

# RED FLAG

**MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM**



THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY \* [WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG](http://WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG)



September 5—Protests erupt throughout the US over the government decision to end the DACA program which protected from deportation unauthorized immigrants who had arrived as children.  
**SEE ARTICLE PAGE 3**

## **Farm Bosses Intensify Racist Exploitation: LET'S INTENSIFY AND BROADEN THE STRUGGLE TO MOBILIZE DIRECTLY FOR COMMUNISM**

SUMAS, WASHINGTON (USA) —Lucia's husband saw farmworkers walking down the road with their suitcases on August 8th. "Well, go pick them up!" Lucia said. He did. Soon eighty strikers were camped out in Lucia and Joaquin Suarez's backyard.

Leadership like this will be an everyday occurrence after a communist revolution. Leaders like Lucia (and there are many) deserve communism and nothing less.

Four Seattle members of the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) visited the strikers, Lucia, Joaquin and their three children. We brought cash donations from comrades and other Boeing workers and our communist newspaper *Red Flag*.

Both were enthusiastically welcomed. Everyone read *Red Flag* on the spot. A relatively new comrade, born in Mexico (like the farmworkers) urged them to take extra copies. They did, distributing them to those coming and going from the Suarez' yard.

Our new comrade is now more enthusiastic about communism... and more confident about his ability to show how communism is the only answer to escalating racist exploitation.

### **Strikers Focus on Healthcare**

The farm owners, part of the behemoth Munger Farms agribusiness, decided they had better send the strikers home to Mexico. Support was building as far south as Portland, OR (284 mi, 458 km away).

Still, six strikers remained. They needed blood tests. The pesticides had made them so ill they weren't allowed on the planes.

The death of Honesto Ibarra sparked the strike. The company literally worked him to death. They would not let him rest when he complained of debilitating headaches (see *Red Flag*, Vol. 8 #10).

Another worker was paralyzed over half his face. Most of the

See **FARMWORKERS**, page 4

## **South Africa: WESTVILLE SETTLEMENT REBELS MUST DIRECT THEIR ANGER AGAINST CAPITALISM**

SOUTH AFRICA—Just the other day, after young comrades were distributing *Red Flag* to workers in the auto industry, we passed by three torched vehicles, including a bus. They were damaged by angry residents near where we stay. They were angry at the government and the local municipality officials for the lack of 'service delivery.'

When we talked to some of the angry residents, they explained that they wanted the government to build them proper houses because they have been living in shacks for the last two decades. The government of the African National Congress (ANC) has been promising to build proper houses for them. But it never did because it says that the businessman that owns that land where they want their houses built has made it too expensive and is reluctant to listen to their proposals.

The ANC has since been replaced by the DA (Democratic Alliance) in the municipality but the Westville residents still live in shacks. They have seen no improvement in their situation, nor any actions taken by the DA in addressing the housing problem they face. This goes to show that the electoral political parties have no interest in the needs of the working class and the masses.

They actually do not give a damn about them except for their votes. The anger the masses in Westville are showing is good. But it should be anger directed towards capitalism—capitalism that gives power to individuals to hold the masses hostage. This same capitalism has subjected them to poverty, lack of houses and the unbearable living conditions they face as results of staying in congested shacks where, when there are strong winds, they face the prospect of being homeless or shelter less.

Many in the masses are convinced that the problem is only the ANC (the different factions and Zuma). They are told that only if they vote the ANC out of government or if the ANC removes Zuma, then suddenly the

See **SOUTH AFRICA**, page 3

**CAPITALIST  
CLIMATE  
DISASTERS  
PAGE 2**

**BARCELONA:  
"THE FASCISTS  
ARE THE REAL  
TERRORISTS"  
PAGE 3**

**COMMUNISTS  
FIGHT AGAINST  
RACISM  
PAGE 4**

**FRANCE &  
BRAZIL: FROM  
REBELLION TO  
REVOLUTION  
PAGE 5**

## Capitalist Industrialization Causes Climate-Related Disasters

### MOBILIZE FOR COMMUNISM TO REBUILD THE WORLD WE NEED

September 6 – From Mumbai (India) to Houston (USA), capitalism-imperialism is making hurricanes, monsoons, and other storms into deadly disasters for the working class. The working class is forced to save ourselves. We are breaking through all the racist divisions the capitalists create and nurture.

Many workers showed selflessness and commitment in rescuing their class brothers and sisters. This spirit can and must be used to mobilize for communist revolution to end these disasters.

Only the masses mobilized for communism can build a world where everything serves our own needs. Only then can we live in the dwellings and with the infrastructure and services that will guarantee our safety and survival. We will organize in sustainable ways to reverse or slow the global warming caused by capitalism. We'll find better ways to preserve and enhance our natural environment.

So, in the present and future disasters sure to come, we need to continue the work of mobilizing masses for communism as we organize and help in rescue efforts.

#### Capitalism's Deadly Climate Change

Floods and mudslides in Africa recently killed over 500 people in Sierra Leone. Floods displaced over 100,000 in Nigeria. Global warming – the result of industrialization for maximum profits – caused torrential rains. Deforestation – also for profit – and lack of infrastructure intensified the disaster.

Hurricane Harvey caused flooding throughout

southeast Texas, especially in Houston, the 4th-largest US city. Houston's poor drainage systems added to the disaster, which left at least 50 dead and hundreds of thousands homeless.

Global climate change warmed the waters of the Gulf of Mexico and raised sea levels. This increased Harvey's power and longevity. Hurricane Irma is even stronger.

When the storms hit, workers immediately came in their small boats to rescue flood victims. Rescuers came from Texas, Louisiana and Mexico. Black, white, latino, asian, US-born and immigrant, Muslim and non-Muslim workers saved their class brothers and sisters.

Meanwhile, severe monsoon rains have flooded India, Nepal and Bangladesh, killing over 2000 people. Millions urgently need life-saving support.

"These floods are mostly man-made," said an Indian scientist. "They are not natural disasters." The men (and women) who made them were the capitalists with their relentless drive for profits.

#### In Capitalist Crises, It's Workers Who Come Through

Amidst such calamities, the state temporarily loses its grip on the working class. In Mumbai, masses came together citywide when flooding paralyzed transportation. Many sheltered strangers in their homes and shared the little food they had.

One worker reported emotionally, "Nobody asked if the person was Hindu, Muslim or Dalit, everybody was welcome everywhere." This is in

a city where the fascist bosses have spilled blood and money to separate the working class along religious lines.

This tremendous class solidarity shows that in a crisis, masses will act for our class brothers and sisters. They will not wait for orders or money (see letter, p. 6).

When the masses fight for communist power, this solidarity will be multiplied many times over. Communism will quickly destroy the material basis of the poisonous racism, sexism and individualism that capitalism has put in our way.

In the midst of

crises, our Party members and all *Red Flag* readers should mobilize our friends, co-workers, soldiers, and National Guard members to help rescue fellow workers and spread communism through actions, discussions and *Red Flag*. Those selflessly helping others need to see that the only society that consistently gives life to those values is a communist world. Our wellbeing can only be assured collectively by abolishing the capitalist system and building communism.

#### Communist Power Will Reshape Our Conditions of Life

Mega-cities like Houston, Mexico City, Tokyo, Mumbai, and Shanghai have grown up to serve the capitalists' drive for profits. They center around ports, raw materials, and production centers where low-paid workers must live to work. Sharpening international rivalry among imperialists and other capitalists forces more workers to flock to urban areas.

Southeast Asian wetlands, floodplains, forests and mangroves once provided natural barriers against flooding. Many such areas have been destroyed to build the slums and shantytowns that house newly urban wage slaves. That leaves large areas – and the workers who live there – defenseless against monsoon rains and vulnerable to deadly waterborne diseases. The same has happened in the US.

In communism, an International Communist Workers' Party, open to the masses, will lead broad discussions to decide collectively and scientifically where and how to build safe housing and production centers. The masses will mobilize immediately to respond to crises, without money worries. Communism will abolish money and exchange. Instead, we'll build and produce what's needed (homes, food, clothing, and much more) and share it according to need.

Most in Texas, like workers in India, Nepal and Nigeria, had no flood insurance. They can't count on the national government to bail them out.

The US capitalists and their counterparts elsewhere will do their best to rescue what the capitalists need at the expense of workers' homes and health. The global crisis of capitalism limits the capitalists' efforts to rebuild.

It will be black and latino/a workers in Texas and Dalit and Muslim workers in Southeast Asia who will be most viciously attacked.

Capitalism itself is a disaster. Sometimes it unfolds in slow-motion, sometimes quickly. Our response must always be to dedicate our energy and resources to spreading *Red Flag*, recruiting massively to ICWP, and building the fight for communism all over the world.

#### Oops

The article about Charlottesville in the last issue of *Red Flag* (p. 2) should have said, "This is a pivotal moment." It mistakenly said, "this is a pivotal movement." We apologize for the error.



The working class saving the working class in Houston



**JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY (ICWP)**  
**WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG**

**(310) 913-9704**

**E-MAIL: ICWP@ANONYMOUSSPEECH.COM**

**WRITE TO: P.M.B. 362**

**3006 S. VERMONT AVE., LOS ANGELES, CA 90007, USA**

## DON'T FALL FOR THE "AMERICAN DREAM" —GET WITH THE COMMUNIST PLAN

USA, September 5 – Thousands of young immigrants and their allies responded quickly and boldly to the Trump administration's suspension of the DACA program. They are already walking out of school, rallying, meeting and marching. And, in Los Angeles, many are welcoming our party's call for communism to end all borders.

DACA was an Obama-era initiative. It gave temporary work permits and relief from deportation to 800,000 undocumented immigrant youths who have lived almost their entire lives in the US. Now they are threatened with deportation to countries they don't remember, where they may know nobody at all, and whose language they may not even speak. About three-quarters of the DACA youths – also called "Dreamers" – were brought to the US from Mexico as children.

This cruel racist attack is meant to egg on the same fascist scum who shouted Nazi slogans and flaunted KKK emblems in Charlottesville. It's meant to terrorize immigrant workers and youth and force them to accept slave-labor jobs in the fields, factories and elsewhere. It's part of US capitalism's long history of vicious wage slavery.

Irish coal miners and domestic servants and Chinese workers who built the western railways in the 19th century... Eastern Europeans recruited for the steel mills and Mexican "braceros" in the 20th...Filipino/a, Haitian and other Caribbean workers in the health industry in the

21st... They and many more have been super-exploited by bosses competing to maximize profits with "divide and conquer" employment practices, immigration quotas and racist lies.

DACA was a continuation of this tradition, not a break from it. Major US imperialists and their politicians realized they would increasingly need young immigrants in the workforce and in the military. When liberal Democratic Senator Kamala Harris said that "DACA recipients make our nation strong," that's what she meant.

US rulers also saw that the economic crisis they had helped to create in Mexico was fueling mass anger and political instability. They feared rebellion there – and still do. They hoped that building illusions about the "American DREAM" would defuse tensions while strengthening the US military for possible intervention.

Trump shattering the "DREAM" is like Trump promoting white nationalism: he is compromising US imperialism's ability to build the multi-racial patriotism it needs among soldiers and industrial workers to confront its imperialist competitors in ever-

widening wars. His enemies are not all our friends!

Not patriotism, but international working-class unity! Not a path to citizenship, but a path to communist revolution!

Only communism can tear down all of capitalism's walls and erase all of capitalism's borders. Only in communist society will we all be able to live without fear and work without exploitation.

Communist production "from each according to ability and commitment, to each according to need" will create the material basis for wiping out racism and xenophobia. Finally all humans, individually and collectively, will realize our full potential.

This is no "DREAM." This is a PLAN.



Detroit, USA—September 5

### After the Terrorist Attack in Barcelona:

## HUNDREDS OF ANTI-FASCISTS DRIVE OUT FASCISTS TRYING TO INCITE ANTI-MUSLIM HATRED

BARCELONA, SPAIN, August 18—After the terrorist attack in Las Ramblas in Barcelona, far-right movements like National Democracy, the Falange, Catalonia Platform, and Identity Generation or Somatemps called a racist rally precisely at the point where the tragedy occurred on August 17 in which the jihadists killed 14 people and injured over 100.

This group of 50 Nazis that came the following day with placards like "Refugees are Not Welcome Here," and "No to the Islamization of Europe," protected by the local police, thought that their racist sentiment was going to win over the masses. But they got a big surprise. Hundreds of workers, mostly youth, came out to confront them with slogans like, "You Fascists are the Ter-

rorists" and "Fascists Out of Our Neighborhoods." They cornered the fascists. The police intervened to protect them as they sent them home.

We distributed several Red Flags and talked to several young people. Everyone was happy to remember that Barcelona has been an important part of recent history in the fight against the far right, and the fight against Franco. They were proud of the city for still preserving those ideals in the fight against racism and xenophobia.

After the march, we spoke to a couple of groups of people, saying that to defeat terrorism we will have to fight directly against capitalism with communist revolution. It's capitalism that's creating all the terror and dividing the working class. To defeat terrorism, we need a political line that can really fight it. We need dialectical materialism to help us understand how things work and a political line which will lead to building communism.

This led to a wide discussions, in which everyone contributed. We said that the line that the International Communist Workers Party is build-



ing is that of is mobilizing the masses for communism, spreading and acting on communist ideas in a mass way

We said that the capitalists have created all these fascist movements. They're tools to establish police states which at the same time sharpen the attacks on all workers. The capitalists are the ones who create wars in countries like Syria, wars that only benefit the imperialists and not the working class.

While some looked at us with suspicion, others applauded. They knew that this political line is the one that really fights for the working class. We got out more *Red Flags* at the end and got a few names. We've talked to one of the guys we met already and hope to meet with him and the others soon.



### SOUTH AFRICA from page 1

problems caused by capitalism in South Africa will go away. This is the rhetoric by the majority of the media and the opposition parties. As a result they voted for DA and EFF (Economic Freedom Fighters, another electoral party) because they believed the lies that the DA tells about the so called "change." Certainly they have seen the change in the mayor but not the change in their

everyday lives.

The change that the masses from Westville must fight for is the change that will see capitalism destroyed by communist revolution and establishing a society built and based on the collective needs of the working class. The masses will build houses for themselves, the kind of houses that are convenient for them, that are proper and of quality to sustain harsh weather.

It will be a society where no one individual can

prevent hundreds of people from having proper houses to live in. The willingness of the masses to go on strike in demand of better living conditions and to confront state police is encouraging. This provides the opportunity to show the horrors of capitalism, but we must not become beggars who only vent to our slave masters. We must join the fight against them (capitalism); we must aim at primarily destroying the causes, not the effects.

## “COMMUNISM IS MY IDEA OF THE PROMISED LAND”

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, USA, August 20—For about a year, I’ve been attending a Methodist church that’s open to people of any faith, as long as they’re committed to social justice. I’ve shared that I’m a communist and one person in the congregation regularly reads *Red Flag*.

This summer, the Committee for Racial Justice that church members play a key role in was targeted twice by neo-Nazis. At the August meeting, I was part of the group that helped keep the fascists from pushing their way into the meeting.

After the murderous fascist attack in Charlottesville, I had an opportunity to speak more forthrightly about communism. Here’s what I said:

*“Last weekend, I was in the mountains and off the grid, with eight other families from every part of the world. It felt like the future—loving and supporting relationships and cooperative work—or the promised land.*

*“On Monday, I came down the mountain to the reality of Charlottesville, and I’ve been playing catch-up ever since.*

*“A text from a friend helped: ‘Trump’s so-called good comment on the battle of Charlottesville has even been repeated by the liberal media: Those who spread violence in the name of bigotry strike at the very core of America. No, they don’t: they express the very values America was built on—racist genocide. The White House itself was built by slave labor on land the indigenous first peoples had been ethnically cleansed from.’*

*“But it’s not just US history. It’s capitalism. As Marx said, ‘The discovery of gold and silver in America, the uprooting, enslavement and entombment in the mines of the aboriginal population, the beginning of the conquest and looting of the East Indies, the turning of Africa into a warren for the commercialized hunting of black skins, signaled the rosy dawn of the era of capitalist production. Capitalism came into the world dripping from head to foot, from every pore, with blood and dirt.’*

*“Then on Friday I was at an interfaith rally against white supremacy with a sign that said, ‘CAPITALISM AND RACISM ROSE TOGETHER, LET’S TAKE THEM DOWN TOGETHER.’ People came up to me to express agreement, including two people—a Hispanic pastor and a member of the mosque—who insisted in taking pictures of the three of us with the sign.*

*“Yesterday I was at a protest where the Neo-Nazis didn’t show up, but hundreds of anti-fascists did, with a sign that said, ‘CRUSH FASCISM WITH COMMUNIST REVOLUTION.’”*

At this a there were a few shocked looks and a gasp. I continued. *“Well, I was raised a Methodist and I’m a Communist, too, now. That’s what I believe we need.*

*“Anyway, a young white guy, who later told me that this was his very first protest, saw my sign and said, ‘If we were better people, communism would work.’*

*“I responded: ‘When we have communism,*



*we’ll be better people. Capitalism needs racism for super-exploitation and to keep us divided. Money and wages, the need to sell your labor power to get money to pay bills and the rent, is the material basis for individualism and racism. When we do away with all that, we’ll work together as one family, to produce and share what we need. Racism will have no place. We’ll finally be able to fight to get rid of it. We can be better people right now—in fighting for that communist world.’ That’s the promised land I’m working for.”*

As the service ended, several people thanked me and took *Red Flag* and the *Fighting Racism* pamphlet. The guy who reads *Red Flag* publicly praised my courage and later told me that if he were younger, he’d stand on the street corner with *Red Flag*. “There’s a role for you,” I told him.

### FARMWORKERS from page 1

600-person crew of immigrant workers were suffering from one ailment or another. Many were sick from pesticides.

The strikers had demanded a medical clinic on the farm. Of course, the bosses refused.

That led us into a discussion about the “barefoot doctor” program that started after the revolution in China. It continued into the early ‘70s, until the defeat of the Cultural Revolution. It spread from the fields to the factories.

Beijing General Knitwear Factory workers described the healthcare they fought for in 1971: “Our factory has an infirmary, and in every shop, there are barefoot doctors... If sick workers cannot be properly treated in the factory, they are immediately sent to the hospital.”

Barefoot doctors were trained in medical science six months out of the year, but continued to work in their shops. They identified medical conditions before they became emergencies. Communist healthcare like this would have prevented Honesto’s death.

Most importantly, barefoot doctors mobilized workers, who they knew intimately, for safe conditions. In communism, for instance, they would help give political leadership to find alternatives to pesticides or to make sure they didn’t pile up.

The woman who had organized meals at the strike camp had complained to management that they weren’t giving the workers enough food. They got what amounted to a few “kids’ meals” for a 14-hour day in the hot, smoky fields. She refused to starve the workers. The bosses fired her. She became a strike leader.

Honesto had diabetes. You can’t survive with diabetes without a proper diet.

Here again, communist barefoot doctors would help mobilize workers to guarantee a proper diet. Those who fought for good, nutritious meals would assume more leadership, not get fired!

### Farmworkers encampment in Sumas, WA



#### A Summer of Struggle

The strikers organized two caravans to pull more workers out on strike. When the strikers showed up, the bosses drove the remaining workers away in buses.

Lucia cut one off with her van. The bosses marched the workers back to the barracks.

More workers may walk out, so strikers and supporters are preparing Lucia and Joaquin’s yard just in case. Whatever happens, Lucia’s children have learned valuable lessons this summer that they can share with classmates.

Our party also learned valuable lessons, in part from making many mistakes. We should have asked more Seattle workers to join our trip to Sumas. The Boeing discussions were great (see box) but we could have organized more communist activities in the shop.

We’ll not make these mistakes again. We know who to ask to bring our communist message to every struggle. In good part, our base will develop into the communist leaders we need through their own experiences mobilizing for communism.

This fall marks the 100th anniversary of the communist-led revolution in Russia. Our area will hold a potluck on November 4th to mark the occasion. Let’s use it to intensify our struggle to mobilize our base for communism directly—today.

### From the Field to the Factory

When a comrade at Boeing returned to work, other Boeing workers wanted a report on our party’s visit to the striking farmworkers. Soon our friends in the factory were also heatedly discussing communist healthcare.

Boeing has safety monitors throughout the plants, but they are powerless. Why? Because profits are in command.

Barefoot doctors, of which there were a million in China, sparked great advances in healthcare for the masses. Why? Because, at least for a while, communist politics were in command.

Millions fought with all they had to make this aspect of communist health the wave of the future. But communist politics could not prevail while capitalist (socialist) production dominated.

The material basis of communist power lies in organizing production for collective need, not profits. The whole societal superstructure that mobilizes masses to make decisions and carry them out rests on the communist organization of work.

Power comes initially from a communist revolution, but that’s not the end of it. The party must continue to use the experience of collective work to mobilize the working masses to transform every aspect of society.

The lessons of the mass struggle that revolved around barefoot doctors are priceless. This history calls upon every one of us to mobilize for communism directly.

### Chinese barefoot doctor



## TURN MASS ANGER INTO MASS MOBILIZATION FOR COMMUNISM

### RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL

August 18—Bullets flying from every direction and the constant barrage of tear gas shells means that almost every corner of the largest favela of Rio de Janeiro is engulfed. Police in attack helicopters have declared a war on the residents of Jacarezinho. These barbaric attacks start in the darkness of the night. Fear and panic of the residents quickly turn into anger and defiance.

A black woman with a newborn child has just lost her husband to a police bullet. She comes out of her shack urging the residents to come out and fight back. “If we don’t, they will kill us all one by one.” The residents heed her plea. The crowd gathers, attracting more. Rocks and unspent tear gas shells are thrown back at the police on horses. Fear grips the heavily armed police who beat a hasty retreat.

The workers in Jacarezinho are willing and ready to fight back. This mass anger can and must be converted into a fight for communist revolution to destroy every aspect of the blood thirsty capitalist system that cares for nothing but maximum profit. Anything else will continue endless cycles of police brutality, mass hunger, homelessness and wars for profit.

The spirit of Jacarezinho reverberates in Houston, Mumbai, South Africa and everywhere else around the world. Our battle cry must be fight for communism without fear and with confidence that the bosses’ days are numbered. In their declining stage, the bosses become more brutal, violent and intimidating. But they are digging their own graves.

Brazil is one of the largest countries in the world with vast deposits of natural resources,

minerals and oil. The history of Brazil for the last five hundred years is the history of genocides of the native population, dehumanizing slavery, pillage and plunder of the natural resources and relentless attacks on the working class by local capitalists and imperialists.

Brazil is facing one of the sharpest crises of capitalism. In 2003 Lula da Silva came to power after his Workers Party (Partido dos Trabalhadores) won the parliamentary elections. Lula’s government made a significant change by opening up Brazilian resources to the Chinese imperialists. The rapidly expanding Chinese economy devoured Brazil’s cheap natural resources and invested billions of dollars in Brazil’s oil industry. However, when the Chinese created mountains of cheap goods that could not be sold in the world markets, their need for Brazilian oil and minerals rapidly declined.

Brazilian capitalists and banks faced imminent bankruptcy. Their response was to produce even more natural resources cheaper than before. The only way they can accomplish this is by massive cut backs in health, transportation and education budgets along with significantly reducing wages of the workers.

The International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP) is organizing workers around the world to create a communist society where the natural resources will be used for the need of the international working class and not for profit.



2014 Rio de Janeiro Teachers’ strike

### FRANCE

September 4 – “Ça va péter” – it’s going to blow. That’s the opinion of Pascal R., a bus driver from a family of bus drivers.

French workers like Pascal are fed up.

They’re fed up with 30 years of mass unemployment (over 10% in general, over 25% for youth). They’re fed up with “precarious” (insecure) jobs, sometimes contracts for only a few months at a time. They’re fed up with minimum-wage jobs. They’re fed up with going hungry on welfare and unemployment insurance. They’re fed up with retiring into poverty. They’re fed up with everyday sexual harassment and sexual assault.

True, many have racist sentiments. But many others, especially youth, are fed up with anti-immigrant racism and brutal police. And they’re fed up with terrorist blowback from overseas wars.

Pascal, like more than half the eligible voters, didn’t vote at all in the latest presidential election. Few workers have faith in any politicians. That includes President Macron, the newly elected Kennedy-like idol who promises to ‘transform’ France.

When it blows in France it won’t be the first time. The first modern explosion, in 1789, was the French Revolution. Some revolutionaries went beyond just calling for the overthrow of the nobility. Among these were Gracchus Babeuf and the “Conspiracy of Equals,” who were among the first revolutionary communists.

**It was in France that the working class first stepped forward as an independent force.** During the revolution of 1848, workers fought in the streets around their own issues and demands. They were eventually defeated but their struggle helped to inspire the Communist Manifesto.

Two decades later, after a disastrous war with Prussia, the National Guard (mainly workers) led

masses of other workers in a revolt that established the Paris Commune. Communist veterans of 1848 played a big role.

For the first time ever, the working class had taken power. The Commune of 1871 lasted only two months. But it had a lasting impact on the formation of the first socialist parties and on the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution.

**The French bosses are haunted by the memory of the last time France blew up, in**

**1968.** Inspired by mass movements around the world, students occupied the universities. They united with workers, who occupied the factories. There were demonstrations where a million people sang the communist anthem, the Internationale.

However, the Socialist and “Communist” Parties settled for reforms, including a comprehensive “labor code.” They saved the French bosses from revolution. Several serious attempts were made to build a new communist movement. But they couldn’t break free of the old movement’s commitment to nationalism, to socialism, and to Maoist personality cults.

Socialists in France managed to preserve a ‘leftwing’ image for most of the last century. That image is finally wearing thin. The Socialist Party’s unrelenting neoliberal agenda and its attempt to scrap the labor code have discredited it. Its presidential candidate got only 6% of the vote in the 2017 election and has since quit the party!

The traditional right-wing party, the Republicans, is in disarray and split over whether to support Macron. The neo-fascist National Front lost badly in the runoff against Macron and is fight-



May 1, 1871—Barricades in Paris defended by women

Rebellions in the favelas and strikes in the factories must be converted into fight for communism. The bosses are desperately trying to revive Lula to save them from the wrath of the working class. Lula is not a friend of the working class; he never was. Lula and his party represent the rich capitalist in Brazil. His pro-working class speeches are to mislead the working class. He is our enemy.

Some readers of the *Red Flag* in Brazil are more interested in ICWP now. Formation of ICWP groups can lead to a significant fight for communism. Brazil has the largest black working class in the world. By developing communist leadership in Brazil, we are on the path to communist revolution that will end once and for all the horrors of capitalism. Join ICWP and spread our revolutionary vision by distributing *Red Flag*.

ing amongst themselves. Only Jean-Luc Mélançon, the French Bernie Sanders, improved his position.

Macron and the French bosses are playing with fire. Their latest ‘reforms’ make the labor code optional in small factories, undoing many of the 1968 reforms. Furthermore Macron’s ‘innovative’ ideas are the same old same old: tax cuts for the wealthy and austerity for the poor. For example, Macron is cutting 5 euros per month from rent subsidies for the poorest tenants.

The biggest labor union, the CGT, is calling for a demonstration on September 12. Mélançon’s party is holding its own demonstration on September 23.

**Sooner or later ça va péter— again.** This time the masses must sweep capitalism away with communist revolution. But it won’t happen spontaneously. Communism requires communists – the ICWP – everywhere, including France. We have to find ways of mobilizing workers like Pascal for communism. We’ll help guarantee this by translating more *Red Flag* articles into French.

## SOUTH AFRICA: THE BLOODBATH IN THE MINING SECTOR

Just recently one of largest mining companies here in South Africa, Sibanye Gold, announced that they will retrench 7,400 permanent workers and 3,000 contractors. The company had to stop its operations for a month because of a strike. Following this they dismissed 99 workers and placed 407 on final notice.

The C.E.O of the company released a statement: “The long-term sustainability of the group is our only focus and is necessary if we are to continue to deliver superior value to all our stakeholders.”

The statement says a lot about how little the bosses value us. They forget the most important thing: that workers’ labour is the source of all value, not the machines, but our labour power alone.

This week another company, Anglo Gold Ashanti, also said they will retrench 8,500 workers and this is just the tip of the iceberg. In the last 5 years, 100,000 workers have lost their jobs in the gold industry alone, excluding the recent announcement by Sibanye Gold and Anglo Gold respectively. I am convinced that other companies will follow these two. As a result thousands of families will go to bed without knowing what they are going to eat.

And this is why it is more important than ever for our party to win over these workers so that they can fight for a communist society where they do not work for the bosses’ profit but the needs of the working class as a whole. That is why we plan to bring *Red Flag* to these miners as soon as possible.



Miners’ strike, South Africa, 2012

### LETTERS

### LETTERS

### LETTERS

### CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

#### The Working Class Doesn’t Need Bosses

On our first day of work in a factory after Hurricane Harvey in Houston, Texas, many workers weren’t able to come to work, including some supervisors. Therefore, with the ones who did come, we made up only one assembly line instead of the usual two lines.

“We don’t need supervisors to do the work,” said a woman co-worker, smiling while she did her work. They only serve to pressure us, to look good to the boss. We get the production out even though they aren’t here.”

“This woman is like a despot. She wants everything fast”, said another worker referring to the supervisor who didn’t come to work.

This is a small example of how the workers can understand that to work we don’t need the bosses. And if we don’t need bosses to work, we also don’t need money to live. We only need our work, natural resources, and communist ideas.

This will not be possible without destroying capitalism through a communist revolution, which will not be easy. Communist social relations are key for revolution.

In the factory you could see all the workers doing their work in a relaxed way and helping others when they needed it. All this is a small communist aspect within capitalism.

I hadn’t worked with the majority of these workers because normally I work on the other line. However, I plan to talk to these workers very soon about communism.

Another communist aspect during the hurricane was the response of the working class communities rescuing their class brothers and sisters without expecting any kind of payment. The majority of those worker rescuers didn’t need supervisors who gave them orders about

what they had to do.

When the government asked for the help of volunteers, the workers in the communities had already been doing the rescue work, including in very dangerous areas where electric power had not been cut off. Two of the rescuers were electrocuted because of that.

—Comrade in Houston

#### Ecology & Communism

This weekend I attended a three-day workshop on ecological risk management attended by community leaders from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. These were very interesting subjects, dealing with disasters as events that have a direct relationship with capitalism. This allowed an open discussion on the problems of capitalism.

This workshop is part of the FMLN effort, using other organizations, to win more people to its revisionist project. The limits of their analysis are obvious. They avoid criticizing the eight years of FMLN rule and use criticism of capitalism to excuse their failure.

The important thing about this experience was the one-on-one conversations I had with the other participants. A Guatemalan youth, leader in different struggles against megaprojects, made an analysis of the situation in that country. “Everything is a circus. The fight against corruption leads nowhere. Only class struggle can make things change.”

We talked about how it is impossible to make a real change working from within the capitalist institutions themselves. Many agreed, considering the example of El Salvador and many Latin American countries. At the end of the workshop, I exchanged contact information with eight people, two from Guatemala, one from Honduras, and five from El Salvador. I told them that I belonged to the International Communist Workers Party and that I would send them our *Red Flag* newspaper. The guy from Honduras promised to bring *Red Detachment* and *Green Prison* (books written by Honduran communist Ramón Amaya Amador about the struggle of the banana workers in that country) to the second session of the workshop next month.

—Comrade in El Salvador

#### More Islamophobic Lies from Trump

After the ISIS attack in Barcelona, Trump tweeted, “Study what General Pershing of the United States did to terrorists when caught. There was no more Radical Islamic Terror for 35 years.”

He was referring to a lie he’s told before, that

the US Army under Pershing in the Philippines (1898-1913) dipped bullets in pigs’ blood to kill Muslim guerrilla fighters, and that these fighters were so terrified of this that they stopped fighting. So, soldiers fighting ISIS today should dip bullets in pigs’ blood and that will do the trick.

There is no evidence that this ever happened. It’s a ridiculous lie. Bringing it up in 2017 is one more way of saying that all Muslims are terrorists, and superstitious as well.

Most people in Indonesia, Malaysia and the southern islands of the Philippines have been Muslim since the 12th century. In contrast, those in the northern islands of the Philippines, converted to Christianity when they were colonized by the Spanish.

When the US, a rising imperialist power, went to war with Spain in 1898, that war spread to the Philippines. Filipino independence fighters hoped the US would kick out the Spanish and grant them independence. US big business saw the Philippines as the key to the Asian, and particularly the Chinese, market. They launched a racist campaign to make the Philippines a US colony.

The US war in the Philippines was openly racist. Filipinos were referred to by the same “n word” that was used for African Americans. US troops bragged of shooting people like rabbits. They used torture on captured combatants.

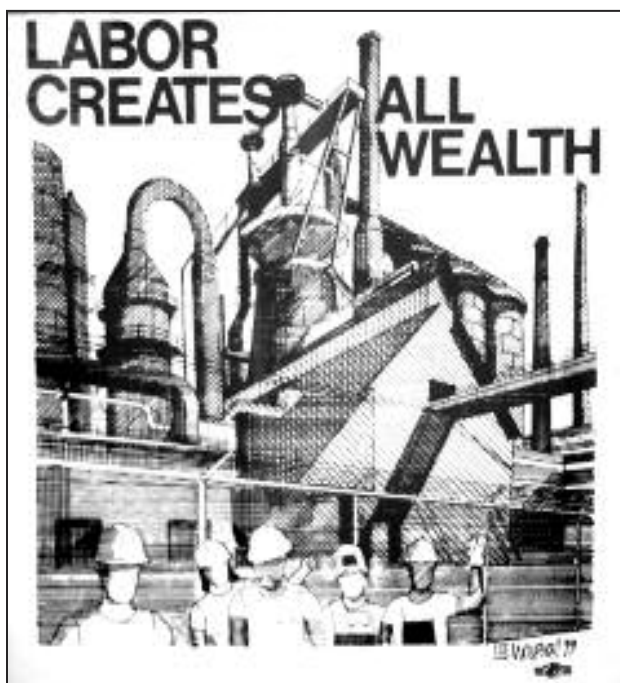
A large anti-imperialist campaign almost defeated the Senate motion to annex the Philippines. African American churches, the African-American press, trade unions, women’s suffrage organizations, and even Mark Twain played key roles in this struggle.

After the surrender of the independence forces and annexation in 1902, resistance continued, especially in the south, up to about 1913. There were horrific atrocities in this struggle with generals calling for killing any male over the age of ten, and the 1906 massacre of over a thousand civilians at Bud Dajo.

This was a national liberation struggle against a murderous occupying army. Today we know that fighting for national liberation, no matter how bravely, is a dead end. In the Philippines and everywhere else, we must fight for communism.

We also know that confusing the Moros in Mindanao with ISIS is the ignorant ranting of someone so prejudiced against Muslims that he lumps them all together. As a recent tweet said, “If you can distinguish the KKK from Christianity, you should be able to distinguish ISIS from Islam.”

—History student



## LETTERS

## LETTERS

## LETTERS

## CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

**The change of perspective after I joined ICWP**

It is a pleasure to be a part and parcel of the struggle to mobilize the masses for the ICWP and to educate people about what it means to be a communist. What I mean by the word "pleasure" are the changes of growth and knowledge I gained in the party.

Being a comrade of the ICWP has made an immense impact in my being. Now I'm aware of the exploitation the capitalists are using to gain control over the Republic of South Africa, and around the world. This is true whether people believe it or not.

The collective of mine has a great potential the way I see it, the potential which we can use to address the masses that enough is enough of the capitalists' manipulative tactics to divide us as people. Truly speaking, borders, poverty, sexism, politics, television, etc are the tools used by these evil animals to divide people. But the most dangerous tool that conquers all is money— so we can see ourselves better than others, as money is the means of exchange which makes us to be bound to them and to be vulnerable at times.

The most sickening cancer to this cycle we revolve about is that some of the working class does not see how deep and dirty those we work for are. Because nothing that is made by the working class is made for the needs of the working class but for capitalists' gain; and the profit made by the working class also goes to the capitalists. Just think about it: isn't that beyond being cruel?

I can talk till nightfall about my eye being opened to how much and what is happening around the globe but the point I'm trying to drive home is: ICWP is really with and for the working class's rights to what they deserve after all.

I've been a comrade of a political party but I've never learned so much. I've never been cared for, I've never been exposed to the truth but I've been given tasks to deceive people of the money mostly, but my morals never allowed me to do so. I was forced to back off because I couldn't lie to our people.

Today as a member of the ICWP I stand for what is right, I stand for what people deserve. I got a collective that believes in the moral value of honesty, leadership, integrity, and, most of all, communism.

I would like to take this opportunity to give comrades of the ICWP the assurance that the party stands and rises due to the dedication we give to make sure that the party grows. We thank and salute for the support all the comrade of the ICWP around the globe with the saying "forward comrades, forward."

—A Comrade in South Africa

**Red Flag Shows How Communism Will Improve Our Lives**

I have been a participant and an observer of many so-called left-wing papers in my life time. My experience has always been that the majority of the articles concentrate on how terrible capitalism is, how horrible workers' situations are, and the end of the articles always had one or two sentences about what the solution should be.

I have found reading the *Red Flag* paper, not to sound cheesy, very positive and invigorating. The style offers a solution from the very beginning of the article.

When I read these articles, you finally start to understand how communism will improve our lives. The daily anti-communism we are fed by both the left- and right-wing media, is proven wrong in every article in *Red Flag*. With all the struggle going on in the world, workers can use *Red Flag* to understand that there is a way out of capitalism: communism.

—New Jersey (US) Comrade

**More About Capitalism & Imperialism**

We agree with what the writer or reader said about imperialism—it being the highest stage of capitalism. However, when a country is an imperialist country, that does not mean that they have stopped being a capitalist country. It simply means it's at a certain stage in its development. The term capitalists-imperialists simply tries to not confuse things (ironically).

In capitalism, there are big capitalist states (imperialists) and small capitalist states (who have not yet gotten to be imperialists). The use of the term "capitalists-imperialists" makes a distinction as to which kind of capitalists are in question.

The first writer goes on to say, "as if capitalists and imperialists equally compete to exploit the resources, markets and labor." This is problematic because it assumes that this isn't the case when indeed it is the case. The capitalists in capitalism, whether small or big, always compete for resources, markets and labour. The rivalries and wars come from such competition and the falling rate of profit.

—comrades in South Africa

**Farmworkers Learn Not to Trust Mexican Consulate: Communism Will Abolish Consulates Altogether**

A Mexican Consulate employee approached the striking farm workers in Sumas, WA (USA) when the Latin American media began covering the strike story. He offered the strikers \$300.00 to start the process of getting a different kind of visa. The \$300 was gone in the wink of an eye. New visas require thousands of dollars in legal fees.

He promised to come back with more assistance. Nobody has seen him or anybody else from the Consulate since.

Hollow promises are all we can expect from any Consulate, just like the promises that the

Mexican government will stand up for the interests of Mexican workers in the U.S.

In communism, we won't have Consulates because we won't have nations. Nations were formed to represent the interest of national bosses, not workers. They weaken our class by pitting one group of workers against another.

When we eliminate nations, we'll smash borders as well. Where you work and where you live will no longer matter. Every worker will be welcomed everywhere.

When communists say, "One World, One Working Class" we mean it!

—Comrade in Washington state (US)

**Weak Union & a Bad Contract**

Most operators that are part of the UTU (union of bus and train operators) feel the contract wasn't a good contract. We got a 5 year deal at a top hourly rate of \$33.21. With that being said, it will take you 5 years to get the full \$33.21 rate because they are going to nickel and dime us along the way.

It doesn't matter if you got 30 years with the company or 6 years. Some operators who have 30 plus years will probably not see it because they plan to retire soon. Most feel we could have gotten this contract for 3 years. Why would it take 5 years to reach the \$33.21 rate when you already have 5 plus years invested in the company?

Our local chairman promised we would start at no less than \$30 an hour but failed to deliver. We started top rate at \$28.64. What's important to know is that we have 5,000 operators and only 1,900 voted; 1500 yes and 400 no votes.

Some say it was rigged and was meant to pass. We have a weak union who sleeps in the bed with MTA.

—MTA rail operator in Los Angeles (US)

**Red Flag responds:**

We agree that the union and the company are on the same side. They both use tactics of divide and conquer to rule over us: MTA to keep us intimidated and exploited; the union to keep us docile and obedient, while they keep taking our dues.

The undeniable fact is that we are wage slaves. Wage increases and salaries, big or small, can't change the humiliating fact that on their time the capitalists say "Jump!" and we have to say "How high!"

Trade unionism will never change this. Its ideology with its unions and contracts only justify our slavery and perpetuate it. Only a communist revolution can break the capitalists' wage chains and liberate our class from exploitation.

Without money – nothing being sold or bought, especially our labor power– we will collectively produce and share the fruits of our labor according to need. Only then will we cease to be disposable commodities to fully become creative human beings in a communist world.

**SUBSCRIBE TO RED FLAG - \$20/YEAR**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ I want \_\_\_\_\_ copies per issue

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Centennial of the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution:****THE STATE AND REVOLUTION (PART I)**

September, 1917: The Bolsheviks (communists) had led masses to crush the fascist Kornilov's attempted coup. Soon they would win majorities in the Petrograd and Moscow Soviets. Lenin realized that the Bolsheviks had to figure out how to organize workers' power. He hastily started re-reading Marx and Engels and writing *The State and Revolution*.

*The main ideas of Marx, Engels and Lenin are still crucial today. They include:*

1. The state is "a product of society at a certain stage of development" when "it has split into irreconcilable antagonisms which it is powerless to dispel." It exists as a tool for one class to suppress another while "seemingly standing above society."

2. The state, "a special coercive force," was unknown in pre-class society. It consists of a special armed force along with "prisons, and institutions of coercion of all kind."

Every revolution confronts the relationship between 'special' bodies of armed men and the "self-acting armed organization of the population."

3. All previous revolutions perfected the state machine. The working-class (proletariat) must smash it. The working-class (socialist) revolution must "abolish" the capitalist state, not take it over.

After the socialist revolution, the "proletarian state or semi-state" (or the "remnants of the proletarian state") would eventually "wither away."

4. In a democratic republic, "wealth exercises its power indirectly, but all the more surely." Such is "the best possible political shell for capitalism." Lenin noted that Engels explicitly called out universal suffrage as "an instrument of bourgeois rule."

5. Both Engels and Lenin thought that the "political form of the 'state'" after the revolution would be "the most complete democracy." It was therefore democracy that would "die down of itself" or "wither away."

Marx, Engels and Lenin all fought against socialists who tried to twist their words into a justification of pacifism or political reform instead of revolution. We must wage the same ideological struggle today.

In the US, for example, some think that the problem is Trump when it's really the whole capitalist state. The Bernie Sanders "our revolution" movement claims it will "transform politics" without smashing that state.

**The Proletariat Organized as the Ruling Class**

The harder part, for Lenin, was trying to figure out what things should look like after the proletarian revolution.

*The Communist Manifesto* had announced in 1848 that "the first step in the revolution by the working class is to raise the proletariat to the position of the ruling class to win the battle of democracy.

"The proletariat will use its political supremacy to wrest, by degree, all capital from the bourgeoisie, to centralize all instruments of production in the hands of the state, i.e., of the proletariat organized as the ruling class..."

Marx and Engels had thought that workers in countries like England might be able to win power through elections. Lenin, writing in the period of imperialism, disagreed. Workers everywhere would need a revolution to establish "an organization of violence ... to suppress the resistance of the exploiters." Both Marx and Lenin called this the "dictatorship of the proletariat."

Lenin, like Marx, said that "this dictatorship itself only constitutes the transition to the abolition of all classes and to a classless society." We agree with this. But Lenin said this would be necessary "for the entire historical period which separates capitalism from 'classless society,' from communism."

We now see this "historical period" as being much, much shorter than Lenin and Marx imagined. They thought that the victorious working class would have to keep many central aspects of capitalist society (including the wage system) for the foreseeable future. They called this "socialism" or "the first stage of communism."

"It follows," Lenin admitted, "that under communism there remains for a time not only bourgeois law, but even the bourgeois state, without the bourgeoisie!" He didn't foresee—but we can see now—that this bourgeois state turned the "proletariat organized as the ruling class" into a new bourgeoisie.

That's why our strategy is to mobilize masses directly for a fully communist system of production and distribution, without money. When there is no wage system there will be no proletariat as such. And that's why our view of the future workers' state differs sharply from the Bolsheviks' theory and practice.

We need many more comrades and **Red Flag** readers to help us develop our analysis.

*The next article in this series will describe the ideas Lenin took from the Paris Commune of 1871 about the form of government he intended to establish. It will show the contradiction between this plan and his expectation for the leadership role of the Communist Party (Bolshevik).*

**LEARN FROM THE BOLSHEVIK REVOLUTION IN RUSSIA!**

This Fall marks the 100th anniversary of the 1917 communist-led revolution in Russia (October 25 Old Style/November 7 New Style). This was a monumental event in the history of our class and our movement. We have so much to learn from its successes, its shortcomings, and its fatal errors.

We call on all collectives of the International Communist Workers' Party, and all **Red Flag** readers, to organize study groups, dinners, public forums, rallies and other events to promote the broadest and deepest possible understanding of the Bolshevik Revolution.

Let's inspire masses to join and strengthen our communist work among workers, youth, and especially among soldiers and sailors! Let's use this history to grasp more firmly the meaning and power of our slogan "Mobilize the Masses for Communism!"

**SAVE THE DATE:****LOS ANGELES (US)****MINI-CONFERENCE AND DINNER****NOVEMBER 18, 2017 2:30-7:30 PM****SEATTLE (US) POT-LUCK****AND MEETING: Lessons for today  
and planning for the year ahead****NOVEMBER 4, 2017 7 PM**