit China’s rise. But China has had its own southeast Asian trade alliance since 2002, including Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

So TPP negotiations reflect and intensify the rivalry among leading imperialists to exploit the world’s workers, control its resources, and corner markets.

The world is deep in a classic capitalist crisis of overproduction (more goods produced than can be profitably sold). Such crises can only be resolved by massive destruction of productive resources, including workers’ lives. That means war – world war.

Nobody can say when world war will happen, but it will happen.

Recent talk of a US-dominated “Trans-Pacific Naval Partnership” exposes the close relationship between trade negotiations and preparations for world war.

US imperialists are likely to be disappointed.

The countries negotiating with them around the Trans-Pacific Partnership already have close trade relationships with China. In the words of a high-ranking Singaporean offi-

cial, China “is like a new sun in the solar system, and all the planets [countries] are readjusting their orbits.”

China is the largest trading partner of Australia, Vietnam, and Malaysia. Singapore’s main trading partners are China and Malaysia. China has free-trade agreements with Singapore, New Zealand, Peru, and Chile.

The Singaporean official explained that Singapore and other Pacific countries fear becoming “fixed in the Chinese orbit.” They hope that TPP may let them use the US as a “counterweight” so they’re not completely dominated by Chinese imperialism.

According to analyst Brendan O’Reilly, “escalating rivalry between China and the United States offers both risks and rewards to the leaders in Hanoi.” (*Asia Times Online*, 10/22/2013) Vietnam and other countries might try to turn to the US if China’s territorial demands in the South China Sea outweigh the benefits of their trade partnerships.

But US imperialists understand that even TPP might not guarantee its partners’ loyalty as its own conflict with China sharpens into eventual world war. Trade agreements can’t keep hostile powers from occupying strategically critical sites in wartime.

And TPP is not a done deal. There are sharp disagreements among US imperialists that we’ll discuss in another article. Other countries object

to intellectual-property provisions designed to give massive advantages to US corporations.

“There is a growing possibility that the TPP could collapse,” Gordon wrote. “The resulting failure would ... undermine [the] goal of ensuring a long-term presence for the United States in the Asia-Pacific region.”

When diplomacy fails, military might is key.

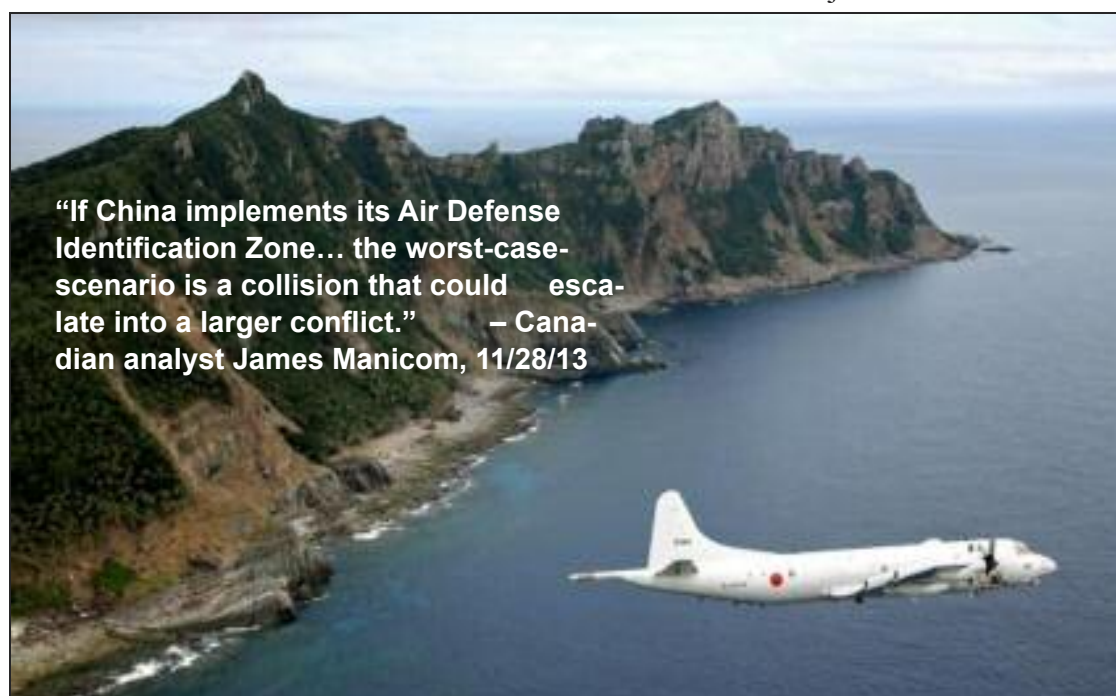
Secretary of State John Kerry recently asserted a need to keep Asia-Pacific “sea lanes secure for freedom of commerce and navigation.” He described US efforts to get Japan and a dozen other nations to “develop a clear code of conduct... at a time of rising tensions in the South China Sea and other vital waterways.” (*LA Times*, 10/18/2013)

Analyst Zachary Keck described this strategy in an article called “The Case for a Trans-Pacific Naval Partnership.” Expanded trade under TPP, he said, would justify building a coalition around “freedom of navigation,” leading to regular joint military patrols of regional waterways. This would promote “cooperation in missile defense,” “sharing intelligence,” joint naval bases, and potentially “greater arms sales or joint production contracts.” (*The Diplomat*, 10/18/2013)

A “freedom of navigation” mission could allow the US to strengthen its position against China without open confrontation. If the mission included preserving the territorial status-quo, it would allow “even more expansive military activity.”

Trade negotiations may not seem like war preparations, but trade doesn’t rule out war. The US famously sold Manhattan’s dismantled Sixth Avenue El (train) to Japan as scrap metal just three years before Pearl Harbor.

Whether or not TPP succeeds, the urgent task facing the international working class is the same. We must mobilize the masses for communist revolution that will erase all borders and end the material basis of imperialist war and exploitation.



“If China implements its Air Defense Identification Zone... the worst-case-scenario is a collision that could escalate into a larger conflict.” — Canadian analyst James Manicom, 11/28/13

SMALL ACTIONS ENRICH OUR COMMUNIST CONVICTIONS

MEXICO — In capitalism, we are condemned to live under the sentence, “Work or starve.” We are enslaved at poverty wages and forced to work at machines in the factories or in service in large commercial chains. Who puts up with this? Only those with the greatest need to take bread home for their families.

I understood this when I lived it. I was paid to be a henchman (supervisor of workers) at a company without realizing that I was also part of this slavery. Here I became restless for left ideas. I asked my friends at work, “Why are we so screwed?”

Some responded, “That’s how we have to live. Let’s thank god that we have a job.”

I said, “No! There are enough resources! Just look here at how much food they throw away!” All of the situations I lived through gave me problems with the boss, and I was forced to resign. My living conditions changed a lot.

I asked myself, “How is it possible that the working class doesn’t have access to the fruit of its labor? How is it possible that the ruling class, without moving a finger, takes the wealth that workers produce?”

I thought, “The manifesto of the communist party is still alive; we need a revolution to put an end to the way we are living. Capitalism demonizes communism. We live in a world with individualistic principles, in which people don’t express their convictions because of fear and doubt.”

I hadn’t freely expressed my ideas about capitalism until I met a group of ICWP comrades. That’s when I realized that there are others who think that we live in forced misery, legalized slavery.

ICWP comrades invited me to meetings and to share ideas and experiences. They talk about how we can change forever the situation in Mexico and the rest of the world. The conclusion is that there are enough resources for everyone. The problem lies in access since resources are concentrated in the hands of a few while millions die of hunger.

After going to meetings, a group of us comrades met to go out to spread communist ideas through our newspaper, *Red Flag*. At first, I was impatient and doubtful about what we would be doing.

When my friend arrived, I saw that she had a lot of newspapers in her purse. I thought, “We’re going to give out the newspaper. Perfect! It’s time to go out into the streets to spread communist ideas.”

I felt a little nervous since I had never participated in such an activity, but it was time to do it. It’s necessary that communist ideas reach more people and that they see that a new world can exist, free from exploitation and guaranteeing the basic needs of life.

We identified ourselves as communists to the people. Some were bewildered. Others paid attention to the speech of the comrade who led the group.

An older person was surprised that it was we youth who were spreading communist ideas and said, “I thought that this movement had been eradicated. It has been years since I have known about groups like you who oppose the system, but it gives me great pleasure to know that this is still alive.”

We appreciated his comments and he asked if the ideals of Marx continue to be alive in com-

munist. My friend answered, “Yes, we stand on the shoulders of giants.” After this, we received some coins and continued giving out the newspaper.

Let the doubts arise. Communist ideas are being disseminated and the movement is spreading beyond the borders.

Comrades, that is why we are here; you have brought us; you have formed us. We are part of the society that you have forged. With this spirit of struggle and convinced that we deserve a better world, I ask that we keep this flame alive.

Twenty years of struggle motivate me to continue fighting for this line. Comrades, we must abolish capitalism and all forms of exploitation. I do not say goodbye, I send cordial greetings from Mexico.



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

LEARNING DIALECTICS FROM HISTORY

Like everything else, communist dialectical philosophy did not simply jump into existence. Its development has been a long process involving many theoretical struggles. These struggles have always been connected to practical political and economic issues. Getting a thorough understanding of dialectics in the 21st century requires knowing something about the process that got us here. This means that we have to study both the milestones and the mistakes in the development of dialectics within the communist movement. That is the purpose of this series.

In the first column in the series, we surveyed profound ideas from dialectical theory before Marx, ideas from Heraclitus and from Hegel. In this column and the next we discuss ideas from Karl Marx, the founder of communist dialectics.

Karl Marx once wrote that he intended to produce a compact summary of his views about dialectics, but he never got around to it. Instead he applied his dialectical approach to many topics in his book *Capital* and in his political writings. These are our sources for Marx’s dialectics and they are good sources, since they show what dialectics can be used for.

Dialectical Contradiction

Marx wrote that dialectical contradictions (which he called “Hegelian”) are the “source of all dialectics.” His examples show that a contradiction consists of two connected opposites that struggle and interfere with each other. For example, Marx described the contradictory relation between the use value and exchange value of a commodity (what you use it for vs. what you pay for it) as two “mutually conditioning, inseparable moments, which belong to one another, but

which are at the same time extremes which exclude or oppose one another.” In capitalism, no matter how hungry you are, if you don’t have the cash, you don’t eat. Here the two sides of the contradiction are called “moments,” and the kind of connection they have is called “mutually conditioning.” That means that each side makes the other side different, like the two sides of the relation between parents and children.

Not all opposites contradict each other all the time. For example, circulation of goods and services that workers need stands in opposition to the circulation of money and credit in a capitalist economy. Much of the time money and credit make the circulation of goods easier. In an economic crisis, however, debts and the need for money to pay them get in the way of the circulation of commodities and freeze up the economy. Then the two opposites, goods and services vs money and credit, struggle with each other. That is what makes their opposite relationship a contradiction.

Other Contradictions of Capitalism

Marx identified many contradictions within capitalism, including those that lead to “explosions, cataclysms, crises, ... regularly occurring catastrophes ... [and] finally to its violent overthrow.” One tendency in capitalism is to increase the forces of production without limit. This tendency exists because competition drives each capitalist to produce more goods at a lower cost.

Under capitalism, however, things will only be produced if they can be sold for a profit. When capitalists try to find buyers for their production, they come up against a contradictory opposite. A large part of capitalism’s output is

sold to workers who must be able to afford the product. But to make profits in production, capitalists need to hold down the wages of workers. The capitalists’ need to expand production and sell it to workers, and their need to hold down workers’ wages contradict each other.

Marx calls this contradiction the fundamental contradiction of capitalism. It is an example of a general pattern of the contradiction between capitalism’s fundamental relations of ownership and control, and the development of the forces of production. This contradiction means that although capitalism has created tremendous productive forces, the things the bosses need to do to make maximum profits interfere with the fullest growth of production to meet people’s needs.

Resolution of Contradictions

It is a basic idea of dialectics that when a contradiction exists and its two opposite sides struggle, the contradiction tends to move toward its own elimination. The process of elimination of a contradiction is called resolution. Marx wrote that the contradiction between the workers as a class and the capitalists as a class “is private property as its developed relation of contradiction, hence an energetic relation driving toward resolution.” In a capitalist crisis, the contradiction between the use of money and the circulation of goods is eventually resolved—until the next crisis. The fundamental contradiction between expanding production and holding down wages can’t be resolved under capitalism, however, but only by communist revolution.

In our next column, we will discuss Marx’s ideas on how contradictions can be resolved.

Immigration Reform:

OBAMA'S CYNICAL PLOY TO BUILD THE MILITARY

"Many years have passed and I haven't been able to see my biological family. I didn't see my father or my grandfather die, and now I don't know if I will see my mother in her last days. This same thing and more happens to hundreds of thousands, possibly millions. Many haven't seen their children grow up, or their grandchildren. This is the result of these bosses' inhumane borders," said an undocumented worker furiously.

Borders and immigration laws are relatively new phenomena in human history. For thousands of years, humanity traveled over the whole world, and populated it without encountering any barrier other than natural ones.

With the rise of capitalism, there also came great waves of immigrants looking for work. For example, for more than three centuries, tens of millions of workers from the whole world immigrated to the US.

During all that time, they encountered no immigration restrictions. All this changed when the US Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. Afterwards, they passed the Immigration Law of 1924, restricting the entry of all immigrants from outside the North American continent. Later they passed even more restrictive laws for everyone.

Other countries did the same. That's why borders and racist immigration laws are today the biggest barriers to human movement and are used by the capitalists-imperialists of the world to divide and super-exploit the international working class.

The immigration reform that the US rulers have been debating for years will also not benefit the working class. With it, one sector of the US bosses want patriotic super-exploitable labor for their industries and patriotic soldiers for their imperialist wars. The law, however, is stuck because another sector of bosses, with little vested interest in these military adventures, is preventing the bill's passage.

Trying to break this stalemate, Obama is sending a clear message about which side of this bosses' fight he is on. His presidential decision to give renewable permission for a temporary, one-year, stay in the US to the children, spouses or parents of members of the armed forces, whether they are active, reservists, or veterans, is a sign that he supports the sector of US bosses who are planning for bigger wars.

These permits have already been given selectively since August of 2010. So this is not new. What is new is that

Obama is making this a public and widespread policy of his administration. It is a cynical ploy. What he wants with this is to lure hundreds of thousands of the 4 to 5 million children born here to undocumented parents into joining the armed forces to "legalize" their parents.

The influx of these youth into the armed forces will help Obama's imperialist masters maintain their "volunteer" army--for now. Otherwise, the economic cost of attracting and keeping citizen youth would be prohibitive.

Their masters, however, are not entirely happy with Obama. In his speech in San Francisco on Nov. 25, Obama suggested that "immigration reform on a large scale can be done incrementally." They disagree; they say that the reform requires passing three things at the same time: "more strict control, improving the flow of new immigrants, and legalization for the 11 million living here outside the law" (*New York Times*, 11/26).

Immigration reform is a big extortion scheme by the bosses. They tell us, "We will give you driver's licenses, allow you to live without being persecuted like criminals, and permission to travel to see your relatives in exchange for super-exploiting you and using your children born here, and the undocumented who are still young, as cannon fodder for our imperialist wars."

We workers have another option, to organize our party, ICWP, to build a communist society and put an end to the bosses and their borders that divide us and ultimately destroy us. In a communist society, there won't be exploiting bosses, borders, or immigration agents or their lackeys and henchmen who decide about our lives. The workers themselves will decide what is best for each and every member of society. We need to win the minds of millions of workers to make this a reality. Read and distribute *Red Flag* and join ICWP.

**WORKERS, SOLDIERS,
STUDENTS, UNITED
WE WILL DESTROY
ALL BORDERS!
LONG LIVE ICWP!**



**LET'S FIGHT FOR A WORLD
WITHOUT BORDERS!
DOWN WITH CAPITALISM!**

Capitalist Health Care Systems Are All About Profit

ONLY COMMUNISM CAN PUT WORKERS' HEALTH FIRST

The conflict continues between the National Union of Healthcare Workers (NUHW), whose members are health care professionals in California, and Kaiser Permanente, California's largest Health Maintenance Organization (HMO).

While Kaiser has reported \$10.2 billion in profits since 2009, it aims to cut worker benefits and has already laid off 1,000 workers, the largest mass layoff at Kaiser in three decades. Kaiser makes a profit by demanding as much work as possible from employees in exchange for an hourly wage.

Workers have limited their struggle to using the bosses' laws/system. After the California Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) completed the first phase of the state's investigation, Kaiser Permanente was fined \$4 million for not providing mental health services to patients in a timely manner. Kaiser had to increase staffing to meet requirements.

As the investigations continued, Marcy Gallagher, the DMHC attorney responsible for leading the investigation into Kaiser's substandard mental health care "switched sides." She now works for Kaiser in the division that's responsible for defending Kaiser against the DMHC's investigation.

Workers can't win using the bosses' laws and rules because the capitalist system was designed for the bosses to win, not the workers. Unions argue for staying within the confines of the law or for continued reform struggles, but these are dead-end answers to workers' problems under capitalism. The conflict between management and

workers is systemic and the solution is in destroying the rotting capitalist system and creating a system designed and run by workers: communism.

NUHW and Dean Baker, an economist at the Center for Economic and Policy Research, say that a government-run single-payer plan would be far more beneficial. The union says that by expanding Medicare to cover all Americans, "we could solve the country's historic healthcare crisis once and for all."

However, workers are not better under the Medicare system. The existing system of Medicare (single-payer health plan for seniors) was built around a so-called fee-for-service model, in which doctors, hospitals and other practitioners are paid procedure by procedure. A healthy person under this system is far less "valuable" to the health care industry than one who overeats, smokes, misuses medicine and ends up with diabetes, heart conditions or a host of other ailments that require hospital beds, enrollment in high-cost nursing facilities and expensive interventions.

On average, Medicare, with its 50 million enrollees, pays for about 2,000 days per year in a post-acute care facility for every 1,000 beneficiaries. By comparison, Kaiser Permanente, with its ongoing pattern of substandard care, averages 600 days per 1,000 clients. Providers under Medicare try to get as much money as possible from Medicare and providers under Kaiser try to provide as little as possible with as little staff as possible to make their profit.

The problem is that all healthcare systems

under capitalism run on the profit motive, not on what is best for patients. Under communism, workers will no longer be treated as commodities and money will no longer be an obstacle to good healthcare. No more insurance companies or bureaucracy.

Under communism knowledge about medicine will not be restricted to schools and doctors, but made available for all to learn. Many mental health problems and addictions will be eliminated and/or addressed by communities rather than addressing problems as individual problems detached from society. Good health will become one of society's main goals.

At present the US bosses seem concerned with our health care because they must curb the high cost of health care. They need a healthy workforce in their factories and in their military for inevitable wars to come. They need to keep costs down due to the declining rate of profit worldwide.

Currently, the US spends twice as much per person on health care as other rich countries, yet US life expectancy is among the worst. When we compare the US to all other rich countries in the world for which there is data, the US has the highest infant mortality rate, highest child poverty rate, and highest child injury death rate.

If Healthcare workers at Kaiser and all around the world put their energy into organizing to smash capitalism rather than for dead end temporary reforms, we could win a true victory for the world's working class! Read and distribute *Red Flag*. Join *Red Flag* study groups to learn more.

US-SAUDI CONFLICTS: IS THE PETRO-DOLLAR ERA OVER?

Recent conflicts between the US and Saudi Arabia could mark the beginning of the end of seventy-eight years of cooperation and the end of an era of US domination in the Persian Gulf region.

The official Saudi rejection of its recently-won UN Security Council seat indicates the disarray in US-Saudi relations. The Saudis were protesting against US policies toward Syria, Egypt, Iran and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The US decided not to go into Syria, while the Saudis wanted al-Assad removed from power there. The US-led renegotiation with Iran over its nuclear plans, and the US withdrawal of military aid to Egypt, are seen by the Saudis as treason by their once-closest ally.

Will the US be able to keep Saudi Arabia as an economic and military strategic partner in the Middle East? Or will China take this as an opportunity to strengthen relationships with Saudi Arabia to gain more control of Saudi oil, which it needs to become a super power?

By controlling this oil-rich area, China would have more leverage over other economies, displacing the US as a major player around the world.

The Saudi chief of intelligence recently described Saudi intentions to move away from US foreign policy and look elsewhere. This has the White House wondering whether this threat could be serious.

US, Saudi Rulers Traded Petrodollars for Security

Since World War II, Saudi Arabia has provided oil sold in dollars, and the US has provided the Saudi kingdom security from foreign and domestic threats. For many years, the US has enjoyed huge benefits from this strategic partnership.

In 1973 the US and Saudis agreed that oil

could only be sold for US dollars. Therefore, any country wanting to buy oil would have to buy dollars first. In 1975 all of the OPEC oil-producer nations followed suit, creating the petrodollar era.

In return the US would supply them weapons and provide “military protection.” All of this was good business for the US bosses because a lot of the oil profits got reinvested in the US, strengthening the dollar as the world’s reserve currency.

But now times are changing sharply. The decline of the US as a super-power is more evident, and Saudi Arabia is starting to question whether it can really count on the US for protection if needed.

Given the differences between the US and Saudis and the fact that the US is becoming more energy “independent” due to new shale-oil technologies, the Saudis are looking towards China and the rest of Asia as a new market.

China’s super-power status will require tremendous amounts of oil. Where better to get it than the Middle East? Saudi Arabia sees this as an opportunity to shift direction and possibly break away from the US.

Saudi-Chinese Deals Increase Their Energy Trade

In 2009 Saudi exports to China exceeded those to the US for the first time. The Saudis export three times more oil to five Asian countries than to Europe and North America combined.

The need for oil in China and the rest of Asia will expand greatly. So Saudi Arabia sees China-Asia as their future growth market. That’s why China invested \$8.5 billion to build a huge oil refinery in the Saudi port city of Yanbu, scheduled to open in 2014. This project is being developed by Sinopec, China’s major oil company, and Saudi Arabia’s Aramco.



If present trends continue and the US is unable to contain China, the energy relationship between China and Saudi Arabia will bring the privileged role of the petrodollar to an end. The consequences for the US rulers will be devastating.

To prevent or reverse this, the US imperialists will go to war. China will defend its rising position. All the imperialist butchers are willing to sacrifice millions of working-class soldiers, sailors and marines to defend their blood-soaked profit system.

Imperialist Wars Inevitable – Only the Working Class Can End Them.

Whether the US or Chinese bosses control the world, the working class will always lose. Yes, we workers need to go to war, but we need to go to war against the capitalist class.

We don’t need a system where a class exploits another class for profit. We need a classless society where everything is based on need, not profit or money. We need a revolution for a communist society.

MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA: MASSES IN MOTION NEED COMMUNIST OUTLOOK

The Saudi rulers want “protection” from the rulers of Iran, a major rival for regional influence. But they also want “protection” from the angry masses inside Saudi Arabia.

Unemployment among Saudi citizens is officially 13% and double that among young adults. Two years ago, conditions like these fueled the Arab Spring – and those fires are still burning.

The Saudi rulers’ fascist response has been “Saudisation,” including a ban on foreigners in some professions and the expulsion of hundreds of thousands of immigrant workers, who were two-thirds of the overall workforce.

It remains to be seen how many Saudi youth will accept the brutally low wages and slave-like working conditions forced on immigrant laborers.

Meanwhile, 6,000 street-cleaners in Mecca, mostly from Bangladesh, held a five-day strike protesting non-payment of wages, harassment by immigration authorities, and dangerous working conditions. Masses of Ethiopian immigrants fought the police who targeted them in Riyadh. After at least two were killed by the cops, solidarity demonstrations were held in Ethiopia, in



Siliana, Tunisia

Dallas and Portland (USA), and elsewhere.

In Tunisia, where the Arab Spring began, a general strike shut down Gafsa, Siliana, and the eastern Gabes region, where unemployment and poverty have, if anything, worsened in the last two years. The spark for the strike, on the anniversary of last year’s mass protests, was a government decision to refuse to build new hospitals in historically underserved Gafsa and Gabes.

Masses fought police and burned an office of the ruling party in the working-class region of

Gafsa, strategic for its phosphate mines. “The people want the fall of the regime,” they chanted.

In Egypt, thousands of workers started a sit-in at the state-owned Iron and Steel Company on November 26, demanding an overdue “profit-share” bonus. They are now on a partial strike. University students responded to a November government crackdown with protests and strikes. They exposed the government’s lie that it was “just keeping the Islamists in line,” seeing the repression as an attack on their protests against poor conditions on campus, rising tuition fees, and inadequate student housing.

The masses need more than jobs, more than better conditions, more than “the fall of the regime.” They need the fall of capitalism-imperialism! Only the masses, mobilized for communism, can make that happen. We must take full advantage of every opportunity created by the class struggle.

As the *Communist Manifesto* stated 165 years ago, “Let the ruling classes tremble. The proletarians have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to win.”

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