

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

LOS ANGELES (USA), Jan. 13 — hundreds rally outside Federal Detention Center, chanting loudly to support detainees. Four hundred marchers and other workers took copies of *Red Flag*.

REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST GREETINGS FROM A COMRADE NEAR AFRIN, SYRIA

SYRIA, January 26 — As you can imagine, we are in a continuous war waged by different nationalist and terrorist groups. I regularly receive and read *Red Flag*. My ability to write in English is very limited but I can read and discuss the ideas of *Red Flag* with friends and other comrades around me. Thanks for keeping in contact with me and discussing communism.

The working class is traumatized by horrific war. However, people are looking for a real alternative. I firmly believe that only world wide communist revolution can truly liberate the working class.

The capitalist bosses try very desperately to divide the working class. They use nationalism, racism, ethnicity to divide the working class. These divisions lead to wars on the one hand but it also opens the door wide open for ending capitalism.

Our class enemy continues to divide us and kill and terrorize us but they can never destroy the working class as a class. This is our power. It is the duty of each and every communist to relentlessly and enthusiastically unite the working class to fight for communism.

Communism is here in the minds and aspiration of the working class. We can make this a reality. Our enemy is dancing to the music of war. We will mobilize for counter attack and liberate the working class with a communist world with no wars, no bosses and nations.

Sooner Rather Than Later:

MLK RALLY SPARKS PLANS TO DEVELOP COMMUNIST ORGANIZERS

SEATTLE (USA) — “Communism – I’ve been thinking more and more that is what we really need,” said a union representative to a comrade distributing *Red Flag* at the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. rally. She gave us a \$20 donation.

In the past we found it can be difficult to stand out from the many liberals, leftists and socialists who attend this rally. These reformists typically campaign for some political candidate or collect signatures on petitions asking the ruling class to be nice or less racist. They have nothing worthwhile to offer. We do—communism.

Putting communism out front really made the difference. The enthusiastic response of the union rep made us aware of how things can change. She was previously a staunch Democrat and very anti-communist.

As comrades circulated among the crowd, we noticed that many of the people with petitions were young and represented the diverse ethnic mix of our South Seattle neighborhoods. This was different. So, when a young African-American man asked us to support his candidate, we took a chance and asked him some friendly questions about socialism versus communism.

He believed, as many of us once did, that

socialism was a step towards communism. He eagerly took a copy of *Red Flag* after we said that exploitation and inequality could not be defeated under socialism. He had thought about this before, but the socialist groups had not opened that door! There were several good conversations along these lines.

We made contacts, but self-critically our club hadn’t prepared to ask those we met to immediately help mobilize others. More people than we realize will pitch in if we give them a chance.

Workers Plan to Develop Student Communist Organizers

Another comrade later discussed these experiences and our self-criticism at work with a Boeing friend, who was also a long-time participant in these rallies. He immediately began to think about what this meant at the high school where he coaches after work.

“We’ve got to have a base,” he began. “I’ve done it for the team over some years, now we have to do it around *Red Flag*.”

We distribute over a hundred papers every issue at this school. He noted the potential.

“I’ll start by asking a few, ten max, to

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India:**NEW COMRADES SHOW POTENTIAL FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION**

Every day 200,000 people leave villages in India looking for jobs in large cities. They have lost their meager land to large capitalists who automate farming. Only 500 of these migrants manage to find work. More than 200 million youths under 25 years old are looking for work, only to find some casual work just a few weeks a year.

Capitalist rulers in India are aware that they are facing masses of angry workers ready to fight. The Hindu fascist BJP government came to power by mass terror against Muslims. Then it unleashed more violence against Muslims and also against Dalit workers (who are Hindu). The

rulers hope that fascism, religion, and racist divisions will keep the workers from fighting against capitalism.

About 300 workers and youth have defied this fascism by joining ICWP to fight for communism. They are women, men, Dalits, Muslims and Hindus. This is a small number, but the idea that only communism can end the relentless horrors of capitalism is spreading deep and wide across India.

On several visits, comrades from another country were greeted by enthusiastic workers in six large industrial cities of India to talk about communism. The workers wanted to know the history of ICWP. They were very eager to find out why we will not turn into the fake so-called communist parties they are familiar with.

The workers, their families and friends talked about communism. We had meetings where people whom we'd never met prepared delicious food and arranged for us to stay in their homes. No money changed hands. The only connection we had prior to the visit was *Red Flag*. They had been eagerly reading every issue of *Red Flag*.

Our latest visit has made us more resolute to organize and prepare the international working class for communist revolution. In meetings elsewhere of comrades from different coun-

Crimes against Dalit Women

It is no accident that the rise of hyper-capitalism in India has also seen an increase in crimes against women from oppressed castes (Dalits). Rapes of Dalit women and girls have increased by 65%, kidnappings by 45% and killings by 30%, since 2010, while conviction rates have halved. Capitalism has always used violence, particularly against women, to pave the way for naked theft and genocide. But the working classes are fighting back against Hindu right-wing fascism and capitalist oppression with strikes and marches in the face of enormous state violence. As communists, we can draw inspiration from these struggles and help our oppressed sisters and brothers by fighting to establish the material bases for the liberation of all – the end of the wage system and the end of capitalism.

—a comrade

tries, we agreed to improve *Red Flag* by helping more comrades write more articles and letters.

Some comrades are proficient in the internet technology and multimedia. They are planning to create a video based on the ICWP document "Mobilize the Masses for Communism" so that masses can grasp it more easily. We are planning regional ICWP meetings in the near future.

Our modest efforts have shown that if we continue our work with consistency and determination, building very close ties with the working class, our party will grow quickly. Capitalism is in deep crisis. It is a weak system and it is in decline. Our party is the future. Join ICWP now and start building communist collectives!



**Mass protests against attacks on Dalits
Mumbai, India, January 2018**



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ORGANIZING FOR COMMUNISM IN THE SWEATSHOPS

EL SALVADOR—The Central Committee of ICWP in El Salvador met for the first time to make decisions and define plans for this year. We had agreed to this during our activity marking the Centennial of the Bolshevik Revolution. This was one more step in the consolidation of a collective leadership.

First on the agenda was a report on a recent international meeting. We discussed how the political work within MTA (Los Angeles transit) and Boeing is related to the work our comrades do in the maquilas (sweatshops). The interchange of experiences about communist political work helps to find new ways to overcome the obstacles to the mobilization of more men and women workers for Communism in the factories.

A worker leader opened the discussion by talking about the difficulties of organizing within the maquilas: “The Party is already known by everyone inside the factory. It is no longer a mystery as it used to be. Most know who we are.

“Their most common doubt is that they do not know what a political party does in the factory.

When they think about a political party, they think about elections; they think of ARENA and the FMLN. They also question what the Party can do to change the conditions they are currently in. These questions come mostly from people close to the unions.”

Another comrade from the maquilas added, “What surprises some people most is that the newspaper talks about eliminating money. They do not conceive of living without money”

All the doubts and questions from the women and men workers are opportunities for them to make communist ideas their own. In order to raise awareness among the rest of the workers who have not yet organized, we as members of ICWP have to be clear about the answers to these questions.

We decided to convert the monthly meetings into processes of learning and teaching communist ideas and practice. The next meeting will be about what the Party is, why we need it, what its practice should be within the factory, and how it is different from the practice of the unions. We believe that this process is necessary so that we can politicize the people around us to

be part of the constant discussion of Communism and the line of our Party.

An important part of this new process is developing new writers for *Red Flag*. The youth club in the capital promised to meet regularly with these workers to discuss the newspaper, some articles, and to encourage them to write.

Finally, we discussed preparations for the May Day March. The men and women workers have taken the initiative and the leadership so that this year we will have more presence in this commemoration.

“We are inviting people starting now. This year we do not want to march in silence. We want the party to be noticed,” they said.

They have begun taking the steps for transportation and even to have batucadas (Brazilian percussion music) to animate our contingent.

The meeting encouraged and motivated people a lot to meet the goals we have set for ourselves. We are convinced that the masses can take the ideas of communism as their own and sharpen the discussion about them for the development of the Party that can lead us to a communist revolution.

Mass Deportations? Or Trump's Wall?

NO! WE NEED TO FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM!

LOS ANGELES (USA)—“I think that of these two options [before Congress] there is a third option. This third option is to have a communist government. For this to happen, a revolution is needed. In the communist government there will be no deportations. All will be citizens of the world,” said one student. The group was discussing possible changes to US immigration policy.

Others echoed him. “Yes, so that we all have what we need and nobody benefits more than someone else.” “In a communist system no one will be forced to go to war, families will not be separated and no one will be illegal because they came from another place.”

The first of the two options is the possible deportation of 800,000 undocumented youth if the DACA immigration reform program is rejected. The second is the approval of this reform in exchange for a \$25 billion border wall with Mexico and restriction of legal immigration.

President Trump is using these young people (“Dreamers”) as a bargaining chip. He is negotiating with their lives by proposing “give me the wall and I give them DACA.” However, even if this immigration legislation is adopted, the parents of these young people would be deported anyway. Many of them have already been.

Generals Dream of Recruiting Young Immigrants for War

Robert Gates, former Secretary of Defense and former Director of the CIA, wrote in the

New York Times on November 8, 2017: “The United States faces extraordinary security challenges that exert increasing pressure on our armed forces. Those forces are stronger when they embody the nation’s diversity, drawing from a large pool of willing young people able to adapt to changing threats. That is why we need legislation that provides a path to citizenship for those immigrants who, among other attributes, are serving or have served in the military, whether they are in the United States legally or were brought here illegally as children. That kind of policy will help the army recruit new service members and improve readiness.”

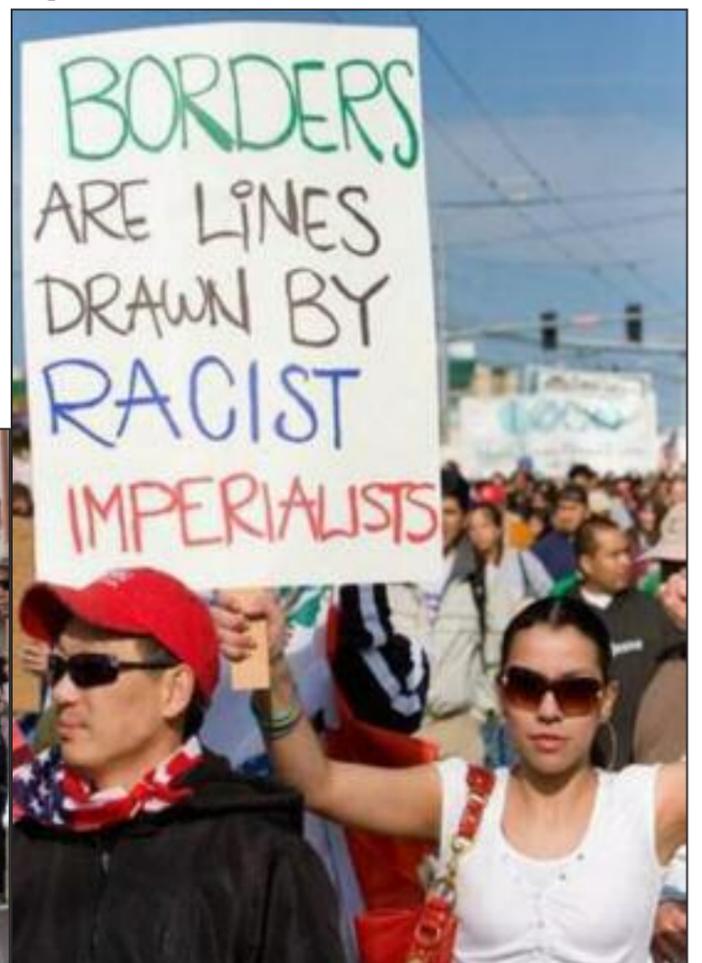
There is much disagreement among politicians about immigration policy and the wall. But most are in agreement with the legalization of the Dreamers. They need to win them over to patriotism because they will need them as soldiers. In effect there will be war again and these young people will be used to defend the US capitalist empire against other capitalist empires whether it be China, Iran or Russia.

But history has shown us that soldiers, marines and sailors have rebelled against their capitalist masters. Soldiers with their industrial worker allies and the masses of people have made revolutions.. This happened in Russia during the First World War and in China in the Second World War. But these revolutions were socialist and not communist. This time the revolu-

tion will be for communism.

In communism there will be no walls that divide and weaken our international working class. We will be a single force unified and emboldened by the ideals of a world without borders, without any kind of divisions of sex, class, money, race or privilege. All struggling to cement and extend communist relations in all spheres of the new human society.

We call on these young people and all others to join the efforts of the International Communist Workers’ Party to mobilize for communism now. How can they do this? Receive *Red Flag*, read it, study it, discuss it and write for it. Become a member of the ICWP. Form collectives of struggle and study in the places where we are: in the armed forces, the factories, the schools, the universities and in the neighborhoods around the communist ideas. And in this way, we will be preparing the ground for communist revolution.



Capitalists Attack Public Employee Unions

BUILD COMMUNIST COLLECTIVES, NOT UNIONS, FOR REAL WORKERS' POWER

LOS ANGELES (USA)— “The Supreme Court is about to destroy public employee unions,” fretted an officer of a teachers’ local. “They’ve pretty much destroyed themselves,” said a member. “Like when our union changed its strike fund into a political campaign fund years ago.”

Unions never mobilized to destroy capitalist exploitation. They never will. They tie us to one capitalist political party or another – in the US, mainly to the Democrats. Only a revolutionary communist party can mobilize workers to lead the broad masses to take power. Then we will transform production to meet our own needs instead of the bosses’ profits.

Unions work for the capitalists, and many workers know it. In Mexico, for instance, perhaps 90% of unionized workers belong to “ghost unions” set up by company lawyers before workers are even hired. Union officials – tied to the governing party – pocket big money for helping keep wages low and turning out the vote.

Embroidery workers in El Salvador, mostly rural women working at home, make as little as \$1-\$2 for a 16-hour day. About 300 recently formed a union. But who really benefits from this campaign, organized by the AFL-CIO’s Solidarity Center which is funded mainly by the US government?

In communism workers won’t need unions. We ourselves will organize and manage production. Workers will meet regularly in local Party collectives (open to all) to plan, evaluate, and solve problems. We’ll make broader planning and policy decisions in regional or global Party collectives in close touch with local groups. Mainly we’ll work to expand communist social relations.

In Communism, We’ll All Produce and Share – No Capitalist State Means No “Public” or “Private” Workers”

In the US, 6.5% of private-sector workers but 34.5% of public employees are unionized. Public employees are foot-soldiers of the capitalist state. They run the institutions that enforce the capitalists’ class rule. In communism, all workers will participate in direct self-government. There will be no separate category of “public workers.” Communist state power will rely on mobilized masses, not on a repressive bureaucracy, as long as there are class enemies to suppress.

Some public unions — police and prison



guards – are openly racist and anti-working-class. Others –teachers’ unions, AFSCME and SEIU – are “progressive.” They have enabled the Democratic Party to get out the vote. Many include large numbers of African-American members.

US bosses rely on teachers to train the next generation of exploited workers and imperialist foot-soldiers. The American Federation of Teachers (AFT) boosts corporate-led “education reform.” For 50 years its officials have helped lead the US-imperialist Solidarity Center which promotes anti-communist unions and political movements throughout Latin America, eastern Europe and elsewhere.

US Supreme Court Attacks Public Workers’ Unions

Forty years ago, the US Supreme Court upheld the “union shop” in the public sector in “Abboud vs. Detroit.” Unions could collect “agency fees” from non-members. That helps cover costs of collective bargaining, grievance representation, etc. Their political funds are kept separate, although the vast union bureaucracies are inherently political.

But unions are also expensive. US union workers earn 25% more than non-union workers. They often have more benefits. The pay gap between men and women is smaller for unionized US teachers. In this period of global capitalist crisis and sharpening competition, the US rulers are less willing to pay this price.

A year ago, the Supreme Court almost overturned Abboud in the “Friedrichs” case — then Justice Scalia died and the court split. This month it will hear “Janus vs. AFSCME” and probably end the agency fee at least for public unions. Republicans want to undermine the Democrats’ base of support. Democrats have figured out that they can mobilize for elections using “identity politics” like the huge “Women’s Marches.”

That’s why public employee union officials are panicking.

No More Ghosts and Zombies: Communism Means Life

Union officials and some socialists have accused us communists of “wanting to destroy the unions” because we’re not vigorously defending them.

These zombie unions have already destroyed themselves. By mobilizing for elections, not class struggle. By relying on courts, laws and bosses instead of on the workers. And by trying to get workers to pin our hopes for a decent life on a desperate, decaying profit system.

Our job isn’t to give bodies to ghosts or to revive zombies. It’s to build living communist collectives to destroy this deadly system.

Talk to everyone you can about communism. Share this paper with them. Write for it. Arrange to meet with, or create, a Party group. Donate money. Plan to march on May Day 2018 under the *Red Flag* of communism!

Read our pamphlet:

BIGGER INDUSTRIAL WORKING CLASS: BIGGER COMMUNIST POTENTIAL WORLDWIDE

Available at:
icwpredflag.org/IndustrialE/WorkE.html



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write down five questions they have about the paper. I’ll go first to those who read the whole paper and give it to their friends.”

We discussed writing short answers to these questions, with the help of Los Angeles students, for mass distribution.

“Then we’ve got to have a meeting,” he said

emphatically. We agreed this would help develop a core group of leaders.

Our Strategy: Mobilize Masses for Communism

The first lesson of all this is to be open about building a communist world with new people we meet, and to never give up on older friends. The success of communism will depend on masses who make that goal their own and work

to achieve it.

Most importantly, we must make specific plans to involve others we meet, such as at rallies, or whom we already know at school or work. We’ll involve many more in the future, particularly after we take state power. Small scale or big, the guiding principle remains the same: mobilize the masses for communism.

Fighting gentrification in working class communities

COMMUNISM WILL GUARANTEE BEST POSSIBLE INTEGRATED HOUSING FOR ALL

CALIFORNIA (USA) — Landlords, investors, and the politicians they control are conspiring to deny the human need for housing for all by gentrifying working class communities, making rents unaffordable and evicting tenants to raise rents. As the struggle against gentrification and for rent control spreads across the United States, the working class is faced with the task of raising communism as the alternative to the capitalist system's dictatorship of finance capital.

A communist society must provide free, quality housing to all. Immediately after the working class seizes power, we will take over the mansions, condominiums, hotels and motels, office buildings and other structures of the state and society to house the working masses. Money will be abolished, and with it rent. In a society organized around human need, rather than capitalist profit, we won't have "better" or "worse" neighborhoods, houses and apartments, but living spaces that meet people's needs.

We will also reorganize social relations. The people who live in multi-family dwellings must have the power to supervise their buildings in accordance with communist principles. This can provide the basis for the fight against sexism where child care, cooking, maintenance and other communal/collective tasks will be taken up by the community.

Mobilizing the masses for communism will allow us to break down the racial divisions which capitalism has created. We will work hard to bring workers of all backgrounds and "races" together in the same neighborhoods.

The recent upheaval in California regarding rent control is a stark example of how the various capitalist and banking interests unite with apartment owners and landlords in the rental sector of the US economy. A bill in the California legislature, AB 1506, sought to repeal a California law which stipulates that California cities and counties may not implement rent control on

apartments built before Feb. 1, 1995. For many cities, the prohibition goes back even further. In the city of Los Angeles, for instance, rent control is allowed only for buildings built before October 1978.

AB 1506 supported the rights of renters to rent control. The apartment associations, bankers and their paid politicians organized to defeat this bill, giving another victory to the capitalist class in California's housing industry.

The lives of the working class and the masses are in serious jeopardy, as their housing-security is being threatened each and

every day by the capitalist rental industry, apartment organizations and management companies, landlords, city planners, banks and finance agencies.

The workers and the poor are forced to rent, often times without the protections of programs such as Section 8 or rent control. We frequently face no-cause evictions, exorbitant rent increases, the use of credit reports to deny housing, tenants being charged utility fees for water and sewage, the theft of rental deposits by landlords and other onerous acts by landlords and property management companies.

All of this hits black, latino/a and immigrant communities much harder because of the racism hard-wired into capitalism.

Communities created by capitalist racism and segregation have developed neighborhood structures for survival. As finance capital sees an opportunity to make money by gentrifying these



Los Angeles, January 2012

communities, those survival structures are threatened. Some activists fighting gentrification see the fight as defending black and other ethnic minority communities against white professionals moving in. Communists in these movements must reject nationalism and put the blame on the finance capitalists and the politicians who serve their interests. Fighting for reforms like rent control won't solve the problem. Only fighting for communism can defeat racism and guarantee the best possible integrated housing and healthy communities for all.

Capitalist rent and housing relations within society must end. No landlords, no money, no rent, quality housing for all! Communists and those fighting for the end of capitalist rule will be called upon to spread the idea of communism, the end of rent, the right for all to possess housing to live, and that no person has the right to profit off of the housing needs of any other person.

CAPITALIST FEMINISM AND ALL THE LIES THAT COME WITH IT

LOS ANGELES (USA) — Countless allegations of sexual assault committed by Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein have helped to expose the exploitative and manipulative natures of other men in power. However, all men aren't the enemy, just like all women aren't our allies. The #MeToo movement has led many women in media to come out in protest of sexual misconduct and the devaluing of women in the work place, which has been happening for years.

This year Oprah Winfrey got the Golden Globes lifetime achievement award and gave a media-grabbing speech that urged women to speak up and say "time's up" to these exploitative practices. Mass media have believed she may eventually run for president, but the critical question that we need to ask is why now? Oprah Winfrey has for years been a capitalist tool for deceiving women and has used her platform to fool the masses into believing that "if you believe you can achieve" in this system, which in turn has helped build her billion-dollar empire.

While emphasizing the importance of the #MeToo Movement, Oprah spoke about Recy Taylor, a black woman who was gang raped by six white men while walking home from church in 1944. Taylor's story is not new, but it is significant because she spoke out and went to the NAACP where Rosa Parks advocated on her behalf. Although her attackers were never prose-

cuted, Oprah felt it was important to add her in the speech because of the how sadly still culturally relevant her story is to women around the world. Oprah's speech may have been effective in getting the masses on board with the #MeToo movement and adding another trendy hashtag like the slogan #TimesUp, but can she really be considered the same as working class women?

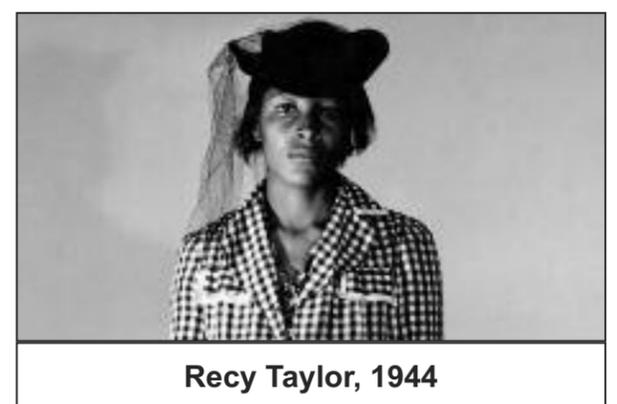
Facts are Oprah is friends with Harvey Weinstein, just like Hillary Clinton. Clinton remained silent about him, and actually saved a top advisor from firing due to his sexual misconduct. Massive protest and outrage across the U.S. have commenced since Trump's election last year.

This year marked the second annual women's march where here in Los Angeles an estimated 600,000 people took to the streets once again in protest against Trump's regime, part of a mobilization of over four million over all. ICWP was present as well, distributing over a thousand copies of our newspaper *Red Flag*. Women are standing up to sexism—but we will only finally defeat sexism in a communist society.

The end of the march at LA City Hall saw famous actresses and elected officials calling the protestors to register to vote. The ruling class, afraid of workers' anger, is desperate to channel it into electoral politics. We've tried this. Our party, having learned from the past, knows that these reform struggles will only end in the status

quo. We need communism now, not another politician or another hashtag.

Male communists must give leadership to other men in fighting sexism. Men must see women as comrades and not just objects of sexual pleasure and the caregivers of children. Women play a leading role in our party, and will play an important role in maintaining a society run by the working class. We know that you can't votesomeone into office and expect one woman or man to do what takes the collective struggle of men and women. Only when working-class men and women make this breakthrough to understand that elected officials, whether men or women, don't have our best interest at heart, can we truly live in a society where both men and women can live and work with each other as equals. That world is a communist one and we all need to fight for nothing less.



Recy Taylor, 1944

Race and Gender: Dangerous Ideas Inherited from Class Society

COMMUNISM SEES COMRADES, NOT CATEGORIES

Not long ago, many scientists taught that “race” was a fixed biological category. Racists – including some scientists – lied that segregation and super-exploitation were “natural” results of supposed biological differences.

Now we know better. While genetics affects many physical traits, there is no biological way to sort humans into five, or three, or any number of distinct “races.” The racism of class society – especially capitalist slavery in the US – created “races.” When class society is destroyed by communist revolution, we’ll end racism. Eventually even the idea of “race” will disappear.

Much the same is true of sex and gender.

With few exceptions, gender roles come from the sexism of class society, not from inborn biological differences. Even the binary division of humanity between “men” and “women” is a social construct like “race.”

Rulers of class societies need to divide the masses they exploit and oppress. They need to make their cruel and selfish domination seem “natural.” At first religion was the main excuse—and it still serves that purpose. But in the capitalist era, the rulers’ distorted science became the new rationale for sexism as well as racism.

Communists fight for a classless society where nobody will exploit anyone. We’ll work voluntarily and collectively to meet everyone’s needs without profits or money or barter. To win and build communism we need to destroy racism, sexism, borders and every “ism” the rulers use to divide us.

Communism means “from each according to ability and commitment, to each according to need.” Communist society will value each person as a distinct comrade within a huge interconnected social network. We won’t think of

ourselves or each other in terms of “boxes” like races or genders.

That doesn’t mean throwing out science! On the contrary, many more of us will do and understand much more – and better – science.

Gender and Biology

How do male and female humans differ biologically? Not much. It’s “fake news” that biology makes “Men from Mars, Women from Venus.”

Gender differences don’t come from different anatomy. They are not in the genes that are our biological inheritance. They are not in the hormones coursing through our bodies. (See “Gender and Biology” below)

Almost all the psychological and social differences we see (or think we see) between men and women come from how capitalism treats us differently. And from the sexist ways that capitalism teaches us to see and treat ourselves and other workers.

Gender and Culture

Various pre-capitalist cultures identified more than two genders. A third gender is recognized by Zapotec people in Oaxaca (muxes) and by Hindus and Muslims in India (hijras). Warias are a third gender in Indonesia, now stigmatized by Muslim rulers. Christian missionaries in Hawaii suppressed indigenous Mahus. Over 150 indigenous groups across Native Americans traditionally recognized – and revered – a

third gender called “two-spirited people.”

The Buginese people of Sulawesi (Indonesia) recognize four genders and a fifth category for people who belong to all four. Classical Judaism had six genders.

Human rights groups are now pushing hard, internationally, for transgender rights. But they never question how the sexism of class society shapes an individual’s sense of being “really male” or “really female.” The “genderqueer” movement rejects the male/female “gender binary” but generally not the capitalist society that perpetuates it.

Once communism destroys the material basis of sexism, we’ll be able to win the fight to end all discrimination and divisions based on gender or perceived gender. Starting now, we mobilize for communism based on an appreciation of everyone’s contributions and everyone’s needs, and on an active fight against sexism in all its forms.



GENDER AND BIOLOGY

How is a person’s sex determined? Usually by their anatomy (external and internal) or by their genes.

The gene is the basic unit of heredity. Each gene is a stretch of the chemical DNA, found in structures called chromosomes in every cell. We inherit one copy of each gene from each parent.

Genes help determine our physical traits by coding for the production of specific proteins. Scientists are still figuring out why a gene triggers production of a protein in one cell but not in another.

Most humans have 23 pairs of chromosomes in each cell. One pair is called “sex chromosomes” and the other 22 are called “autosomes.” Here we are mainly interested in the “sex chromosomes.” The larger is called “X” and the smaller is “Y.”

About 45% of all people have two X chromosomes and are anatomically female. They have

ovaries, a uterus and other female organs. Another 45% have one X and one Y chromosome and are anatomically male.

That leaves about 10% of all people who don’t fit neatly into the genetic male/female gender binary categories. That’s quite a few! It’s more than the percentage of non-Han people in China or the percentage of “Coloured” in South Africa.

There’s a lot of variation among that 10%.

About one out of every 500 males born are “XXY.” Others are XXXY, XXXXY, XXYY or XXXYY. Almost all have male genitalia but many have secondary sex characteristics (such as body type or patterns of body hair) that are not typically male.

Some people who present as females have three, four or even five X chromosomes, or just one. They, too, often differ from “typical” females. The most puzzling cases are newborns with male anatomy but XX chromosomes.

Some people are “mosaics.” Their cells have different sets of “sex” chromosomes. Some of these are technically intersex. Perhaps 2% of all babies have ambiguous external genitalia.

But advanced capitalism’s commitment to the “gender binary” demands that everyone must be labeled “male” or “female.” Usually a doctor decides the child’s “real” sex and does “corrective surgery.”

What about Male and Female Hormones?

Hormones are chemical messengers that are created in the endocrine glands, regulated by genes. They are critical to most major bodily functions, including reproduction.

Women’s ovaries secrete the hormones estrogen, testosterone and progesterone. Men’s testes produce testosterone. Other endocrine glands also secrete hormones that are involved in libido, or “sex drive.”

Due to gender-binary thinking, testosterone is called the “male hormone” even though women produce it, too. Estrogen and progesterone are called “female hormones” even though men produce them too. Everyone needs all these hormones to stay healthy.

Biology is real. But it doesn’t justify gender-binary thinking. And it’s not destiny.



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LETTERS

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

Cyril Ramaphosa—ex-trade union organizer, current capitalist

In the last edition, *Red Flag* wrote about Cyril Ramaphosa, who was recently elected the President of the African National Congress. We said that this is not a victory for the working class. Ramaphosa is a capitalist who was on the Board of the Lonmin Mine Company when 34 striking miners were murdered at Marikana in 2012.

We also said that many people in South Africa, including the unions, are celebrating Ramaphosa's election. Readers outside of South Africa may not know Ramaphosa's history and why the unions would call this a victory.

The fight against Apartheid, the racist system of extreme separation and exploitation that ruled South Africa from 1948 to 1994, was largely begun by student protests. In the 1980s, it spread to the industrial working class. The National Union of Mineworkers, led by the lawyer Cyril Ramaphosa, shut the country down with a general strike for both economic and political demands in 1987.

The involvement of the organized working class was the beginning of the end for the apartheid regime. Ramaphosa became the main negotiator who helped the ANC sell out the fight of the working class. The ANC dropped demands for nationalization of the farms and mines and the government agreed to end the legal structure of apartheid.

Capitalism is intact in South Africa, with racism, poverty, extreme exploitation, and murderous police. Comrades in South Africa and around the world are mobilizing the masses—not to reform capitalism, but to replace it with communist revolution. We're building a mass party, not one which relies on union officials, lawyers, or capitalist politicians. We'll fight for workers' power, and abolish private ownership, money, profits and exploitation. We'll create a society where we cooperate to produce for need.

—Comrade in another country

Sexism kills, and kills brutally

Recently in El Salvador a violent act was committed where a woman was beat unconscious by her life partner which later resulted in her death. Her body was riddled with bruises and her neck was covered in scratches and

other marks. After beating her unconscious the man went and altered the scene of the crime, by moving the woman's body to make it seem as though her death was a result of her falling down a stairway. Then he proceeded to clean the scene. Police are holding the man in custody as of right now and if convicted he could face up to 40 years in prison.

The way she was left was something one would expect to see in a horror movie, but unfortunately this was no movie, just the reality all women face. To make matters worse, the headlines regarding the murder of the Salvadoran woman have been downplaying the event by stating things like, "He was just a little heavy handed".

This woman from El Salvador was someone who friends referred to as being caring and unselfish, but now she is just another statistic. A statistic that reflects the state in which El Salvador is in right now in which 1488 women have died in the last three years as a result of violent acts against them similar to the one mentioned above.

Acts like these happen far too often because capitalism has allowed for them to become commonplace, but we must reject the notion of sexism and must struggle to end acts of violence caused by it.

I am beyond furious and this most recent case has only served to solidify the idea in my mind that the only way for woman to escape these acts of violence is through communist revolution where sexism will no longer exist and where working men and woman will no longer die unnecessarily.

Let us work together and fight for communism because it is the only system which eradicates the system of oppression known as capitalism.

—Resuscitated comrade

Do we have gay members?

A couple of issues back, a comrade in South Africa asked: "whether there is space for people who are gay in communist society because it speaks on how people will live."

We want to answer that with one word: Yes.

For sure.

Of course.

There are gay people and straight people in every society now and in our party. Of course there will be gay people in a communist soci-

ety. We fight now against discrimination against gays, lesbians, bisexual, transgender and queer people and we will continue to do so in a communist society.

And we agree, the question speaks on how people will live when we eliminate class society.

We want to refer the reader to the article we published in August, 2015, after the US Supreme Court said that same-sex couples have the right to marry, which is the wedge issue in US society today.

We went beyond that question to deal with the way that marriage today is a capitalist institution and how communism will transform all social relationships. Here's the url:

<http://icwpredflag.org/CurrentE/080615/art3.html>

We invite you to read it and send your comments.

—Los Angeles comrades

We need action against sexual abuse

In my opinion, the #MeToo movement has done nothing but, once again, create a trend that will eventually die off until the next trendy topic of discussion or # arises. How then will these empty words have any change without action? While I marched in solidarity with the women and men of all races, genders, sexualities and ideals on life and society, I wondered how much weight these two words really carried. I believe that unless discussions with both women and men are had which analyze why women are devalued in this capitalist system, then saying Me Too doesn't do anything but create an atmosphere where these attacks will further continue.

As I sat my little ones down, two boys and two girls, I had the tough conversations with them about gender and the different ideas and expectations that are set on them. I also had the tough talk with them about sexual abuse and the course of action that should be taken. I let them know that they do not have to remain silent. I told them they must understand that in me that they have someone to confide to because often times victims of sexual abuse feel that they don't. These are the real material actions that need to happen more. This is what I, as a young black male, see as action behind words.

—a comrade



Women's March,
Los Angeles, January 2018

Turkish Rulers Invade Syria, Defying US Imperialism

WORKERS AND SOLDIERS: TURN BOSSES' WARS INTO COMMUNIST REVOLUTION!



January 30 – Turkey’s recent air and ground invasion of Afrin, in northwestern Syria, is targeting the US-backed Syrian Defense Force (SDF), composed mainly of the Kurdish YPG militia.

This is a milestone in the decline of US imperialism. It reveals once again that “national liberation” is a death trap for the working class. We need to understand these things so we can better prepare our class worldwide to fight for communism.

Only Communism Can Liberate the Working Class

Kurdish people have fought unsuccessfully for centuries to establish an independent Kurdistan. Most recently they allied with Russia and the US in fighting the Islamic State, hoping these imperialists would help them achieve their goal.

They trusted the Russian rulers to keep Turkey from invading Kurdish Syria. But, like all capitalists-imperialists, the Russian rulers care only about advancing their own interests. They withdrew their military from Afrin and opened the sky to Turkish warplanes.

The ideology of nationalism set the Kurds up for this betrayal. Nationalism promotes unity between workers of an oppressed group or nation with “good” local capitalists and “less evil” imperialists to fight against “worse” imperialists and local capitalists.

Kurdish nationalism is a reaction to racist oppression. They are the fourth-largest ethnic group in the Middle East, with 35 million people in Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Armenia and Syria. Everywhere they have been subject to vicious racism.

Between 1925 and 1939, Turkey deported and massacred 1.5 million Kurds, a third of the population. The Turkish dictator Erdogan recently declared his intent to “exterminate” Kurds in Syria.

But nowhere in the world has “national liberation” liberated the working class. A Kurdish “homeland” would still be a capitalist state. Kurdish workers would still be wage-slaves, and wage slavery everywhere is the material basis for racism, sexism, xenophobia and war.

Tragically, the old communist movement fought for national liberation and separate nations for different ethnic groups. This was supposed to lead to socialism and later communism. It didn’t

work in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Vietnam, Angola, Eritrea or anywhere else. It just perpetuated capitalism with all its evils.

Workers need communist ideology, not nationalism. ICWP fights to unite workers everywhere to mobilize directly for one communist world. We invite the masses in Afrin and everywhere to join our struggle for a world without nations or borders, without profits or money. A world where we’ll all produce collectively to meet the needs of our class. This is what we have in common. Communism is the material basis for forging international unity.

When the US wanted Turkey to invade Syria, masses in Turkey declared, “We won’t fight for the imperialists!” However, blinded by their own patriotic nationalism, many now support Erdogan’s racist terror campaign against the Kurds. They must reject all capitalists and imperialists and join their Kurdish comrades to fight for communism.

Turkish Rulers’ Defiance Shows US Imperialism’s Steep Decline

US imperialists have also betrayed the Kurds in Afrin. It’s not the first time. During the first Gulf War, US rulers encouraged Kurds in Iraq to rebel against Saddam Hussein. Then they stood aside as Hussein’s army butchered them.

Turkey, a NATO member, used to be the main bulwark of US imperialism against the former Soviet Union. But now the interests of the Turkish and US rulers clash in Syria. US bosses want to divide Syria by granting the Kurds their own territory. Turkish rulers see this as an existential threat because it could encourage the 18 million Kurds in Turkey to demand the same.

Turkey is receiving financial support from Qatar and China. Russia, Iran, and the Syrian rulers also want to maintain Syria’s territorial integrity. All this has emboldened the Turkish rulers to defy the US. If they prevail, the US will have little influence left in southwest Asia (the “Middle East”).

Turkish rulers threaten to move on from Afrin to Manbij, where 2000 US troops support the

SDF. Will the US stand its ground or withdraw?

US rulers know they need to fight to regain control of the oil-rich Middle East. They are divided over where. Some generals advise confronting Russia, Iran and China in Syria. They have stated that US troops will not withdraw from Manbij.

However, the recently-published 2018 National Defense Strategy calls for “prioritizing preparations for tomorrow... at the expense of fighting today’s wars.” This would mean backing off in Syria and getting ready to face Russia in the Black Sea and Eastern Europe and China in the South China Sea.

Crucial US geopolitical interests are at stake (see below). However the immediate crisis plays out, the fierce rivalry among capitalists and imperialists makes world war inevitable. Syria and North Korea show how this process is sharpening and accelerating.

Only Communism Can End Capitalism’s Unending Wars

Capitalist competition leads to wars over natural resources, markets and cheap labor. It divides our class and uses patriotism to mobilize us to kill each other so capitalists can maximize their profits and build empires.

Our interests as workers, soldiers, and youth everywhere are directly opposed to those of the profit-hungry, bloodthirsty capitalists-imperialist. We need a world where no bosses’ flag flies and no worker dies defending nations. We urgently need communist revolution.

War exposes the deadly nature of the profit system. It creates more opportunities to win millions of workers and soldiers to revolution for communist workers’ power. The Russian Revolution emerged from World War I and the Chinese Revolution from World War II.

The crisis in Syria calls for us to redouble our efforts to mobilize the masses directly for communism. This time we will bury capitalism-imperialism for good.

US AND RUSSIAN IMPERIALISTS COLLIDE OVER TURKEY

Russia threw Syrian Kurds under the bus to respect Turkey’s opposition to a Kurdistan state. An independent Kurdistan would threaten Russian interests by destabilizing the region. It would curtail the growing influence of Russia and Iran there. It could help to install US-friendly regimes in Syria, Iraq and possibly even Iran.

Then the US might be able to use these countries’ oil and gas to break Russia’s chokehold on the European energy markets. Now the European imperialists depend heavily on Russian energy imports. This limits their willingness to align with the US on major geopolitical issues – including, of course, the possibility of a US-Russia war.

An independent Kurdistan could not come into existence without triggering World War III.

Turkey is guaranteeing Russia’s European gas monopoly by helping to build Turkstream. This pipeline will transport gas from Russia to Turkey

to Europe, bypassing the pro-US Ukraine.

Even more important, Turkey’s growing alliances with Russia and China are a huge blow to NATO. Turkey has been a NATO member since 1952. It was one of the main outposts for US imperialism against the Soviet Union, and later Russia.

Now it’s clear that the US can’t count on using Turkey to wage war against Russia in the Black Sea region, Central Asia and Europe. It points to the growing isolation of US imperialism worldwide. This isolation makes the wounded beast more dangerous.

Can Nuclear Weapons Prevent World War III?

That was the theory of “Mutually Assured Destruction.” Don’t count on it.

In January 2018, the US Pentagon announced plans to produce a “low yield” nuclear weapon for

the Trident missile. This could be ready in two years. In the longer term, US generals are planning a new nuclear-tipped sea-launched cruise missile. Both weapons are to “give the US more flexibility in confronting Russia and the rest of the world.”

These “usable” nuclear weapons increase the likelihood of the US imperialists once again launching a nuclear first strike. Russia and China are also increasing military spending, including on nuclear weapons.

This raises the stakes for the international working class. We should see the urgency of ending capitalism-imperialism and its threat to devastate the world. Communist revolution will rely on mobilized masses, not on weapons of mass destruction. Help mobilize for communism now! Join ICWP!