



RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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



Above: Protest against Burmese government attacks on Rohingya Muslims, Jakarta (Indonesia), November 16, 2016

Fight Worldwide Fascist Attacks with Communist Revolution!



Right: Hundreds of students at Texas A&M University (US) protest speech by white-nationalist (racist) Robert Spencer, December 6, 2016

Wages Shackle Workers to Capitalism

COMMUNIST PRODUCTION WILL BE BASED ON COMMITMENT AND NEED

SOUTH AFRICA, Nov. 21 – The President of the Republic announced a new minimum wage of 3,500 rand (US \$242) a month. This is a totally ridiculous amount. No human being can survive on such a low wage. It's only enough for a little food and to take the bus to go to work and then the money is gone. It's less than the average rent for a 1-bedroom apartment outside of Port Elizabeth.

This goes to show that under capitalism, workers will never succeed. Workers will be shackled to capitalism by wages.

This is a total betrayal of the working class by the capitalist bosses. It provides us as an organization with the opportunity to go to the masses. They are angrier now than they have been against their union, COSATU, and against the African National Congress-led government.

We are in a strategic position to explain to the masses what wages do, how wages contribute to the subjugation of the working class. We need to explain to the masses in language they can understand that wages will never improve their lives. Instead, wages will always be chains that bind the working class to the capitalists. Whoever tells them otherwise is either delusional or is misleading them.

This is the message that we need to take to the masses. This is one example that has been happening to the working class worldwide. The attacks on the working class are tremendous here in South Africa, in the US, and in other parts of the world.

We need to be proactive as a party in getting our message across to the masses, into the working class, about why wages will never better the lives of the working class. The lives of the working class won't get better until the working class seizes power with communist revolution.

We can and will seize control of the means of production, not to produce for wages but to produce the things all workers need based on their commitment. It won't be based on intolerable hours of work whereby people have little time to spend with their families. The time they have now they spend in the factories working for almost nothing.

The youth collective here in South Africa needs to be in the forefront in getting our communist message across. We need to wage an ideological struggle against the idea that wages will better the lives of the working class. We need to be proactive; we don't need to wait.

Aerospace workers:

WALKOUT DEBATES SPREAD INTEREST IN COMMUNISM

SEATTLE, USA, Nov.15 —“Do you think this is right?” asked a Boeing machinist, pointing to a big front-page picture of the student walkout in the *Seattle Times*. Five thousand students had left classes a couple of days before to protest the racism, sexism and anti-immigrant stance of Trump (see p. 13).

“I think it's great!” I answered.

“But will it stop Trump from becoming president?” she asked.

We had been talking about the election for weeks. She's an immigrant and had a lot of questions about the U.S. political system. For the first time, she's had serious doubts about bosses' “freedom and elections.”

“No,” I had to admit, “but it can lead to something even better.”

The views in this Boeing plant about the walkouts fall roughly into three categories. The right-wing (and sometimes fascist) bellowing about how the teachers ought to be thrown in jail. This nonsense ignores the fact that the students are leading the way, expertly and creatively organizing the demonstrations themselves.

A much larger number welcome the demonstrations with pride and enthusiasm for the brave students. The walkouts have helped defeat some hesitancy to struggle among our friends who know better than to just accept elections. In addition, comrades have broadened and sharpened our discussions about joining the party to mobilize for the only solution — communism.

My machinist friend represents the third group in the center. This may very well be the biggest group.

We began to discuss what kind of education she wanted her

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History's Judgment:**FIDEL & THE CUBAN REVOLUTION FAILED TO DELIVER ON THEIR PROMISES**

Fidel Castro has died. Millions were inspired by the Cuban Revolution he led because it promised a vision of a different society and a different humanity. However, it failed to deliver on both.

Fidel is greatly admired for standing up to US imperialism, but a true revolutionary communist would be against all imperialisms. Fidel opportunistically embraced Soviet imperialism, for example by sending troops to Africa to provide revolutionary cover for the Soviets during the Cold War.

Cuba also helped train the guerrillas in Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua, to fight and die for “national liberation.” But this struggle has ultimately only advanced the interests of some local capitalists and Soviet and European imperialists.

Today, open market capitalism flourishes in Cuba—not communism. Cuban workers could have been mobilized to fight for communism and to build a communist society. Instead they were mobilized for socialism.

Cuban socialism is widely acclaimed for its reforms in education and health care. But it has condemned the Cuban workers to remain wage slaves. They are wage slaves of the government that employs them. They are wage slaves of the Spanish and Mexican capitalists who own the tourist industry’s hotels. And they are wage slaves of the Chinese and European imperialists who profit from the sugar and tobacco they produce.

Communism is different. It is a society where money is abolished. Nothing is bought or sold. We all contribute to society according to our commitment and abilities and receive according to need. It is the only society which can fulfill the aspirations of the world’s oppressed masses.

Communism is based on cooperation and collectivity, not competition. It creates production and social relations where every human being is treated with respect, dignity and appreciation regardless of how little or how much he/she contributes.

Only communism can create a society without racism and sexism in a world without borders, nations, profits or private property.

Socialism could never do this. Socialism of any type is a form of capitalism. It relies on

money, and the capitalist-imperialist market – where the workers’ labor and what it produces are bought and sold.

The Cuban revolution repeated the old communist movement’s fatal errors of fighting for socialism and national liberation as stepping stones to communism. They wrongly thought that the masses could not be won to fight directly for communism.

Fidel and the Cuban Revolution should be judged on the basis of whether they advanced the fight for communism.

What would have been necessary in Cuba in 1959—and what is necessary for us today—to fight for communism?

A successful communist revolution requires a mass revolutionary communist party. There was none then and there is none today in Cuba. The Cuban Communist Party had long given up on armed struggle to overthrow capitalism. In 1944, it changed its name to the Popular Socialist Party to participate in elections. It was subservient to Soviet imperialism. This is the party Fidel became head of in order to govern Cuba.

A successful communist revolution would have required a communist party to mobilize the Cuban masses to fight directly for communism. But, neither Fidel nor his closest followers, including Che Guevara, were or became revolutionary communists.

Prior to and even after seizing power, Fidel was a member of the “Partido del Pueblo Cubano,” an anti-communist, populist, nationalist electoral party. Fidel’s populist bourgeois reforms hurt the profits of some US companies. US imperialism retaliated, imposing a total economic embargo on Cuba, and prepared an invasion to overthrow him.

Fidel needed a new trading partner and some protection. He turned to the Soviet Union. For its own imperialist reasons, the Soviet Union embraced Fidel. Fidel then declared himself a “communist,” and Cuba a socialist state.

The Cuban Revolution failed to meet the aspirations of the masses. So did the anti-imperialist struggles it inspired and supported from Africa to Central America. It promoted the line that impe-



rialism is different from capitalism, and can be defeated by a national liberation struggle. But imperialism is advanced capitalism. It can only be defeated by communist revolution.

Bitter lessons have taught our class that the fight for communism needs to be a conscious, mass fight carried out by the laboring masses against all capitalists and imperialists. It must be led by one international party, the International Communist Workers’ Party. Join us in that historic task!

CUBAN SOLDIERS & DOCTORS: SOLIDARITY & PROFIT

Cuban doctors and the Cuban soldiers that fought in Africa are some of the best examples that workers could be won to serve and sacrifice, not for money, but for working-class solidarity and internationalism.

But those soldiers and doctors were cynically used by Fidel and his Soviet masters.

Cuban soldiers in Africa fought for Soviet imperialism—in the Ogaden desert on behalf of the Russian-backed Ethiopian Derg, and in Angola against the apartheid government of South Africa. They ended up in all cases putting capitalists in power.

Doctors are Cuba’s biggest export. They and other professionals are rented out today to some 66 countries, which pay the Cuban government up to \$5,000 a month for a Cuban professional.

The government pays the professional \$150 to \$500 a month, keeping the rest as profits. In 2014 this amounted to \$5 billion. There are 30,000 Cuban doctors in Venezuela. In this case the Cuban government is paid for their services in oil.

While Cuba’s main source of revenue is remittances, Cuban doctors abroad now bring in more revenue than the traditionally most profitable industry: sugar.



Sugar cane workers on private farm, Caimito, Cuba, 2014



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BUILDING ICWP AMONG TRANSIT WORKERS



LOS ANGELES, USA, Nov. 20— “Me (X) and other MTA workers had a meeting last Thursday. It consisted of new members with great topics. We discussed the reason why communism is important and the future of communism instead of socialism. Another comrade and

I led the meeting. We discussed that the working class must join together and become communist to guide our future. We will be meeting again next Thursday to discuss and study together; also we are going to invite more guests to support *Red Flag*.”

The meeting included a multi-racial group of workers led by a black comrade. He explained why workers need the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP) and our newspaper *Red Flag*. Everyone actively participated. Even though we don’t have the same level of political understanding, we all agreed that the only answer is communist revolution. Some of the comments during the meeting were:

“Skin color doesn’t matter. We are workers and as a class we have to fight together,” said L. He continued, “Many white workers who voted for Trump have been fooled about the conditions that cause the crisis. The capitalist system consciously promotes these lies. I would like a society without borders where every human being can receive what they need to live.”

B said, “I talked with some friends and told them that if we all pooled our money, like a cooperative, and bought cars to sell, we could get out of poverty.”

X replied, “That doesn’t work because we could be 5, 10, or 20, but that does not solve the problem of the working class. The party talks about organizing the majority because that would be the only way to change the capitalist system which is the cause of all the evils.”

W said emphatically, “These attacks are not isolated. They are the product of a capitalist system in crisis, which always resorts to fascism when their system falters. The answer must be to make a communist revolution led by workers, soldiers and students.”

H mentioned, “ICWP has contacts with workers in other countries and it is very important to write about the process of organization and the ideological struggle that we are developing. We need to read about and discuss the experiences of other workers.”

The comrade who led the meeting talked about the urgency of inviting more co-workers to the next meeting. We made a plan to do that. We concluded the meeting reminding those present that in this society there exists no other force as powerful the working class organized in its communist party.

American Apparel Threatens Workers

with Layoffs

FIGHT FOR A COMMUNIST WORLD WITHOUT EXPLOITATION

LOS ANGELES, USA, Nov. 20— “They are selling American Apparel (AA) to the highest bidder, workers and all,” said a garment worker from this factory.

In November, AA declared bankruptcy again and was put up for sale to the investors. The bosses met and announced to the hundreds of men and women workers that they didn’t know if the new buyer would bring their own workers (wage slaves) or would continue using those who are already there, but with new restrictions, that is, even lower wages.

AA sent official layoff warnings to 3,500 workers in its three Southern California factories.

Due to fierce competition in the garment industry and the general crisis of capitalism, American Apparel has had economic problems for years. One way out of this problem is to constantly attack the workers with layoffs, speed up, and the threat of sending production to Mexico.

Many workers blame the new bosses for not knowing how to lead AA. They ask for the return of Dov Charney, who founded the factory in 1989. He became famous for claiming that it was a rebel factory and not a sweatshop, because it paid a little more than the minimum wage and gave some benefits.

The American Apparel brand ran ads with young women in sexually suggestive poses. Its business of expensive clothes was supported at that time by the city government and by many liberal organizations internationally.

But due to Dov’s many law suits for sexual harassment and even more importantly the decline in sales and therefore in the profits of the investors, he was dismissed a few years ago as the factory’s general manager.

But neither Dov nor the new bosses can meet the needs of the men and women workers. We must not support any boss. We men and women workers must support the struggle for a communist society based on producing collectively and distributing according to the needs of the masses.

In communism we will produce quality useful clothes, not based on advertising about fashion or on exploitation. We will look for ways to produce clothes to meet the needs of humanity both in fabrics and designs.

Nor will there fear of being fired, since we men and women workers will organize the new communist society. If we have made enough clothes, the workers will do something else or will rest. Certainly no one will be removed from their homes or will go hungry.

More than 100 AA workers regularly

take *Red Flag*. Some have participated in meetings and May Day Dinners. We must take a more effective step and form a collective inside the factory to organize meetings with communist politics, distribute more *Red Flags* and help to organize a communist revolution.



At American Apparel

Capitalism Guilty of Murder of Bus Drivers

ORGANIZE MASSIVELY FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

EL SALVADOR, Dec. 7—From 2011 through today, 629 transportation workers here have been killed. Transportation workers are one of the groups most exploited and exposed to violence here. They are also critical to production and the functioning of the system. Mobilizing them for communism will be a great step towards revolution. The massacre of these 629 class brothers is caused by capitalism and the bosses’ thirst for profits.

The transportation of passengers in El Salvador is administered by a private company, which receives an annual subsidy from the State. With a few scattered exceptions, most of the transport units are in terrible condition. Without an infrastructure of boarding stations, with old vehicles in bad condition, with narrow streets and long routes, the bosses demand of their drivers high speed to meet their schedules. This forces the drivers to put the lives of their passengers and themselves at risk.

Gangs extort the transit bosses to pay them a

certain amount of money for each unit they own. Some refuse to pay, preferring that they murder their workers. Catalino Miranda, in an interview with *El Faro* (digital newspaper) said that he does not and will not pay extortions in spite of the fact that since 2004, 26 workers in his company have been killed. “Let them kill them, this will not last a lifetime,” he said.

In January 2015, in response to the measures taken by the government to fight crime, the gangs sent a message to all drivers: “He who takes a vehicle out tomorrow will end up stuck to the steering wheel.” The following day, six drivers were killed.

These workers did not go out and risk their lives simply on a whim. They needed their wages. They were murdered because their bosses sent them into the streets.

With the elimination of money and with production focused on human need, no human being will have to be exposed to lose their life to generate profits. With a mass Red Army, we will be

able to fight any anti-social groups who want to physically attack men and women workers.

With a new production system, a new infrastructure and organization of the population, the transportation system in Communism will be completely different.

None of this will be possible if we do not organize and strengthen our Party. The transit workers in Los Angeles can contribute their experiences to the comrades in El Salvador about how to organize among this group of workers. An attack against one worker is an attack on all workers. We have more similarities than differences. What the transit workers today in El Salvador are suffering is only a sign of the failure of the system, that in the future with the capitalist crisis, the workers in Los Angeles could suffer also. That is why we must organize NOW.

The working class can no longer live under this system. It’s us or them. This struggle is becoming more radicalized everyday and it will not end until the building of a Communist society.

Trump Election Exposes Rotting Roots of Capitalist Democracy

FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST WORKERS' POWER

USA, Nov. 29 — Protesters chant: “This is what democracy looks like!” A comrade remarks: “Yes! We are in the streets yelling while a handful of capitalists in fancy offices make all the decisions. We need communism, not democracy.”

Trump’s election represents a political crisis for the US ruling class. Its electoral system is in chaos. Even as president-elect, Trump’s domestic and international “deals” are nakedly corrupt. They may even violate the bosses’ Constitution. Already the *New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal* are talking about impeachment. They see the Trump presidency as a threat to US imperialism.

US imperialism justifies its bloody rule over workers worldwide by claiming to “spread democracy.” Now this democracy is poised to inaugurate a President Trump with the white-nationalist (Nazi) Steve Bannon at his right side.

This crisis and comparable ones around the world reflect a general crisis of world capitalism. War and fascism take capitalism’s intensifying contradictions to extremes. They expose the rotting roots of existing society.

The rulers’ crisis is our opportunity to show that the only alternative to the bosses’ fascism is communist revolution.

In communism, the masses, through our interconnected collectives, will make all decisions that shape our common lives. We’ll be organized as one International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP).

ICWP membership is not an elite status reserved for a special few. We want everyone to join who will work for a communist world. We constantly struggle to develop everyone’s political understanding and commitment.

ICWP is not an electoral party. Running candidates builds the dangerous illusion that capitalist democracy reflects “the people’s will.” In socialism, elections are either a transparent cover for one-party rule, or simply capitalist politics as usual.

Communist leaders aren’t elected. They are those who take responsibility for the work. They demonstrate their commitment to communism in

practice. Eventually everyone will help lead.

Masses are losing confidence in “the system.” Nearly half of eligible voters stayed home. Racist voter-suppression stopped some. But many correctly saw that none of the candidates represented their interests.

Trump’s “populism” is revealing itself as a capitalist bonanza that will intensify capitalism’s attacks on all workers. All workers stand to lose overtime pay, health insurance, pensions and more. Only communism can meet their needs. To win this fight the masses must reject Trump’s anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim scapegoating and his divisive sexist lies.

The sharpest contradiction today may be President Obama’s pledge to “make sure that this is a successful transition” — to an openly fascist regime!

The rulers rightly fear workers’ revolution. Obama and other politicians need us to believe that their democracy “is better than the alternatives,” in Obama’s words. That “We’re patriots first.” That we must have “respect for our institutions, our way of life, rule of law.”

We’re not “patriots” and we don’t respect the capitalist way of life that is destroying our lives and our planet! Masses must consider “the alternatives.”

The alternative we need is communism.

Communism means “From each according to ability and commitment, to each according to need.” Cooperation will replace wages, profits, privilege, exploitation and competition. We’ll share goods and services instead of “exchanging” them. Those affected by decisions will collectively make them and carry them out.

“So, would communism be real democracy?” some ask.

“Democracy” and “dictatorship” are intercon-



November 14--Seattle students walk out against Trump

nected aspects of capitalist rule. Class society depends on organized violence to protect its system of private property. The US constitution, from the beginning, established the bosses’ monopoly of legal violence to defend their bloody theft of land and labor.

We can see capitalist dictatorship today at Standing Rock. In racist police terror and mass incarceration. In the threat of starvation and homelessness that forces workers into wage slavery. This is what democracy really looks like.

Communist revolution, led by a Red Army, will violently overthrow this bosses’ dictatorship. Masses will exercise our new-found power to collectively reshape society. We will suppress former exploiters and their racist/sexist defenders who stand in the way.

This dictatorship of the working masses will continue until we have wiped capitalism off the face of the earth. Then the whole world will be communist. New generations will grow up knowing that collectivity and sharing are how people live. Rarely will there be need to use force against each other.

Classless society will have neither democracy nor dictatorship.

Capitalism’s deepening crisis must lead either to fascism or to communism. Now is the time to mobilize masses to fight for COMMUNIST WORKERS’ POWER.

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children and other youth to have. Did we want schools where you sit passively in classrooms? Where your “success” depends on absorbing and parroting patriotic and “think-of-yourself-first” ideology? Or do we want communist education where mobilizing for the good of all will be part of the day-to-day curriculum?

She works a lot of overtime to help her daughter pay for her education at the University of Washington. She always complains how expensive it is, but is not willing to reject all capitalist education after such sacrifice. Now she has something more to think about. It was the first time I ever raised communism with her. We must be bolder with this vast center group.

Another friend read a short post on the ICWP



blog about the HS walkout. “I love it!” he shouted.

“You know what really pisses me off?” a comrade responded. “When Obama and Clinton and our boss say we have to stop fighting about the election for the sake of the nation.”

“Bullshit!” was his definitive response.

By the end of the day, I began to say that not only were the students’ walkouts great, but that we should walkout also. I was encouraged by consistent discussions like those above (and, frankly, how my friends were willing to confront the most reactionary Trump supporters).

Talk about our walkout brought up a question similar to the one raised by the woman machinist. If we walkout, even for communism, will it bring it about?

The answer, like the answer to whether walk-

outs will stop the Trump presidency, is “No!”

But it too can lead to something better. A communist walkout will inspire many thousands. If the party does its work right, masses will be discussing communist solutions. The party will grow.

Even a walkout focused on the more open racism, sexism and xenophobia Trump has unleashed will open many more opportunities to present communist solutions.

We are a long way from a walkout at work. Workers understand the stakes are even greater than when students walk out. Nonetheless, these heated debates about political strikes have resulted in increased circulation of *Red Flag* and our leaflet entitled “Communism Means No More Trumps.” It never hurts when more workers are talking about what communism has to offer.

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Send to P.M.B 362, 3006 S. Vermont Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90007

ICWP GREETSS SEATTLE HIGH SCHOOL WALKOUT

SEATTLE USA, Nov. 16—This afternoon hundreds of students from Chief Sealth High School and Denny Middle School in West Seattle walked out of classes to protest the election of Donald Trump. This multiracial and multinational group of students were jubilant as they came down the walkway to cross the street to rally and hold up their signs. As they shouted to their friends waiting across the street, they



grabbed leaflets and *Red Flags* from several members of the International Communist Workers' Party.

Three young men asked us what we were handing out. When we told them that the leaflets talked about getting rid of Trump and the whole capitalist system, they asked for a bunch to distribute to their friends, shouting "We got you!"

Things were slightly chaotic across the street, but we were able to have a few conversations with students and teachers. One teacher said that she was very proud of the work the students had done to get the walkout together. Several of the students were speaking Spanish to each other. When we told them the paper was in Spanish also they eagerly took a bunch.

One young man noticed the colorful stickers we were putting up and asked if he could put some up. Pretty soon there were stickers everywhere that said

"Mobilize the Masses for Communism!"

At some point the staff who were providing security rounded up the students who had school buses to catch and marched them back across the street to the school property. The remainder of the crowd started to chant and march throughout the neighborhood.

We followed them for a while, but had to leave. We noticed that most of the students did not really react to the mention of communism, because they were born at a time when communist ideas were not discussed. We have to learn how to change this so that young people will become interested in learning about these ideas. On future leaflets, we could print (and answer) some of the questions they have been asking. Also, we must take more pictures!

We know that there will be more such actions in the next weeks where we can correct these mistakes. One comrade who came had been very ill all week long, but as we headed for the car, she exclaimed "This made me feel so much better!" Yes, bringing communist ideas to the next generation is better than chicken soup!!

LETTERS

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CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

For communist revolution we need a foothold in the barracks

I want to give a report about our successful meeting today. Our day went really well. Comrade S was there. He was at the conference. So were other comrades including one of the older ladies, along with another lady.

One of the guys who was there is someone we are especially interested in because no one else can give us access to the soldiers like he can. He is a focal point for us to get a foothold in the barracks. So we are more interested in him. And he was more interested in us. He's the one who wanted to know more about communism.

We tried to explain to him the crucial role that the military will play when there is a revolution. I think the military will be the key, so I plan to explain more to him about the role of soldiers. The comrade wanted to join us. He should try and see himself as the changer also because if the soldiers can be won to the working class, that will ultimately be the collapse of capitalism. The bosses rely more on soldiers than the soldiers rely on them. So that's why we are going to continue the struggle with the comrade and be in touch with him.

Our objective today was worthwhile for us and also for the whole party. Those comrades were genuinely revived by our presence there. They were encouraged that we didn't forget about them. So basically over all, comrades, I think this is something the party as a whole should be proud of because we have managed to make a breakthrough today in our struggle for the destruction of capitalism. We have won a dedicated comrade for our cause.

The most important thing for us is to continue the struggle with him around our political line, around our communist ideas. Other than that, our goal for today was actually reached. I will update you more as events unfold.

—Comrades in South Africa

Struggling with soldiers about communism

"Before I get into it with the bad guys, I would kill them or they would kill me. They're not going to take me and torture me," said a soldier friend in a recent discussion. The comments were about what had happened some days before in the Acapulco airport, where two soldiers were kidnapped and killed by a criminal group.

The friend commented that the situation in the country is very complicated and will become even more so. After talking about the important events in the country and his work, I explained our political line. I commented that it is urgent to form our red army that will contribute to the struggle for the liberation of our working class.

I told him about the soldiers' work in the revolutionary struggle, and we also talked about rumors of a coup that are going around in the armed forces. I commented that it would be a useless uprising, because many people would die, but not for our class. Instead they would die for a small group of bosses with their own particular interests in Mexico, not because they want to liberate us from oppression.

He commented that the conditions are very difficult on his job, as other soldier friends have said, who agree about the poor equipment and weapons. He talked about his resentment at in-

stitutions like the Human Rights Commission who usually protect the offender and punish the soldier. I said that many of these institutions only serve to oppress workers even more. They create illusions in people by making them think that with this they will resolve their problems, but this is a lie. It is only to control them.

Sometime later we resumed our communication. He had read the ICWP military pamphlet. (See below.) He mentioned that it seemed very repetitive; however he would like to know more. He said that he would be willing to continue learning about the political line of the Party. He asked what the time frame was in which what we talk about in the pamphlet will materialize. That is, when will the Communist revolution happen? I answered that the bosses would indicate the time. They are preparing for their third world war, and we are preparing for our liberation. I could not expand more, but we agreed that he has to let us know when he wants to get together. I suggested that he read the pamphlet again and that if we need to improve it, we would do so with his help. He agreed.

I said that in our revolutionary struggle, history, political clarity and the actions to be carried out will show our advance and commitment to build the movement. However, this must be a constant struggle. It is a struggle that must not be abandoned. As has been well said, everything will get difficult. However, here we are, here are the Communists who, in spite of our contradictions, continue sowing the seeds of hope, seeds of Communism. Join ICWP.

—Young Comrade from Mexico



ICWP is building a new Red Army. There are comrades who are military veterans, on active duty, and youth ready to enlist in the bosses' armed forces.

We have learned from the advances and errors of the Red Armies during the Russian and Chinese Revolutions.

Building an army and a society which operate on political rather than material incentives will guarantee the final victory of communism.

Read our pamphlet:

**SOLDIERS, SAILORS,
MARINES, CRUCIAL
TO A COMMUNIST
WORKERS'
REVOLUTION**

available at
**icwpredflag.org/
MIL/mpe.pdf**

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CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

Communism: One Human Family

We all depend on others—many others. Capitalism conceals this by putting money between production and use. We're paid in money and get things by spending money. It seems we need money, not other people—except a boss to pay us.

In capitalism, the economic unit is the “family” or “household.” Families usually pool and share resources. Working-class families produce labor power. They are responsible for meeting workers' needs so they can work the next day. They raise children to be the next generation of wage slaves.

The mid-20th century Hollywood “typical family” (stay-at-home mom, work-for-a-paycheck dad, kids) was never reality for most workers, even in the US.

Today, capitalism's profound crisis puts unbearable stresses on families. Mass incarceration, wars and migration break up many. Few households can subsist on one paycheck. Women often carry a double burden of housework and a paying job (or two).

Few can “succeed” whether “on their own” or in a relationship. Problems multiply. We blame each other. Too many self-medicate with alcohol or other drugs.

In communism, we will all pool and share resources. Really, we will all be one family. Production and distribution based on need will replace capitalist markets. We will live and raise kids more collectively.

Communist society will reveal our interdependence. Nobody will have a boss or be one or act like one. Communism will be the material basis for winning the struggle against sexism and all the bosses' “blame-each-other” ideologies.

In communism, we will all help and depend on one another. Nobody will depend on just one “companion” to meet all of their economic, social, emotional and sexual needs. We will have stronger and more varied relationships.

A recent letter said that “some women” (influenced by feminism) “have not been able to establish stable relationships.” It said that “there are women who live alone and have even more conflicts” than married women. It said nothing about men (influenced by sexism) who haven't been able to establish stable relationships or who live alone.

Our Party shouldn't echo capitalism's sexist ideas that women are to blame, or mainly to blame, for relationship problems. As *Red Flag* commented, “the main ideology and behavior that disrupts relationships is male chauvinism.”

Communism, like feminism, insists that nobody “needs to put up with anything or anyone” who treats them badly. That's why communists in the Soviet Union and China moved quickly to expand women's right to divorce.



Baylor University, Texas, USA, November 11: Hundreds of people escort student Natasha Nkhama to class after she was the target of a racist attack on campus.

But communism, unlike feminism, has a real solution. By providing collectively for everyone's needs, communist society will allow everyone to “succeed.” But not “on their own.” Nobody ever does that. We will all succeed – together.

—Single woman comrade in the US

Communism Will End Violence Against Women

In 1999 the UN declared 25 November the “International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.” It is honored mainly in Latin America.

The day commemorates the murder of the three Mirabal sisters by Dominican strongman Rafael Trujillo. They opposed his regime, and one rebuffed Trujillo's advances.

But sexist violence is baked into capitalism. Only communism will end it.

Liberal bosses talk a lot about how they want to end violence against women. But they tolerate it. Their popular media – and (lately) political rhetoric – encourage it. Sexist violence in practise works as a form of terrorism to keep women in line. It is an attempt to force them to accept super exploitation at work and domestic slavery at home.

How can communism end sexist violence? First, we could abolish marriage and the family as legal and financial institutions. We don't really have a choice here, because there will be

no formal laws and no money.

This doesn't mean the end of the family as a unit. People will still form partnerships, some of which will last a lifetime. They'll still have kids and (usually) stay close to them.

But they won't have to. If partners or other relatives don't get along, they can separate. Remember that under communism peoples' needs (including

child care) are taken care of by society, not by parents and spouses. So separation will have emotional consequences but not material ones. The family will no longer be a prison cell.

Secondly, there will be no tolerance for sexist violence. If a woman is assaulted by her partner or anyone else they will be immediately be put on a mass trial (of, say, coworkers). If it is decided that the assault occurred there will be consequences. One possible consequence is that the assailant stay away from the victim. This will be enforced, not by a police force, but by the masses.

Furthermore, we'll stamp out sexist bourgeois culture which implicitly glorifies violence against women in, for example, ‘thrillers’ featuring extreme, gory brutality.

– A Reader

In a Communist Society, We Won't Need Drugs to Escape

Peruvian Communist Jose Carlos Mariátegui wrote in the 1920's that peasants (farmworkers) in Peru lived a collective, communist lifestyle. He showed that these farmworkers lived and produced without money, pointing out that there was no reason to take them into the money economy of socialism. Instead they could go directly to communism.

He said that they planted and harvested their crops together, laughing and joking as they worked. Comparing this collectivity to the slave-like conditions other farmworkers were forced to work under, he showed that those who worked their land collectively with no bosses had fun and also produced much more than those forced to work under the whip.

This gives us a glimpse of life and work in communism, where we will not work for bosses or money and where workers will collectively invent new ways of producing to meet human need that combine work and fun.

In communist society, like the one Mariátegui described, work itself will be exciting, full of camaraderie, learning and creativity. There won't be any need to use drugs to escape.

– A Reader



Ecuador: Fighting Violence Against Women

LETTERS

LETTERS

LETTERS

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

Comrade Tata in South Africa recently died. He met the International Communist Workers' Party and Red Flag four years ago. He promptly joined and dedicated himself to mobilizing the masses for communism during the last years of his life.

To Comrade Tata,

Your hardened face showed a long history of struggle and your voice an absolute determination. You had dedicated your entire life to the eradication of the exploitation of the South African masses. You suffered harassment, beatings and imprisonment from an early age, but your spirit of struggle was never broken.

In your mature age you continued your struggle and soon met **Red Flag** and you were reborn. You realized, comrade, that at the end you had found everything that you had looked for your whole life. And you declared again with your absolute commitment that you felt eternally happy and full of confidence that this party, the International Communist Workers' Party, will lead us to the final victory of communism and the abolition of all forms of exploitation.



We were moved and inspired by your dream in which you are surrounded by thousands of comrades (dressed in red). Comrade, we are converting your dream into reality every day. Comrade, you are surrounded by comrades of ICWP around the world.

And today when you are leaving us we all raise our fists high, we sing the Internationale and we honor you, comrade. And we again commit ourselves to your and our absolute struggle to eliminate capitalist exploitation from the face of the earth and build this communist world for which we all fight and which we so long for.

—Internationalist comrade in the US

A person who we know was attacked by fascist RSS goons in India. He is in hospital with a broken back and leg. The following is a message of solidarity to him from a comrade in South Africa:

Speedy recovery to our dearest comrade! Away with state brutality and repression. It would be an illusion to think that these atrocities perpetrated by the armed thugs of the state will go away by themselves. Only a communist revolution will sweep away all remnants of the bosses' state. This brutality and cowardice meted out by these thugs will be met with the revulsion it deserves. We condemn this act of cowardice with the utter contempt it deserves. We pledge solidarity with our comrades in India and urge them to never give up the fight and class struggle to destroy capitalist rule once and for all!

We have got our party, our shield, the International Communist Workers' Party, with the tools and instruments to destroy capitalist rule. Hence we are mobilizing masses everywhere for communism, differently from other outfits that only help to strengthen capitalist rule.

The masses learn through bitter experience

A few intellectuals may know historical truths and social developments by their study and

genuine understanding. But the masses learn only through bitter experience, or, to put it in crude terms, after receiving the danda. That is the stick or baton the Indian police use to beat people up in the street.

Thus it was that the Indian masses learned after being befooled and kicked around for almost 70 years that the "Independence" of 1947 was no independence. Real independence is independence from poverty, hunger, unemployment, lack of healthcare and good education.

They learned that a real freedom struggle from foreign rule can only be an armed struggle as pointed out by our real freedom fighters like Bhagat Singh, Chandrashekhar Azad, Surya Sen (Masterda), Bismal, Ashfaqulla, Rajguru, Khudiram Bose, etc. They all believed in armed struggle, influenced by communist ideas, and not the fake 'freedom struggle' led by that hypocrite Gandhi.

And the 'democracy' we got after 1947 was phony. It was only vote-bank politics craftily manipulated by our crooked politicians. They took advantage of the lack of understanding of the masses and tremendous casteism and communalism still prevailing in society to win elections.

It is only now that the Indian masses, through their bitter experience, are gradually learning the truth. They are realizing that the solutions

to their massive problems lie outside the system, and not within it, that is by a revolution.

To achieve this revolution, the Indian masses will have to learn more, and go through rivers of blood and make tremendous sacrifices. But that is, unfortunately, how history operates. The vested interests in the present order will not give up their hold, and will not allow great changes in the country but will seek to retain the status quo, by putting up fierce resistance.

But our goal must be clear. We must be ready for attaining this objective whatever the cost in blood.

We have to establish a social and political order in which our people enjoy a high standard of living and decent lives, with employment, healthcare, good education, nutritious food, etc. for all. There must be no social discrimination against women, Dalits, minorities, etc.

For this struggle the people will have to use all their creativity, and devise the forms of struggle, as were devised by the people in the great French, Russian, and Chinese revolutions, led by modern-minded, brave, and self-sacrificing leaders. Only then will they get real independence.

And they will do it.

Arduous as is the path of the Indian people, their future is bright.

—A Comrade in India

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capitalists, joined by rich peasants, highly paid party leaders and technical experts, and even some former landlords were the top dogs in new China. Far from communism, new China actually realized the capitalist program of Sun Yatsen, the founder of the Guomindang: national independence, land reform, and beginnings of industrial development.

By 1962 Mao warned that pro-capitalist forces in the party were fighting to prevent any advance beyond capitalism: "We have inherited the national bourgeoisie and their intellectuals, as well as the sons and daughters of the landlord class... They remain concealed until opportunities become ripe, which they then seize." He warned that "revisionists," pro-capitalist forces pretending to be communists, "wanted to overthrow us. If we paid no attention and conducted no struggle, China would become a fascist dictatorship in either a few or a few dozen years."

Throughout the 1960s, the Communist Party of China (CPC) fought the class struggle against Soviet and Chinese revisionism. This fight in-

spired many new communist parties across the world. These parties rejected Soviet revisionism but borrowed a nationalist approach from the CPC. When Mao finally launched the Cultural Revolution, the wrong lines that the CPC had followed for years took their toll. These mistakes included promoting nationalism and a socialist wage system that pitted workers against each other. The divided Chinese working class was defeated and the capitalist forces were fully in charge by 1980, as Mao had predicted.

The capitalist victories in all the "national liberation" struggles, and the mass struggles against revisionism in China made it possible for us to learn two critical lessons. The first is that nationalism is always an enemy of the communist movement, and capitalists always win in nationalist movements. The second is that communists must reject socialism and its wage system and fight directly for communism.

ICWP makes the fight for communism and against all forms of nationalism, racism and sexism our daily struggle. Join us! We have a world to win.

**WHAT WE FIGHT FOR:
READ OUR
MANIFESTO AT
[icwpredflag.org/MMC/
MMCnewE.html](http://icwpredflag.org/MMC/MMCnewE.html)**



Dakota Access Pipeline: Capitalist Profits vs. Clean Water

COMMUNISM WILL ORGANIZE MASSES TO DECIDE EVERYTHING

USA, Dec. 6— As we go to press, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in North Dakota is celebrating the announcement that the Army Corps of Engineers will not allow the Dakota oil pipeline to cross Lake Oahe, their water supply.

For months, the Sioux, with other indigenous and non-indigenous supporters, defied frigid weather and brutal assaults. Hundreds of veterans recently joined their embattled camp.

The courageous Standing Rock “Water Protectors” inspired masses with their commitment to fight powerful corporate interests and the capitalist government that (as usual) backed them.

Local police and company thugs attacked the Sioux with water cannons (in sub-zero temperatures), dogs and stun grenades. They deprived them of sleep, fuel, and food. Hundreds were arrested. The Obama administration did nothing and said nothing.

President-elect Trump has \$1-2 million invested in Energy Transfer Partners, the construction company, and Phillips 66, a major stakeholder. Energy Transfer donated heavily to Trump’s campaign.

Trump just announced he would sell these investments. But today’s “victory” could be reversed in months to come, like so many other hard-won but temporary reform victories. Only communist workers’ power can guarantee that the needs of the masses will be met.

Capitalism still poisons our water and pollutes our air. It wrecks our lives and threatens our future. Its democracy has put open fascists in power in India, the US and elsewhere.

Communism will change everything. Communism will organize production based on comradely social relationships and the needs of the masses. In this classless society, there will be no government as we know it. Instead, a mass International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP) will share the work of planning and decision-making among everyone who’s willing to help.

Some decisions will concern local issues and can be made locally. But most important decisions can’t. Our world is interconnected. Everyone who is affected by an issue will have a say.

Communism will erase national borders. It will develop mass consciousness of our mutual interdependence. A growing international party means the emergence of collective wisdom on a scale we can scarcely imagine. But let’s begin



US military veterans protecting protestors at Standing Rock

with the limited knowledge of our relatively small party today.

Everyone needs clean water. Many more people will help develop ways to reduce and reverse capitalism’s widespread water waste, pollution and depletion. There will be many more hands to carry out these plans.

The same holds for clean energy. We’ll mobilize masses to provide power with existing and new technologies. We’ll leave more carbon in the ground. We’ll prevent further damage to ecosystems and our health. No more toxic fogs that suffocate millions!

When we can’t avoid dangerous materials, we’ll deploy enough labor power to guarantee that they are handled safely.

Dakota pipeline protesters remind us that indigenous people lived sustainably in the Missouri River valley. For hundreds of years before they were conquered by the US Army in the late 19th century, their societies survived mainly on cooperation and exchange, not exploitation. Still earlier, for thousands of years, they lived in small nomadic groups with elements of communism.

But we need to look forward to scientific communism, not backward to an idealized past.

“We need to criticize ideologies like pacifism and religion that try to make the movement ineffective,” said a comrade.

At Standing Rock, some Sioux tribal leaders and non-indigenous clergy supporters pushed

pacifism in the name of “sacred traditions.” They demanded that the movement be “peaceful and prayerful.” They obscured anti-capitalist environmentalism with their emphasis on defending ancestral burial grounds.

Another comrade explained why the political struggle for communist ideas is so important in this and other anti-capitalist fights: “If we win a battle fought for the wrong reasons, then the wrong reasons will subvert the movement.”

We can’t defeat capitalist violence or win communism with prayer or peaceful protest.

Communism will free us from capitalism’s drive to maximize profits by finding the cheapest solutions. It will wipe out the racism that led to the diversion of the Dakota pipeline from Bismarck (mostly white) to the indigenous Standing Rock lands.

Certainly, we would be able to re-route a pipeline (if one is needed) to avoid risks to the water supply and damage to burial sites that some hold sacred. But communism will also free us from tradition’s chains. In China during the 1960s, for example, some collective farmers relocated ancestral graves so they could grow more food.

In capitalism, money dictates virtually every aspect of life and death. In communism, the needs of the masses will determine everything. Using our collective wisdom, we’ll reclaim and transform the world.

COMMUNIST MISTAKES ABOUT NATIONALISM, PART V

Previous articles described the internal struggles of the communist movement about nationalism and alliances with “national” capitalists. This final article in the series describes how ICWP came to recognize that nationalism is always wrong for the working class, and that workers always lose when they try to ally with capitalists.

In part IV, we saw that until the 7th Congress of the Communist International (CI) in 1935, communists in China, India and other undeveloped or colonial countries fought the bourgeoisie. After that Congress, the world communist movement turned sharply to the right. It allied with capitalists and gave up on the goal of the dictatorship of the working class and rural masses.

In 1943 the CI was dissolved. After the 2nd World War, French and Italian communists joined capitalist governments until they were kicked out. In the 1950s, Soviet leaders rejected the dictatorship of the working class. They claimed that rev-

olution was no longer necessary and that socialism could get along peacefully with imperialism.

Despite this complete betrayal of the communist movement by the USSR, there were two very important developments in the decades after 1950s: the surge of “national liberation” movements in former colonies and a deep ideological split between the USSR and Communist Party of China (CPC).

From the ‘50s on, dozens of wars against imperialist domination took place in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Communists took part in these struggles, and sometimes led them. All of them amounted to alliances with local capitalists of colonies or semi-colonials. Some of these struggles gained world-wide support and inspired millions, as was the case with Vietnam.

In all of these movements, however, capitalists eventually triumphed in one way or another. In India, which did not have an armed struggle, the British divided their colony and handed over the pieces to local capitalists. In Indonesia, commu-

nists allied with capitalist leader Sukarno, but the Indonesian capitalists resorted to fascism and murdered hundreds of thousands of communists and their supporters. Long bloody struggles in many African countries only brought capitalists to power there. Civil wars in Central America left capitalists in charge.

The only apparent exception to this pattern was China, where the communist-led movement defeated and drove out the nationalist Guomindang and declared the People’s Republic of China (PRC) in 1949. This movement was an alliance of classes, justified by nationalism. It included workers, peasants, small businesses and the “national bourgeoisie,” Chinese capitalists who were said to be independent of foreign capitalists. These capitalists played a major role in production in the early years of the PRC. Eventually the government bought them out. However, they still received profits from their old businesses. By the late

1950s, these
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