

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM



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

COMMUNISM IS THE ONLY SOLUTION TO CRIME, VIOLENCE AND EXPLOITATION

SOUTH AFRICA—For the last four days I was in a workshop organized by an NGO (non-governmental organization). The workshop was organized so that the youth of our province can be provided a platform to talk about crime and violence, so as to come up with ideas on how to combat and prevent it. Participating in this workshop, I realized that most people need our ideas. Reading from what they were saying, their approach to crime is wrong and ineffective and, to be honest, it cannot solve anything. This is what I said when I was asked to speak.

I said, “We live in a system where there is a need to have police, prisons, and courts. Therefore by virtue of these institutions existing or by allowing these institutions to exist, we are conceding to the fact that we will forever live in a society where there is crime and violence. Thinking that we will somehow magically solve crime without addressing the system that gives rise to it is a wild dream.

Unless we are willing to build a society that does not require these institutions, unless we are to break the system that requires these institutions, then we will not be able to root out the crime and all that comes with it. I said that we must not forget what the material basis for crime is, and that is money. Therefore we know that we live in a capitalist society where everything is about money, which controls every aspect of our lives. Everything that we need or want requires money. Unless we are willing to fight the system and break it, it means we are conceding to the fact that we cannot solve crime because solving crime means destroying the criminal system of exploitation (capitalism).

When I said this, I was met with confusion from the youth, and the facilitators of the workshop said, “Don’t be too political.”

But after that day’s work activity, one guy from the youth “leadership” came to me and said, “Man, I liked what you said and I never cared to look at this thing like that. I can see what you were talking about and it’s true.”

I told him that these workshops are not going to solve anything because they are only reactionary and they don’t provide any solutions. They don’t challenge, fight, or aim to destroy the system of capitalism that is and gives rise to crime or criminal behaviors. The solution is when we fight to destroy capitalism and all that comes with it with communist solutions.

He wanted to know more. We visited the website. He read some articles from the *Red Flag* and I told him I was going to give him more *Red Flags*, *MMC (Mobilize the Masses for Communism)* and other literature when we meet again for another workshop. His enthusiasm just shows that more people need our communist ideas. They are sick and tired of capitalism!



Los Angeles, USA, September 2017—March to support immigrants and refugees

INTERNATIONAL WORKING CLASS WILL END CAPITALISM’S RACISM AND BORDERS

Capitalist borders exist to divide and terrorize the working class. No immigration reform can change that. Only communist revolution can change it, by putting an end to the bosses’ borders and racist terror.

Capitalism and imperialism established nations and drew borders to enable imperialist and national capitalists to exploit workers, and to compete with their rivals. Their borders are the result of bloody wars for domination where millions of workers were massacred worldwide.

Capitalism forces workers to emigrate to flee devastation and to look for work. Immigration laws terrorize immigrants worsen the conditions of wage slavery for all workers. The capitalists want to blame undocumented immigrants for their savage attacks against all of us.

But all of us workers are class brothers and sisters. Armed with communist ideas, youth, workers, and soldiers can turn the rulers’ drive for a loyal obedient workforce and military into the most powerful force on earth. Together, we can build a mass International Communist Workers’ Party worldwide that mobilizes the masses for communism.

Communist revolution will eliminate borders and nations. When our class takes

power in one part of the world, the masses will mobilize to spread communist workers’ power to the rest of the world.

Communism will eliminate money and wage slavery. Workers won’t be pitted against each other for a job. Instead of competing for survival, we’ll share resources and ideas. Everyone will be encouraged to play a vital role in planning, producing and distributing everything our class needs. Everyone’s contribution will be valued and appreciated.

No one will be forced to leave their home to search for a slave labor job. Everyone will be welcomed everywhere to become part of growing communist collectives, so that we can learn from each other’s experiences and together build a new world.

Industrial Workers and Soldiers Key to Communist Revolution

While Trump openly attacks all immigrants, the main wing of the US ruling class, who need to strengthen and expand the US military, want to win immigrant youth to patriotically serve US imperialism in its wars. They need to pass the Dream Act.

That’s why many Democratic Party politicians say, “These young people crossed the border through no fault of their

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Fight against racist police terror calls for:**WORKERS' POWER UNDER THE RED FLAG OF COMMUNISM**

Athletes are still kneeling on the football field all over the US. The masses are still marching in St Louis.

Anti-racist anger runs deeper and wider through the masses than the bosses' media ever dare publicize. You wouldn't know it by the bosses' press, but despite 307 arrests, tear gas and pepper spray and well-televised brutal attacks, masses of people are still in the streets in St. Louis. They are protesting the acquittal of white cop Jason Stockley, who killed black motorist Anthony Lamar Smith, after a pursuit where he told his partner, "We're killing this motherf***er."

The routine and unpunished police murder of black men and women is one of the most in-your-face example of the brutal racism that dominates each and every capitalist institution. Racism divides the working class. It attacks non-white workers particularly hard. It is crucial to capitalism worldwide.

Racism is the cutting edge of the growing fascist attack against the entire working class. The capitalist state—and its cops—are absolutely dedicated to enforcing this murderous system and its daily racist murders.

Racism rose with capitalism and imperialism spread it around the world. We will tear them down together. We'll smash the capitalist state and its cops. We will build a communist society based on collectivity and cooperation, where we will plan together what we produce and how to make sure everyone gets what they need. Freed from the necessity to compete for jobs to survive, and the racist and artificial distinction between "manual" and "mental" labor, we'll change history. We'll wipe racism from the face of the earth.

The bosses' media cover up St. Louis, but they're publicizing the National Football League protests. Football players, following the example of Colin Kaepernick, are taking a knee during the national anthem to protest the systematic oppression and murder of black people.

Trump has called for these athletes to be fired. The press has followed his lead, covering up the issue of racism that motivates these protests, and diverting the discussion into one about patriotism.

Last week US Vice President Pence staged a "walk-out" from a football game because players knelt during the playing of the national anthem. Veterans and others, on the other hand,

have argued that protest is patriotic.

Whose streets? Whose flag?

During the third night of the protests in St. Louis, the cops clearing the streets taunted the crowd by chanting, "Whose streets? Our streets!" Protestors often chant this when they can temporarily take over the street in defiance of the cops. But really, the streets—like all the institutions of the capitalist state—do belong to the capitalists and their cops.

Sometimes in huge demonstrations we can defy the cops and take the streets. That's because they don't want to expose their democracy as a veiled dictatorship by using mass violence against the masses. The liberal establishment has criticized these cops, saying that it's important that the government and the cops maintain the appearance of neutrality. But this chant exposed the naked

truth of class rule. The streets belong to them until we organize a communist revolution—a violent revolution—and claim them once and for all for the working masses. Industrial workers and soldiers—not professional athletes—will be key to this struggle.

It's the same thing with the flag. The "Star Spangled Banner"—the flag that the US national anthem celebrates—is not our flag. Every national flag is the flag of the ruling class. Working people have no nation and no national anthem. Our flag is the flag of the international working class—the red flag of communism. Our anthem is the Internationale.

Patriotism is the bosses' ideology. They use it to convince us that we have a common interest with our oppressors, and to send us off to war to kill and die for their profits.

The fight against racist police terror must attack the cause—capitalism. The rulers will never stop terrorizing and killing us. We have to get rid of them and their system and fight for a communist future which can fi-

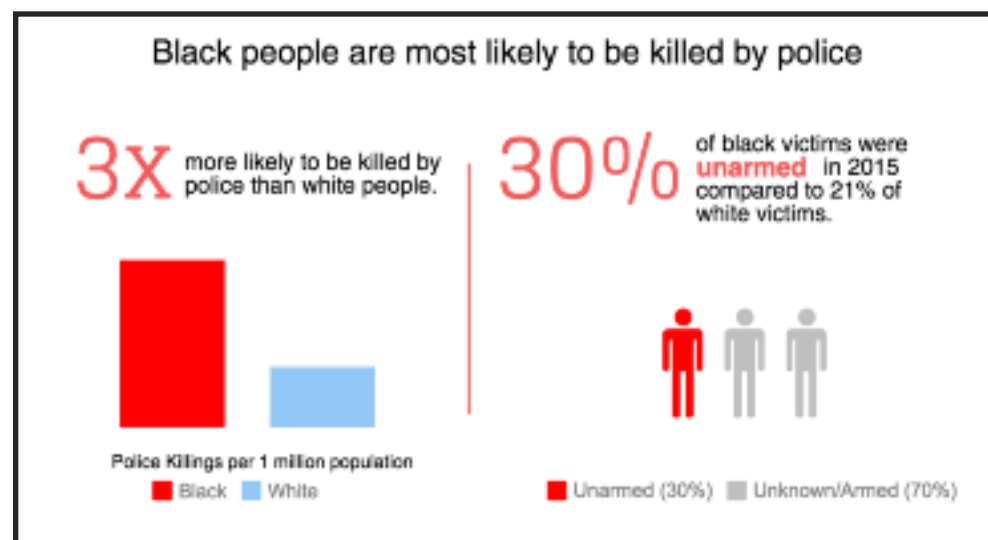


Street protests in St. Louis, Missouri, USA, September, 2017

nally build a world free from racism and killer cops.

In a communist world the streets will be our streets. We'll continue to pledge our allegiance to the international working class. We'll work together and overcome the damage that racism has done.

The masses in St. Louis, those around the US who have stayed in the streets in protest of racist police murder, and masses in struggle around the world who continue the fight against racist capitalism in all its forms, give us confidence that the working class, armed with communist ideas, can overthrow this murderous system, and build the future we deserve.



Mexico City Olympics, 1968: US athletes Tommie Smith and John Carlos, and Australian Peter Norman join the Olympic Project for Human Rights protest against racism and poverty during the playing of the US national anthem.



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

“A great task to carry out”

BOLSHEVIK CENTENNIAL OPENS UP SPACE FOR COMMUNIST STRUGGLE

EL SALVADOR—Last Saturday, October 14, the city government of San Miguel organized a public event about the 100th Anniversary of the Russian Revolution. Many people came, the majority youth.

A group of comrades from the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP) attended. Before the activity began, we distributed more than 70 copies of *Red Flag*. The Centennial of the Bolshevik revolution opens up space for us to bring our communist ideas to the masses.

A political analyst from city hall began by talking about how the Russian Revolution triumphed, and his point of view on the successes and mistakes that they made. Much of his speech focused on blaming Stalin for the failure of the USSR.

One of our comrades opened the debate of a night that would become very interesting. “For decades, capitalist propaganda has attacked Stalin in every way possible. We know that he is not the only one responsible for the errors of the USSR. Socialism maintained the material basis of capitalism. That’s why we must fight directly for Communism,” he said.

Other questions arose from the audience in relation to the topic of culture, since a good part of those who attended were artists. They showed part of the film “Lenin” in which a group of people are shown in a theater watching a ballet performance. The workers were outside, and Lenin gives the order that they should be able to enter.

It was very interesting to us because many youth have thought that this was the correct way to change the system. However, we know that it cannot be changed if we are not organized under the line of a disciplined party like ICWP. But these young people can join our ranks and become leaders to mobilize the masses for communism.

Then they showed another part of the movie in which Lenin talks to some workers and gives them the hope that soon they will enjoy the fruits of the revolution. The person who was analyzing this segment asked, “Who wouldn’t like to hear in today that everything that is happening will soon be over?”

But it’s not that easy. Sometimes we can be idealists and believe that this struggle is quick, but we cannot be sure of this. What we know is that we have a great task to carry out. We have to be confident that communism will triumph and if we don’t see it ourselves, other generations will enjoy it. That is the love for humanity that characterizes us.

The evening ended by touching on a national political issue. They talked about Nayib Bukele, a young politician, ex-fmln, current mayor of the capital, who has become popular in El Salvador. Many want to talk about him because the current electoral parties have no solution to the capitalist crisis. Many are so thirsty for leadership that they have put their faith in this young man who has been the mayor and who will try to be Pres-



May Day, El Salvador, 2017
“Make Intelligent Decisions”
“Fight for Communism—ICWP”

ident in 2019. But we must have a clear vision: that anyone, anyplace in the world who is governing under the limits of capitalism will not get us out of this capitalist crisis, because they only seek to reform capitalism, not abolish it. We need to organize ourselves and fight for communism because it is the only solution for the masses.

We will continue to attend these spaces which are on the rise to get closer to more youth and adults by distributing *Red Flag* and our pamphlet *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*.

SPARKS FROM BOLSHEVIK REVOLUTION IGNITED CLASS STRUGGLE WORLDWIDE

The Russian Revolution of 1917 sent sparks all over the world. In 1919 two of those sparks landed in Seattle, USA, and Winnipeg, Canada. Tens of thousands of workers launched general strikes that threatened the bourgeoisie but at the same time proved that unionism is no substitute for revolution.

Seattle and the Pacific Northwest had long been hotbeds of unionism and left-wing politics. The anarcho-syndicalist IWW published its paper “Industrial Worker” from its Spokane (Washington) headquarters. In 1918 the Seattle Labor Council began publishing the Union Record, the first labor newspaper in the US. It was the only daily to print Lenin’s April 1918 speech to the Congress of Soviets. Twenty thousand copies were distributed in Seattle.

On January 21, 1919, 35,000 Seattle shipyard workers walked off the job, and 14,000 more in Tacoma. Their union had made a no-strike no-wage-increase deal for the duration of World War I and they had some catching up to do. Later that year, these same workers would refuse to load guns destined for counter-revolutionary forces in Russia.

On February 2, union representatives met to plan a general strike in solidarity. The Union

Record published an editorial by Anna Louise Strong announcing the strike for February 6. It promised that the unions would not simply shut Seattle down — they would run it themselves. Strong concluded that “no one” knew where this would lead. It would have been much better if masses had the idea it would lead to communist revolution!

About 100,000 workers went out, including 40,000 nonunion workers. Japanese hotel/restaurant workers joined despite having been shunned by racist American Federation of Labor (AFL) leaders.

Strikers set up their own childcare, and kitchens that served 30,000 meals daily. They organized essential services like garbage collection and hospital laundry. Three hundred World War I veterans formed an unarmed security force.

The strikers, within a couple of days, showed that workers could run society and provide basic needs without the bosses and without bureaucracy. And the workers who did this were not paid a wage. This helped many workers see that society could do without money and wages.

The strike lasted only five days. The reactionary AFL national leadership pressured local leaders to call it off. The mayor of Seattle brought in hundreds of cops, military, and armed vigilantes. This was more opposition than the strikers had expected. The shipyard workers stayed out until March 11.

Meanwhile, the same forces were at work in Winnipeg: Years of hardship during WWI. Broken promises of postwar prosperity. A history of union and socialist activism spurred on by the revolution in Russia. And the bosses terrified that revolution would spread.

The building workers walked out on May Day, 1919. Two weeks later, thirty thousand joined them in a general strike. Five hundred women telephone exchange operators were the first to

walk. As in Seattle, the strikers guaranteed essential services. Veterans played an important role in supporting the strike — 10,000 rallied at the legislature. Dock workers in London, England, and Sydney, Australia, refused to load Canadian ships in solidarity.

Then the bosses cracked down. On June 21, the RCMP (national police) attacked a demonstration of strikers and veterans, killing two and injuring 30. Fleeing demonstrators were beaten by hundreds of anti-strike vigilantes. The RCMP and military patrolled the streets with machine guns. The Winnipeg strikers were not prepared for this level of violence. They ended the strike a few days later.

The Seattle and Winnipeg strikes are often portrayed as defeats for unionism, especially the IWW’s “one big union” strategy. They certainly showed that unionism, however militant, can’t stand up to the bosses’ state power. To beat the bosses, you need a mass revolutionary communist party with a red army.

In communism, there will be no bosses or their cops. The Red Army will defend the revolution and help the working class provide what the masses need. The masses, mobilized by the party, will deal swiftly with armed reactionaries.

Thousands of workers learned an important lesson from the 1919 strikes. In the US, they flocked into the newly formed Communist Party USA, formed only months after the Seattle general strike. The best leaders of the IWW — including Anna Louise Strong — rejected anarcho-syndicalism and embraced communism. The Canadian communist party was founded two years later. Today we understand the need for one International Communist Workers’ Party!

And we must see even more clearly that it’s not enough to resist capitalism or try to roll back its attacks. We have to wipe capitalism out forever with communist revolution.



From a leaflet published during the
1919 Seattle shipyard strike.

Venezuela: Currency wars will lead to shooting wars

COMMUNISM WILL CREATE A NEW WAY OF LIVING WITHOUT MONEY

In mid-September, the Venezuelan government implemented, through the basket of international currencies, the use of the Yuan (Chinese currency) in payments for the sale of oil. This is a blow to the dollar, which has been the currency in which oil is bought and sold internationally. This shows once again the pro-Chavez Venezuelan rulers' affinity with the Chinese imperialists by publishing the price of their oil in Yuan. At the same time it is the way that Venezuelan President Maduro is responding to the US economic blockade by aligning even more with the Chinese and the Russians.

Venezuela is one more point where the inter-imperialist contradictions are becoming sharper. The fight over which currency oil will be sold in is part of the fight over which imperialist will dominate the world. It will inevitably lead to World War. All the capitalists-imperialists want us to butcher each other over which group of them will rule the world and exploit us.

The opposition, led by the pro-US Venezuelan bosses, attacks the new measures arguing that these do not have a practical purpose and that Venezuela will be the most affected since the US is one of its main buyers of oil. The Chavista economists defend these policies arguing that the use of the Yuan will not be a big problem for trade since this currency has a greater and greater presence in the economies of Latin America.

Chavism is the movement of 21st Century So-

cialism, led by Hugo Chavez, representing the Venezuelan capitalists allied with the Chinese and Russian imperialists.

Tony Boza, a Chavista economist, tackles this issue: "In 2009 they articulated an agreement with Argentina, because the Yuan has its own strength; about 70 billion Yuan are the equivalent of about US\$ 10.7 billion at that time; in 2015 China opened an office in Chile where only Yuan and Chilean pesos are traded; currently they have an agreement with Qatar and Canada that is on the order of 200 billion Yuan. That is, we are facing the reality in which the Yuan is already an accepted currency worldwide." Chavism continues to have confidence in the capitalist economy using anti-US imperialism as its justification.

Chavism was able to prevail against the opposition in the recent elections, winning 17 of the 22 state governors of the country. Maduro achieved a temporary stability to counter the offensive of the pro-US opposition. This is another step in the process of Chavism in Venezuela that does not guarantee a solution to the crisis. However, we can see how millions are attracted by the socialist rhetoric with the hope of building a new society. This is an enormous potential to mobilize the masses for communism. Chavism does not have confidence in the revolutionary potential of the Venezuelan masses. Let's bring our communist ideas to them!

The working class in China and Venezuela

working class continues to be exploited under a capitalist economy. These are socialist societies that maintain the material basis of buying and selling and of wage slavery.

The real solution to the economic crisis is not in another currency, or changing to another imperialist. It is the organized struggle for communism, where money will not exist, and the things we need in life will not be bought or sold. The material conditions for the working class to control and organize a production based on our needs are present in the whole world.

As the International Communist Workers' Party, our work is to organize massively with communist ideas. We do not want control of any country to create a new market. We want to create a new way of producing, a new distribution, and a new form of living.

The Venezuelan capitalists and the Chinese imperialists do not have the same interests as the working class in Venezuela and China. Allying with them must not be our alternative. The power to create planned production based on meeting the needs of the masses and to promote cultural changes that allow forging this new society will be found in the masses. Fighting to build Communism, we will face enormous challenges like the elimination of money, the market and profits. It will be the mass organization under a communist line which will allow us to confront those changes.

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own." Thus to pass, the Dream Act must be addressed separately from the Comprehensive Immigration Reform that affects the 11 million immigrants who "broke" the immigration laws. .

To win these youth to not think about the future of their parents, they tell the Dreamers that they have potential to "be somebody," supposedly unlike their parents, who work in factories, farms, restaurants, cleaning offices, or as gardeners. These youth need to reject this anti-working-class outlook, which tells them to study hard, and they will get a "good" job, and be able to escape capitalism's exploitation.

Capitalism belittles workers, who produce everything useful, and the huge profits of the capitalists. Communism values workers' key role. Communist industrial workers can and will give vital collective leadership to revolution. They will continue to play a crucial role in building the communist relations of production and distribution that will guarantee our success.

Soldiers are forced to defend, fight and die for a system that attacks them and their families. The imperialists give weapons to their potential gravediggers. Communist soldiers have provided and will provide crucial leadership to turn those guns on the capitalists and build a Red Army to mobilize for revolution and communism.

ICWP admires the Dreamers who refuse to abandon the 11 million undocumented immigrants. However, under the Dream Act and Immigration Reform, masses will remain cannon fodder and wage slaves. All youth, students, workers and soldiers need to join the fight for communism. The unity forged in the fight to oppose the government's anti-immigrant racism must be unity to fight for a communist world where no one will be "illegal" or an "immigrant" or "citizen." We will all be comrades.

However, the fight over immigration laws unfolds in Congress, it is an opportunity for immigrant and citizen youth being pushed into the military to mobilize to turn the guns on racist cap-



italism and to help lead a revolution for a communist world.

It is an opportunity for workers, documented and undocumented, native born and immigrant, to unite to build a communist world without wage slavery, where every worker from all over the world can learn from each other to produce the best for the international working class.

Help build a mass ICWP to fight for the communist world our class deserves!



The DREAM Act was first proposed in 2001. Supported enthusiastically by the US military, it would allow undocumented youth who came to the US as children and graduated from high school to get on a long path to citizenship if they served in the military for 2 years (newer versions call for 3 years), or got a college degree. This was meant to get hundreds of thousands of youth into the US military to patriotically serve US imperialism in its coming wars.

DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) was Obama's executive order, a stop-gap measure to achieve this goal when Congress refused to pass the Dream Act. While Obama deported over 2.5 million immigrants, he and the other liberal imperialist bosses want DACA recipients to feel "grateful" to the US bosses and willingly serve them as loyal workers and patriotic soldiers.

PUERTO RICO: IMPERIALIST DISASTER; REVOLUTIONARY POTENTIAL

WORKERS' SOLIDARITY AND CAPITALIST COLLAPSE POINT THE WAY FOR COMMUNIST WORKERS' POWER

Officially, 49 people have died in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. But hundreds have died and will die as a result of racist capitalism.

The pharmaceutical factories are intact, but the homes of the workers are destroyed. 85% of the island is without electricity. Nearly half of the people are without running water. They are drinking from contaminated springs and rivers and even hazardous waste sites. Hospitals are closed or barely functioning. Food is scarce. Roads are blocked. Thousands of workers are out of a job.

Meanwhile, Trump—putting Wall Street investors first as usual—has added racist insult to injury, complaining that Puerto Ricans “want everything to be done for them,” and tweeted that the debt and rotten infrastructure “was of their own making.” The Democrats and the Puerto Rican politicians are just as responsible for this imperialist disaster. This is a crisis of capitalism.

Workers in Puerto Rico have united to clean streets, repair homes, and share electricity. Villagers whose bridges are washed out have joined together to build pulley systems to bring in needed supplies. Volunteers from the mainland have gone to provide emergency relief.

The spontaneous working-class solidarity we've seen in PR, as in all the recent “natural disasters”—fires, hurricanes, earthquakes and floods—gives us confidence that a communist society, based on solidarity, not charity, can build a new world.

This murderous capitalist system must and will be defeated. When the masses, mobilized for communism and led by their Party, take power, we will face the devastation of capitalism and the aftermath of war. The centuries-long history of racist exploitation by the world's imperialists means that conditions will be worse in some places than in others. We will fight against any lingering racism and individualism to make sure that everyone has the necessities of life.

It will be a long struggle to provide decent food, shelter, and infrastructure for the masses, at the same time as we are fighting to extend workers' power around the world. But eliminating the capitalist exploiters and organizing society based on need, not profit, will liberate the productive energies of the world's workers.

We'll build the safest and strongest buildings possible, and organize to protect society from the natural disasters we cannot prevent. We'll be organized to work together and take care of each other. We'll have plans in place to respond collectively in the case of a hurricane or an earthquake. No one will be left on her/his own.

Crisis and Opportunity

Puerto Rico looks like a war zone. Much of the island is totally destroyed. All the infrastructure of capitalism has broken down. Workers are dying and the government is totally unable to function. What's lacking for

this to be a revolutionary situation is a communist party with a mass base and a plan.

If the International Communist Workers' Party had a concentration in Puerto Rico we would be organizing now for power. That's our task—to build communism in the conditions of war and disaster. When workers can no longer survive capitalism, the urgent need to organize a society where we all survive together becomes clear.

Puerto Rican workers have a history of militant class struggle, although often diverted by nationalism and reformism. In 1950 there were uprisings in Ponce, Utado, Naranito and Jayuyu—all part of a worldwide anti-imperialist upsurge against colonialism. In 1998 Puerto Rico was shut down by a 48-hour general strike in support of telecommunications workers.

Neither independence, statehood or trade unionism will solve the problems created by capitalism. Workers and soldiers must fight for communism. That potential scares the ruling class. Their fear helps explain the US bosses' decision to send 17,000 soldiers to the island to stay until “all needs are met.” Although military jeeps and helicopters could take supplies to the most remote places, they are concentrated in the cities to



San Juan, Puerto Rico, March, 2017
The People Shout: “Let the Rich Pay for the Crisis!”

control angry workers.

Puerto Rican workers have fought for US imperialism in every major war since World War I. In fact, they were made citizens in order to draft them for WWI. They are fighting in US wars today in Iraq and Afghanistan. As the contradictions of capitalism intensify, world war seems closer and closer. Puerto Rican soldiers will be called to serve massively in the eventual WWII. They, like all soldiers, should join ICWP to turn the guns around and fight for communism.

Masses of people around the world are dying from the effects of capitalism and imperialism. When workers and soldiers are organized for communism, we can turn capitalist disasters like Hurricane Maria into opportunities for revolution. **We have nothing to lose but our chains and a world to win.**

DRUG COMPANIES MAKE PROFITS IN THE MIDST OF CAPITALIST DISASTER

Puerto Rico is in the midst of a humanitarian crisis. This is a crisis of capitalism—and it calls out for a communist solution.

This commonwealth of the US was devastated by Hurricane Maria which struck on Sept. 25, 2017. Puerto Rico, an island of 3,515 square miles, is one of the top drug producers in the world. Drug companies and device manufacturers started building plants there decades ago thanks to tax breaks and availability of skilled labor. The island is an important exporter of drugs. Pharmaceuticals are a \$15 billion business, raking in super profits while workers earn poverty wages.

Yet due to capitalism and its long legacy of colonialism, the working class is suffering under huge debt and weak infrastructure. While the pharmaceutical and medical supply companies make profits in the billions, Puerto Rico owes \$70 billion in debt. This was engineered by laws passed by the U.S. Congress that inflated a massive manufacturing bubble in Puerto Rico, then popped it. At the same time, Congress encouraged investors to buy the island's debt, even when the territory's economy was in distress.

For decades, the federal government used tax breaks granting U.S. companies an exemption on all income originating from American territories if operating in Puerto Rico. This encouraged the island's industrialization and kept companies in the US that didn't want to pay taxes.

By 2006, the exemptions were history and so was

Puerto Rico's manufacturing boom. The territory has been in recession ever since. But the island did see continued growth in one of its prime exports: debt. Mutual funds were still eager to buy Puerto Rican bonds, even as its economy languished. That's because those bonds are “triple tax exempt,” which means their interest payments go untaxed by federal, state, and local governments. This is how capitalists exploit and blame the working class for their debt.

While the factories survived the hurricane, schools, hospitals, and the homes of workers did not. Many workers in the pharmaceutical industry are unable to come to work due to the devastation to their homes and families. Puerto Ricans are going to see the death toll rise as critical water, fuel and electricity needs are not being met.

The halt in production of drug and medical supplies will impact the rest of the US. FDA commissioner Scott Gottlieb testified this week that he's very concerned about potential critical shortages. He said that there are 40 drugs that are made by 10 firms that they're closely watching. By the end of October 2017, these shortages will start to be felt in the mainland US.

When we think about humanitarian crises caused by natural disasters, it is really a capitalist crisis. Extracting more profits from exploiting the working class with the government and industries working together is the real cause of the crisis. But the crisis is also an opportunity to organize for a communist revolution and a world created by and for the working class.

Nationalist Struggles=The Rich Fighting for Wage Slaves

WE NEED COMMUNISM, NOT INDEPENDENCE

BARCELONA, SPAIN—The Catalan Referendum for independence from Spain was confronted by the Spanish bosses with massive violence by the police against the workers. And at the same time, Mariano Rajoy, President of Spain, said that he would use the “nuclear alternative,” that is, the threat of article 155 of the Constitution, in which they would use the whole power of the State (laws, courts, the Army) to prevent independence.

Catalonia, with a large seaport, produces enormous yearly profits and is the largest port of the Mediterranean in shipping and the fourth largest in the world. Also the airport, the Prat, the second most important in Spain, generates hundreds of millions of Euros a year. These are the real jewels over which the nationalist Catalan bosses and the Spanish bosses are fighting.

In recent years, with the global crisis sharpened by the imperialists searching for greater profits, workers find themselves working harder for lower wages, fewer basic services and many are even driven from their homes by evictions.

These workers feel thrilled with ideas like “the money from Catalonia stays in Catalonia” or “We will administer the money better and we will have higher wages,” when really the struggle for independence is not so that the workers of Catalonia will receive improvements. On the contrary, the clear objective of these struggles is only to elect an executioner of the workers. Both Spain with

its rulers and/or Catalonia with its rulers only look for ways to enrich their coffers.

Nationalist struggles only help a group of bosses. The true revolutionary struggle is the struggle to build Communism and ICWP as our international collective, so that the lives of all are of higher quality and our needs are met.

“The real left lies in the workers who are demonstrating in the street,” commented a comrade while we discussed the issue of Catalonia’s independence. “The revolt in Spain goes beyond flags and languages,” said an Irish reader of *Red Flag*.

The discussions about whether or not a struggle for “independence” is good have brought with them many questions and doubts. But nevertheless we said that nationalism only serves to make the same working class fight each other. Class struggles are not to fight for some individuals, but instead to fight against the bosses and destroy the entire capitalist system all over the world.

Some of the participants in the social media said that we need peace and not resentment and



Barcelona Protest, October 2012
Unite Against Capitalism! (In Catalan)

hatred. We responded that the struggles to defeat the system are not won by being pacifists because the imperialists will attack us with bullets and much violence (they do that every day worldwide).

ICWP works and struggles to defeat the system. Its tools are dialectical materialism, but we also need to unite and fight together to be able to build a world without borders (and nations) and wage slavery, mobilizing ourselves for communism.

Dolores Huerta: Another Racist Union Official

VETERAN COMMUNIST FARMWORKER EXPOSES CAPITALIST POLITICIANS

The following article about a comrade’s experiences is written in response to a recent Hollywood movie called “Dolores” which portrays Dolores Huerta as a heroine of the farmworkers’ struggle—when really, she was the opposite.

I am a retired farmworker and I often meet with other farmworker friends of mine who are also retired. Our talks, obviously, revolve around the past at work and about the great struggles that took place, but that today from much of what we won in those struggles only memories are left.

For my part, I want to comment some of what I can attest to about these struggles, since I participated in them, especially the strikes of the farmworkers in the 1960’s and 1970’s, against the rich growers of the San Joaquin Valley in California, US. Well, of everything that was won the only thing left is a union that is mediocre as a union, but is a big business administrated by the leaders.

Dolores Huerta was the vice-president of the union and the most pacifist one, together with Cesar Chavez. Both had their pacifist policy of accepting the conditions and suggestions of the politicians and growers in the labor contract negotiations. They gave the growers the farmworkers’ movement on a gold plate.

In the period when the strike battles were at their highest points, Huerta sent a number of striking farmworkers to different cities to campaign politically for politicians like the Kennedys and others. She and Cesar sometimes held conferences seeking votes for these politicians, idealizing them as protectors of the farmworkers, etc.

When the union declined, Dolores Huerta abandoned it and dedicated herself to campaigning for the Democratic Party politicians. These politicians, as a reward, have declared her to be a defender of the Latino undocumented workers. Nothing is as false as that. Dolores Huerta, during the time that she participated as an organizer of

farmworkers and as vice-President of the union, was a staunch enemy of the undocumented workers.

She required the membership of the union to report to the union office the names and addresses of undocumented workers to send the Migra (immigration cops) after them. She organized, in the 1970’s, several protests at the immigration office in Bakersfield, California to demand the deportation of undocumented workers.

Dolores Huerta and Cesar Chavez, as union leaders, established what was called the Wet Line at the border between California, US and Sonoma, Mexico. The Wet Line consisted of many tents inhabited by union members to help the Migra detain and deport undocumented workers who insisted on crossing the border into the US.

As you can see, will workers ever see their living conditions change with these kinds of leaders? Of course not. Because these leaders always wear two hats, one of the workers and the other of the bosses, and with this policy obviously they are defending the system of capitalist exploitation. It is to this kind of leadership and politicians that the millionaire Frederick Martin referred to in the past when he declared:

“It doesn’t matter in the least which party is in power and what president holds the reins of the administration. We are not politicians nor public thinkers; we are the rich; we are the owners of the United States; we obtained it God knows how, but we intend to keep it, throwing all the tremendous weight of our support, our influence, our money, our political connections, our bought-and-paid-for senators, our hungry deputies, our demagogues who speak in public against any legislature, any political platform, any presidential campaign that threatens the integrity



The writer of this article is the person on top of the truck giving a speech during the 1965 grape strike in the San Joaquin Valley.

of our properties... the class that I represent does not care about politics in the least.”

What this guy said, under capitalism, is true. The workers can see that only communism will provide the only alternative to change our living conditions. In communism we will not have corrupt governments or politicians nor sellout workers’ leaders. We won’t live under the threat of losing our job or being deported as in capitalism.

This is the newspaper of the working class. Obviously, we get no economic support from the capitalists, their foundations or NGOs. Please contribute generously to help cover the costs of production and distribution. Thank you.



**Mobilizing for Communism in South Africa
Spring 2017**

Sharing *Red Flag* articles helps

We were sitting with my friend whom I've been struggling with to join the party, just recently, when we got the latest issue of the *Red Flag*. We shared one with him. While we were reading it, he saw an article by a fellow comrade from the US that says, "communism is my idea of the promised land."

He is a strong believer of the Christian doctrine. When he read the article, it inspired and opened him. He said "This is a good article. In the end of the day, the promised land is a society where people will live without the bad things we see now." He always believed that my refusal/skepticism to go to church with him is because, somehow, I'm a wrong person or it is because of the party or something.

We talked further and deeply after that. He told us a lot more about his work. He works at a bread factory, Sasco Bread. He said, "I can really see how the bosses will squeeze everything from us until we are dry, with no life. We work at the factory for eight to ten hours a day and get paid only R9-R12 (7-9 cents US)/hour".

That money they get cannot even buy a loaf of the bread they make. But they make thousands every hour for the bosses. He went on to say, "This job has taken so much of my life, man. I go to work at 6 in the morning. I come back later, I'm so tired I go straight to sleep and wake up the next morning. It's the same thing again! The money I get goes to transport. I am literally left with nothing, nothing! All I see is the factory and my room. I have no social life. I can actually feel myself being drained physically and emotionally by work."

In communism, we won't have to work long hours because we will be producing for the needs of our class, not for profit. There will be work for everyone to do and contributions for everyone to make. Workers all over the world work long hours because capitalist bosses want to make maximum profit. They reduce the number of workers so they don't have to pay much in wages while extending hours. The few that are left cover for the reduced number of workers.

Our friend took a few copies of *Red Flag*. He said he was going to give them to some workers at his work place. He said we must go there and distribute *Red Flag* because workers are angry.

Workers have every reason to be angry. Most importantly, workers have every reason to fight the capitalist bosses, destroy their system with a communist revolution, and establish a society where they don't work for money or in-

dividual bosses but for their needs.

—Comrade in South Africa

Build a Base for Communism

When I became a party member way back when, we used to say "You've got to build a base in the working class." While this was correct up to a point, we should have been saying "build a base around communist ideas."

Otherwise, we were winning people to believe that we could make capitalism better. We know now that there is only one way to make a better world, and that is to totally get rid of capitalism and build a communist society. Finally, we understand the phrase "We have nothing to lose but our chains".

Our "base" is our family, fellow workers/ students/ soldiers, neighbors and friends. Sometimes when we are with them, they want to know what we have been up to. We talk about a struggle on our job, or going to a demonstration or joining workers on a picket line. They may ask questions, or wonder why we do these things. They take the *Red Flag*, or the leaflet we passed out.

But really, we should be including them in all these activities. And we in turn need to step into their lives..even if it means altering our schedules or feeling awkward.

Then we will be able to struggle and advance the relationship beyond "us and them." They want to know how we live as communists, what struggles have we lived through and how we have learned from other workers.

Two good examples come to my mind. One was mentioned in a recent article from Seattle about a newer comrade who came with us to meet farmworkers who had gone on strike when a fellow worker died. Talking about communism with these workers gave us all hope that the working class will one day seize power from these racist murderers.

Another was a dinner organized by a friend of a friend to bring Muslims and non-Muslims together to eat, talk, and learn about each other. There was some skepticism initially but ties were made that have resulted in several backyard barbecues that featured great multi-national discussions among the guests!

These discussions have shown us that many people in our base (and all over the world) are fed up with this racist, sexist, violent system. They want to make changes, and have given up relying on the Democratic Party, the sellout unions, and religion. This is a great time to expand our relationships among the working class. (Young people especially). Let's build for our upcoming November events with this in mind!

—Seattle comrade

Test Communist Ideas in Anti-Racist Struggle

As a recent letter said, ICWP should be encouraging everyone to exercise leadership. Members should encourage friends who are not yet communists to play an active role – sometimes a leadership one – in responding to racism in their workplaces, military units, schools and neighborhoods.

They should suggest to their friends that they adopt a class line on racism even if those

friends are not fully convinced about other aspects of communism. Friends will not be able to decide whether or not to adopt a communist position unless they can test communist ideas like the Marxist conception of racism, among other things, applying those ideas as active participants in class struggle.

It's especially important for friends of the party who are trying out communist ideas to be clear about how liberals and Marxists differ about race and racism. According to the liberal position, racism is bad, of course, but it's a natural position for whites (or whichever 'race' is the more favorably situated one) to hold because in the short run at least they benefit from their "white skin privilege."

According to the Marxist position, wherever the wages or benefits or 'rights' (such as they are) of oppressed minorities are undermined by racism, non-ruling-class whites suffer too, albeit to a lesser extent. It's in the interest of most whites to oppose racism. [Editors' note: a second letter will say more about this.]

If you're going to help new friends of ICWP to see how Marxist conceptions of racism and anti-racist struggles work out in practice, you'll need to provide them with evidence that will convince them and, more importantly, that they can use to convince others to adopt that conception. That evidence will have to be mainly drawn from reform struggles. And – if you are going to suggest readings other than ICWP's own – they will have to be from authors who don't accept ICWP's line on reform and revolution.

Could you make do with just examples from ICWP's practice? I doubt it. My experience is that other leftists – quite properly – insist on thinking about a wide range of historical examples and analyses. So ICWP should be prepared to recommend readings that help to advance a Marxist understanding of race and racism (and of genders and sexism) even when those readings also advance other, reformist, positions.

—Anti-racist reader



**Los Angeles, USA October 15, 2017
Sign in the march protesting the 3rd
version of Trump's Muslim Ban**

Centennial of the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution:**THE PARTY, THE MASSES AND
COMMUNIST WORKERS' POWER**

By fall 1917, most Bolsheviks (Communists) wanted “All power to the Soviets.” They wanted to overthrow the bosses’ Provisional Government and replace it with a government of soviets, councils representing workers, soldiers, sailors and peasants. When the second Congress of Soviets met late in October, it should become that revolutionary government.

The Communists had a lot of delegates in the soviets, especially in Moscow and Petrograd. But other parties there – some socialist — supported the imperialist war and wanted coalitions with capitalists. These policies made them traitors to the working class. How could such a Congress of Soviets end the war, feed the masses and help the peasants seize the land?

In the factories, the barracks and the working-class districts of major cities, local communist committees had mass support. Armed Red Guards from the factories, with red soldiers and sailors, had defeated the fascist Kornilov only weeks earlier.

Lenin saw all this. He wrote on September 27th, “We have thousands of armed workers and soldiers in Petrograd who could at once seize the Winter Palace, the General Staff building, the telephone exchange and the large printing presses.” He demanded that the party Central Committee lead the Bolsheviks to “take power into their own hands.”

Some “moderate” Bolshevik leaders disagreed. They wanted a broad socialist alliance, including traitors like the Mensheviks. Other communists, like the Petrograd party committee, heatedly debated whether a Communist government could maintain vital food and industrial production. They saw that communist-led workers could take power. But could they hold onto power? Could they organize the new society?

The Provisional Government was well aware of its sharpening contradiction with the workers and soldiers. It announced suddenly that it was transferring the Petrograd garrison troops to the front. Masses of soldiers were enraged. Many saw it as an attempt to prevent insurrection.

They refused to leave the capital. They demanded the transfer of power to the soviets. The Petrograd Soviet responded on October 9th by organizing a Military Revolutionary Committee.

At a Bolshevik Central Committee meeting the next night, Lenin argued for an immediate insurrection. Delay was dangerous. The communists had mass support and the Provisional Government knew it. They might even let the German imperialists take Petrograd to keep it out of the workers’ hands. But communist revolution in Russia could spark revolution in Europe.

The Central Committee declared armed insurrection to be “the order of the day”—but didn’t organize one. Still, the barracks, factories and bread lines buzzed with anticipation. Other parties warned against “the seizure of power by one political party.”

The Central Committee met again on October 16th. Nearly a third wanted to delay further consideration of armed insurrection until after the Congress of Soviets. The majority – after weeks of sharp struggle! – supported insurrection “at the first suitable opportunity.”

A communist Military-Revolutionary Center was formed. It joined with the Petersburg Soviet’s Military Revolutionary Committee and heard reports from the military units. Were they ready for revolution?

By October 21-22, the Military Revolutionary Committee had effectively taken over the leadership of the garrison. It began appointing new commissars to take charge of Petrograd. **The revolution had begun.**

Sunday, October 22 was “Petrograd Soviet Day.” At mass rallies in Petrograd’s factories, halls and streets, Bolsheviks advocated revolution. To thunderous applause, they promised peace, land to the peasants, and the confiscation of private property to distribute grain, bread, clothing and shoes to all who needed them.

The next day, the Military Revolutionary Committee called a mass meeting on the main square of the strategically key Peter and Paul fortress. After the soldiers debated for hours, an overwhelming majority voted for transfer of power to the Soviets. They pledged to obey the Military Revolutionary Committee.

Kerensky’s Provisional Government tried to reassert its control. But most troops – like the



**Red Guards storm the Winter Palace,
October 25, 1917**

sailors of the battleship Aurora – no longer obeyed its orders. Workers affirmed their support for the revolution at mass meetings. The insurrection was unfolding.

Even then, some on the Military Revolutionary Committee sought a “compromise.” Lenin called on district-level Bolshevik organizations to give the deathblow to the tottering Government. The masses responded. By dawn on the 25th, the revolutionary Baltic and Kronstadt fleets were sailing to Petrograd. The Winter Palace was taken. Members of the Kerensky government fled or were arrested.

When the Congress of Soviets convened that morning, Lenin proclaimed:

“The workers’ and peasants’ revolution has occurred. The oppressed masses will form a government themselves.... We must now devote ourselves to the construction of a proletarian socialist state.”

The Bolsheviks had mobilized masses of workers and soldiers for revolution. But it hadn’t made a mass issue of how to organize communist workers’ power – or of communism itself. Even party members hadn’t struggled over how to build a “proletarian socialist state.”

Now the Bolsheviks had to figure these things out fast – amidst a growing counter-revolution. They held onto power – but they got a lot of it wrong. We’ve learned from them. Our line today of “mobilizing the masses for communism” will prepare us much, much better for the future.

**LEARN FROM THE BOLSHEVIK REVOLUTION IN RUSSIA!
JOIN US AN ICWP EVENT:**

**El Salvador
November 1, 2017**

**Seattle (US)
Pot-Luck and Meeting:
Lessons for today and planning for the year ahead
November 4, 2017, 7 pm**

**South Africa
Speeches and lunch
November 17, 2017, 12 noon**

**Los Angeles (US)
Mini-Conference and Dinner
November 18, 2017, 2:30-7:30 pm**

Mexico: December

