

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

SACRAMENTO, USA, April 4 – Mass protests continue almost daily after two city cops shot and killed Stephon Clark, another unarmed black man, in his grandmother's backyard on March 18. Marchers, outraged by this coldblooded racist murder, have blocked traffic and sports events. They have disrupted City Council meetings.

Politicians, preachers and sports figures are pushing “nonviolent civil action” to “pursue justice and demand reform.” But US capitalism has relied on racist terror for over 400 years. Stephon Clark was the 263rd person killed by US cops this year. They have already killed 65 more after him.

There can be no “justice” when a tiny ruling class owns almost all the means of production and forces most of us to compete to be their wage-slaves. No “reform” can end this deadly racist system.

Only communist revolution can defeat racist police terror by mobilizing masses to end private property, its material basis. Only communism can unite the masses around our common interest as a working-class family and finally defeat capitalism's “divide-and-conquer” racist ideology.



YOUNG COMMUNIST LEADERS EMERGING FROM U.S. GUN DEBATE

SEATTLE, USA — The revolutionary line of the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) stood out at the “March for Our Lives” here. No other group even came close to our communist message.

Five hundred got our communist leaflets and hundreds of *Red Flags* at the march. Students, staff and comrades inside and outside a high school distributed 150 leaflets and 100 papers the week after. Some students took extra papers and leaflets as they arrived in the morning to give to their friends.

We held a small meeting at Boeing to organize distribution at work and school.

Dozens of aerospace workers, school staff and students debated and discussed (many for the first time) our vision for the role of guns in the revolution and after.

Our leaflet boldly stated that the answer to capitalist violence is communist revolution. That revolution will require millions of communist revolutionaries — and millions of

guns.

After the revolution, the working class will be armed to defend the revolution, but only as part of communist-led collectives. There will be no privately-owned guns. Deciding how and when to use them will be collective political decisions, not left in the hands of individual gun owners.

Then we asked everyone to help distribute this leaflet and *Red Flag*. More than the usual took us up on the offer.

Students Ask, “What Does It Mean To Me?”

But it did not end there. After reading the leaflet, students asked a staff member who is close to the party, “How do we get involved, and what does it mean to me?”

That discussion is still ongoing — at two levels.

First, we envision a communist society where everybody — including every young person — gets military training. Most likely, the standing Red Army will be responsible for organizing this training.

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WORKERS PRODUCE ALL VALUE! WE DON'T NEED BOSSES!

EL SALVADOR, April 1—Men and women workers make the world function. They make the factories function, they work the fields, they transport the products. It is more and more evident that the capitalists are parasites on humanity. They are the owners of the means of production and their actions, based on the defense of their interests, can put hundreds of workers at risk.

Sweat-Shop Bosses Skip Town

The recent closing of a maquila garment sweatshop is a sign of this. Communist ideas help us to understand the reasons for these actions and how to convert these situations into opportunities to mobilize the masses for communism. This was the basis of the discussion in the latest meeting of the industrial club of ICWP in El Salvador.

“The boss signed over the containers with the products and the machinery to the bank. He signed over the factory and left.” These were the words of a worker in the free trade zone of San Salvador after the flight of a Korean businessman

and the firing of hundreds of co-workers in one of the many factories in the area.

That's how our discussion began with the men and women workers of the free trade zone (garment factories) in which new members of ICWP from the closed factory and university students participated.

First we focused on the factory closing. This left hundreds of workers without work, many of whom were at the meeting. In the face of this situation, we analyzed the social relations of production under capitalism and how different they will be in the new communist society.

The discussion brought forward comments made within the industrial complex immediately after the closing of this maquila. We exposed the argument of the supervisors and the bosses who claimed that factories close because people don't work hard enough.

These same workers criticized what the union had done. They accused the union leaders of dividing the workers and seeking benefits

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**MARCH FOR
COMMUNISM
ON MAY DAY
WITH ICWP**

Inter-Imperialist Rivalry, Infighting Among US Bosses:

MOBILIZE MASSES EVERYWHERE FOR A COMMUNIST MAY DAY!

USA, April 2 – “[John] Bolton’s ascendance [as national security advisor] increases the risk of not one but two wars — with North Korea and Iran.” (*Foreign Policy*, 3/23/18)

With or without Bolton, US imperialism is on a collision course with China and Russia. Its long-term capitalist allies like South Korea and Saudi Arabia are increasingly independent. The global crisis of capitalist overproduction sharpens competition. It fuels nationalism, racism, and escalating trade wars. .

Our working-class family is increasingly engulfed in war and its deadly consequences. Civilians suffer the most injuries and deaths. More are caught up in a massive refugee crisis, experiencing intensified disease and hunger. It would be short-sighted for any workers, anywhere, to think they can escape unscathed for long.

But it would be short-sighted, too, to overlook the potential for armed revolution. World Wars I and II gave rise to the Russian and Chinese revolutions. Today’s brutally murderous global capitalist system can and must be destroyed!

From Syria to El Salvador, from India to South Africa to the USA, comrades of the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP) are finding workers and youth increasingly open to the ideas in *Red Flag*. In the face of a possible World War III, working-class youth, especially, must prepare to turn the guns around again—this time for communism.

US rulers are divided over how, not whether, to prepare for their expanding wars. Bolton and Trump represent one faction, and Jim

Mattis represents the main wing of US imperialism. When Mattis became Defense Secretary, declared the *New York Times*, “it was almost possible...to imagine him as the spokesman of an emerging Trump Doctrine not so different from what Hillary Clinton... might have staked out.” (3/26/18)

Mattis, like Clinton, is an “Iran hawk.” They – and mainstream US imperialists—want to use diplomatic alliances to enforce restrictions on Iran’s nuclear program. At the same time, they favor “credible threats of force,” especially in Syria. They want to prepare to fight the Russian imperialists.

Last November, Mattis stated publicly that US forces would remain in Syria, contradicting Trump’s campaign promise of a speedy troop withdrawal. He got Trump to sign off on the plan to keep US troops there.

While Secretary of State Tillerson presided over the gutting of the State Department, Defense Secretary Mattis worked more closely with US Embassy officials to continue US imperialism’s traditional two-prong strategy of diplomacy and force. But negotiations over Syria or anything else are stymied because nobody can predict what Trump might say or do next.

Can Mattis hold onto his job? Can Trump hold onto his? President Pence – if it came to that – would likely return to a traditional Republican brand of mainstream US imperialism. If Trump is pushed out, the real reason will be that he abandoned core US imperialist interests in pursuit of his family’s immediate gains.

We the international working class must not allow ourselves to be distracted by the rulers’ infighting or persuaded to take sides in their electoral circus. We must not allow ourselves to be diverted from the fight for communist workers’ power. We must reject fear and take wars as our opportunities to mobilize soldiers and sailors for communist revolution.

Communism will end capitalism’s borders and nations and, with them, the increasingly deadly profit wars ahead. This is no wild dream. It is the only plan that corresponds to the reality we face. Let’s unite workers, soldiers and youth everywhere into one International Communist Workers’ Party and remake the world to meet our collective needs!

Organize a group from your job, school or community to march with the ICWP on May Day! Use *Red Flag*, banners, signs, leaflets and whatever else it takes to mobilize masses for communism everywhere!



SYRIA: BIG DEFEAT FOR US BOSSES IS WORKERS’ OPPORTUNITY TO DEFEAT CAPITALISM-IMPERIALISM

April 4 — Daesh/ISIS in Syria seems close to defeat. But instead of heralding peace, the war is mutating into more deadly and dangerous conflicts: Turkey against the Kurds, Israel against Iran, and the US against Russia.

Let’s shed the illusion that capitalists–imperialists can ever create a peaceful world. Their system is based on unending competition that creates trade wars and eventually shooting wars.

These wars create the objective conditions for communist revolution.

In a communist world, workers will have no need to fight over natural resources like oil or natural gas. We will share them –until we can replace them with more environment- and human-friendly sources of energy.

US imperialists hoped to overthrow Syrian president Bashar al-Assad and guarantee the construction of a natural gas pipeline from Qatar to Europe. This would have broken Russia’s chokehold on the European Union’s energy supplies. It would have freed European imperialists – particularly the Germans and the French – to side with the US in future confrontations with the Russian imperialists.

This plan has failed miserably. Even Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman of Saudi Arabia has admitted that “Bashar is staying.” Salman dropped another bombshell, announcing a long-

term Saudi-Russian energy alliance to guarantee stable, high oil prices.

This effectively ends the 1946 Saudi-US “oil-for-security” pact against the Soviet Union. This pact gave US imperialists control of the oil-rich Middle East, the cornerstone of their worldwide empire.

US control was strengthened in the early 1970s when Saudi Arabia and OPEC agreed to sell oil only in dollars. The surpluses were to be reinvested in US Treasury bonds. These petrodollars became the lifeblood of the US economy. The dollar became the world’s reserve currency, allowing the US to print dollars at will while becoming the world’s biggest debtor.

All this is now threatened by the petro-yuan. China recently opened trading in oil futures on the Shanghai International Energy Exchange in contracts that will be denominated in yuans, easily convertible to gold.

The final blow to the petrodollar will be when China persuades or forces Saudi Arabia to sell its oil in yuans. Nobody knows when this will happen, but China is already the world’s biggest oil importer and Saudi Arabia’s biggest customer.

Former US allies are becoming more independent. For example, the US has long relied on Turkey to confront Russia in the Balkans and the Black Sea. But Turkish capitalists have been em-

boldened by their growing financial and military ties to China and Qatar. They have just humiliated the US in Syria, defeating the Kurdish allies of the US in Afrin.

Turkey threatened to attack Manbij, where two thousand US troops were stationed. Latest news indicates that these troops have been withdrawn and replaced by French troops

Meanwhile, Syrian anti-aircraft fire shot down an Israeli fighter jet. US forces, repelling an attack by Russian fighters, killed perhaps hundreds of Russian “mercenaries.” The influential *Atlantic* magazine (2/13/18) warned that “Syria’s war encompasses at least three other international conflicts, each of which are heating up.”

Workers need to understand why capitalists-imperialists are fighting so that we’re not blinded by patriotism or racism into supporting our class enemies and the fascist movements they’re building.

A communist understanding of the dangerous storms ahead should deepen our commitment to win soldiers, mostly members of our working-class family, to the outlook of turning the guns around. It should help steel our Party to stand firm in our commitment to reject pacifism and call for revolutionary war for communism.



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School Workers Convention:**ONLY COMMUNIST WORKERS' POWER WILL RESOLVE CAPITALISM'S CONTRADICTIONS**

CALIFORNIA (USA) — “You’re in math and you’re a communist!” exclaimed a youngish part-time faculty union officer, eagerly taking leaflets and a copy of *Red Flag*. “At my school,” he continued, “all the communists teach English.”

This teacher was more open to communist ideas than most other delegates at the California Federation of Teachers (CFT) convention. However, hundreds took ICWP (International Communist Workers’ Party) leaflets and dozens took *Red Flag*. Hundreds more leaflets – over 500 in all – and more papers were distributed at the Orange County youth-led “March for Our Lives” that most convention delegates attended.

The convention’s main theme was the upcoming Supreme Court “Janus” decision. That ruling is expected to end the right of public-worker unions to collect “agency fees” from non-members they represent. This is part of a long-term Republican plan to weaken the union movement and, with it, the Democratic Party.

Unions are scrambling to respond. CFT leaders at this convention, as always, praised and promoted politicians they consider allies. But this year they focused, too, on organizing. They emphasized that the CFT existed for fifty years without bargaining rights or agency fees. It can again. But militant unionism is not what workers need.

Outside the “Left” and “Right” of Capitalist Politics

With the West Virginia wildcat school strike safely over, union officials are now using it as an example of the power of militant unionism. The CFT is even sponsoring a bill to make May Day a state holiday celebrating working-class struggle.

Some radicals may describe this as an example of how unions can be “moved to the left.” And they can – if “right” and “left” are correctly understood as a continuum within bourgeois democracy (a capitalist political system). That’s what it was originally: in the 1789 French assembly, royalists sat on the right and capitalist representatives on the left.

Workers need to understand politics differently: as a class struggle for power. The ICWP is not a “left” party that functions within the bosses’ system. We are a communist party that organizes to destroy that system and build an entirely new one.

The capitalist class uses its state power – including racist terror — to protect its continuing ability to profit from exploiting us. It recruits our youth

to fight in its armies to defend one nation’s capitalist-imperialist bosses against their rivals.

Communist workers’ power, in contrast, will mobilize masses to end exploitation and, with it, racism, money, profits and deadly imperialist wars.

Work in Communist Society

Some think that communists who lead militant fights for reforms are showing the way to communist revolution. We disagree. Many historical examples, from all over the world, make this point. But here’s one from the recent CFT convention.

A big issue for many delegates was whether California should keep limitations on how many classes part-time faculty can teach at one college. Many argued (successfully) that the CFT should work to reduce or eliminate these restrictions. They pointed to the hardships faced by teachers who have to travel from school to school because they aren’t allowed to get enough work at any one to survive. However, others noted, this could encourage administrators to hire fewer full-time teachers, since part-timers cost less.

Other workers, like bus operators, face similar issues.

A comrade delegate said, in several conversations, that this debate showed how the wage system itself divides the working class. It creates contradictions between individual workers’ needs

and those of our class.

It will be very different, the comrade said, in a communist society. Work will be organized by workers ourselves to meet everyone’s needs without money or exchange. We will work as much (or as little) as we want. Few people will do any one kind of work “full-time.” Instead, most of us will do many different kinds of work. No longer will individual needs conflict with collective needs.

Reformism and trade-unionism are dead-ends, not a road to communist revolution. But many people on those roads, like others in single-issue mass marches, are looking for something different.

That “something” is open mass mobilization for communism. We need to find more ways to build long-term ties with those who will, maybe sooner than we think, join us.



School workers in “March for Our Lives”



USA, April 2—Inspired by the recent West Virginia school strike, teachers walked out in Kentucky (above) and Oklahoma.

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Unlike capitalism, the focus of this training will be political. We’ll stress the why, not the how. Communism is about the needs of the working class, not individual rights.

“That makes sense,” said a Boeing friend. “That way we can center on responsibility to us all, not racist excuses like I need gun rights to protect me from the gangs.” Communist collective responsibility is the best antidote to killings like those at Parkland HS.

What Constitutes Communist Leadership?

The other level revolved around the struggle for students to take leadership. Some, who wanted to get involved, asked the party’s friend to be their leader.

Some may think it surprising, but he an-

swered, “no.”

“You have to lead,” he told them. These Asian, Latin, black and immigrant students have seen their share of capitalist gun violence.

Part of his reasoning centered on security. He’d seen too many movements destroyed when the ruling class either eliminates or buys out “super-leaders.” The cult of the personality has also been a problem in the communist movement.

But when we really got down to it, it was a question of how communist leadership differs from capitalist or reform leadership. The job of communist leaders is to fight for viable communist collectives. It’s the opposite of the star system or capitalist political leaders who focus on their careers.

Students Light Up When We Talk About Communist History

“Anyway, we adults can’t lecture these students,” he added. “What they are really interested in is my stories of struggle —and like me, the stories about the struggle for communism.”

His experience is backed up by comrades distributing the paper to students going to school.

A student we met outside the school is interested in local and international politics. She’s already organized panels and classroom debates about anti-racist struggles at the school.

“Her eyes lit up when I talked to her about what the Paris Commune was and our plans to discuss it more at our May Day dinner next weekend,” reported the comrade who first spoke to her some months ago. Now there’s someone who’s a potential communist leader.

INDIA: COMMUNIST REVOLUTION WILL WIPE OUT FOUNDATION OF BARBARIC RACIST OPPRESSION

April 3 — For centuries, Dalits in India have been victims of daily physical violence, murder, rape and burning of their meager dwellings. The capitalist rulers in India realized that this horrific anti-Dalit violence can give rise to a mass revolutionary movement. In 1989 they passed a symbolic law, the SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act, that made it easier for a Dalit victim to press charges against an anti-Dalit perpetrator.

In a system riddled with anti-Dalit racism, this law was a cruel joke and was almost never enforced. The reality is that crimes against Dalits have increased while conviction rates have practically halved.

On March 21, 2018 the Supreme Court of India, in the face of evidence to the contrary, passed a judgement that this law was abused by the Dalits and that it unjustifiably victimized police, public servants and employers. This judgement makes it practically impossible for Dalits to file complaints against perpetrators. It also allows anticipatory bail which leaves victims open to further brutal violence.

The Supreme Court of India was able to pass this judgement with the tacit approval of the ruling, fascist, Hindu nationalist BJP. It should come as no surprise to the international working class.

Racism in Europe and US, xenophobia in Africa, fascist oppression in the West Bank and Gaza and anti-Dalit, anti-Muslim pogroms in India can't be fought in bosses' courts. We need a communist revolution to eradicate the very foundation that makes such barbaric oppression possible.

When tens of thousands of farmers led a 200 km long march culminating in Mumbai, early last month, it inspired the working class. As soon as the Supreme Court passed its judgement, the masses were determined to express their rage. Over 150 reformist Dalit organizations called for general strike (Bharat Bandh) in India. They understood that no other action would lead to radicalization of youth. April 1 was no joke, it was to be Bharat Bandh.

Tens of thousands of youth mostly in Northern Indian states, armed themselves with sticks, stones and petrol bombs in anticipation of state violence. Police stations, trains, public transportation, district courts burnt as in many cases police were outnumbered. Police couldn't contain the growing violence. The military was de-



April 1: Angry masses stop trains during Bharat Bandh

ployed in several places. As we write, at least 12 people have died, thousands injured, and many thousands jailed.

International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) has started an ideological struggle to show to the masses that only communism can eradicate the horrors of Dalit oppression. Bosses and their institutions relentlessly spread the lie that because the caste system which created Dalits is thousands of years old that it will continue even under communism. They want the masses to give up and accept capitalism.

The Hindu caste system originated in ancient India. Hereditary division of labor was assigned with violence and justified by unscientific faith in the Hindu religion. However, history is full of massive Dalit rebellions that have erupted almost every century for past 3000 years.

Capitalism exploits any superficial differences in the working class into racist division to maximize profit. Modern anti-Dalit racism divides the working classes making it possible for the bosses to make super profits. This system has created millions of Dalit youth who have no meaningful work under capitalism.

ICWP is building a revolutionary movement to build communist society. As we win the masses to a communist future by uniting Dalits and non-Dalits, we will begin to tear down centuries-old Dalit oppression. Our goal is to

eliminate the bosses' state and their power.

In this revolutionary process we will destroy bosses' courts, their police and win over industrial working class and soldiers to communism. Most of the bosses, their politicians and ideologues like the fascist judges will be eliminated. Communism will have no racist, sexist culture. All forms of misogyny will be eliminated.

Violent communist revolution will smash courts, police, politicians and that will make it possible to create communist society without money. Racism that persisted stubbornly under capitalism will collapse under the communist power of the masses.

Unlike capitalism where billions are left with no work, communism will have something for everybody. A new communist culture, music, language, will educate and inspire the masses to share everything.

The remnants of the bosses will try very hard to revive inhuman ideologies. Masses armed with communist ideology and weapons will violently deal with them. The struggle for producing according to ability will encourage the masses to produce for the need of all.

Recent events like the farmers' march and Bharat Bandh have shown that the masses are in motion. We are transforming this mass movement into a fight for communism by inviting everybody to join ICWP.

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only for their members and not for the majority. From this criticism we also discussed the need to return to the mass distribution of our ideas through leaflets. We decided to write a leaflet explaining why factories are closed and how we would control the means of production in a classless society.

"Beyond the daily struggles against the bosses which are necessary, our struggle must be organizational because we fight for system change; we fight for communism," said a university student.

Do We Need the Bosses?

The discussion turned from the problem of the factory closing to ask whether the bosses are necessary to make the factories function. The majority said that they are not, since they see daily how in their centers of production it is their co-workers who spend their lives working while the bosses get rich from this work.

A garment worker in the meeting expressed her doubts about whether we can really live without money and without bosses. A young man re-

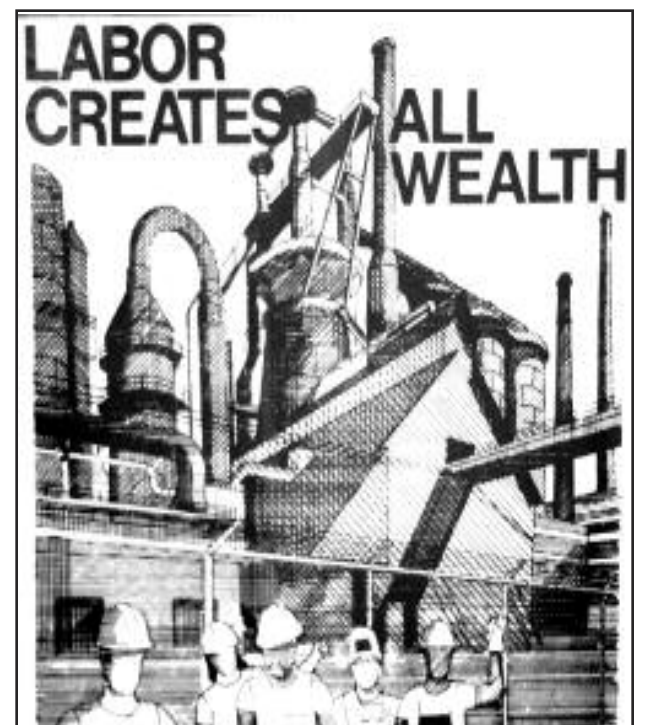
sponded: "The workers can make the factories produce without the need for a boss. You are the most valuable element in a factory, the most valuable element in the production process. However, to reach the point where the working class takes control of the factories and decides how and how much to produce we must go through a process of revolutionary communist transformation."

The question "Do we need the bosses?" was an excellent introduction to the topic that we had prepared to discuss in this meeting: money and the accumulation of wealth. We talked about the history of private property, the different economic systems, and how money and private property arose. And beyond that, we proposed a discussion about whether we can live without money, if we can build a world without money in the historical process in which we find ourselves, that is, in our time.

The meeting was an advance in the discussion of communist ideas in the industrial club of ICWP. The young university students who attended were glad to participate in this type of profound political discussion with industrial workers. This was a big step in the consolidation

of the worker-student participation in the country.

We ended the activity by planning the May Day March where we hope to participate with a block of communists from the factories, fields and universities.



DON'T FIGHT FOR THE NATIONALISATION OF LAND FIGHT TO END PRIVATE PROPERTY WITH COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

SOUTH AFRICA, April 1—It is almost a year until the next elections and the political parties are starting to campaign for support. The only popular topic is the question of land.

More than a century ago when the European settlers, led by Jan van Riebeck, came to South Africa they implemented one of the well-known division techniques (divide and conquer). They divided the working class using the race card. They managed to divide the whites against the blacks. This later resulted in Apartheid which lasted for many years.

The whites removed blacks from their land. This was one of the things that the working class fought against during Apartheid. The year 1994 marks the beginning of the so-called freedom and the end of Apartheid. The ruling party (African National Congress, ANC) addressed the issue of land by implementing a “willing buyer, willing seller policy.” This resulted in many land owners refusing to sell their land because the price offered was below market value. This has slowed the land redistribution process.

Many political parties were formed after 1994. One of them is known as the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) led by Julius Malema who was the youth leader of the ruling party (ANC). It has grabbed the attention of the masses by raising the land question. It wants expropriation of the land without compensation. They say, “The land was taken through genocide. Therefore we cannot compensate criminals.”

The ruling party was against this. However, now, with their newly elected president Cyril

Ramaphosa, and with the decline of support which resulted in them losing the elections in key metropolitan areas, they now say they fully support this. They want to amend the constitution in order to allow such acts. They want to nationalise the mines, banks and other strategic sectors of the economy.

What the working class must understand is that the newly elected president is funded by the western imperialists. In fact, politicians are just agents of the bosses who are only implementing what they are told. This is not a servant betraying his master. It can be seen as the west is trying to eliminate the competition because now they are the ones giving orders to the ruling party. Before the December elective conference, the ANC was leaning more towards the Russians and the Chinese.

The redistribution of land is nothing but the government monopolizing the market of these sectors. As long as the ownership is under the government, the working class will have to rent the land with the money they've borrowed from the bank, which will also be owned by the government.

Under communism there will be no private property. The land will be owned by the working



class to produce for the needs of the collective. Private ownership of land creates massive hunger and starvation. Communism is the opposite. The collective work of the masses will not only produce food for need, but it will guarantee healthy food devoid of cancer-causing pesticides and harmful chemicals. We will produce what we need in harmony with nature, rather than destroying nature as happens under capitalism.

We are taking the message of building our party to the masses by distributing our literature and recruiting new members to help build for May Day.

CAPITALIST FUTURE: TRADE WARS AND SHOOTING WARS

USA— The Trump administration recently announced new tariffs (import taxes that raise prices) on steel and aluminum, and others on imports from China. These taxes will sharpen conflicts between US capitalists and those of other countries, who will fight back.

As they often do, politicians claim that these taxes will provide new jobs in the US. This is simply a scam. Similar tariffs in 2002 cost over a hundred thousand jobs in the US, because US industries like auto and aerospace had to pay higher costs for their materials.

Escalating fights over trade are common under capitalism. They can lead to real wars. Under communism conflicts like this can never happen.

In communism, there will be no trade. There will be no nations, no borders and no nationalism or patriotism. Nothing will be produced for sale. Everything will be produced collectively wherever this can be done best and sent to wherever people need it. Sharing, not exchanging this for that, will be the basis of the world economy.

Under capitalism, however, the drive for profits determines everything. From the 1980s until about 10 years ago, exports and imports were expanding quickly, about 6% a year, growing faster than the world economy as a whole. The capitalists increased their profit rate by exploiting workers more intensively.

The corporate profit rate peaked in the late 1990s, and a number of trade agreements were made to lower tariffs and resolve disputes. This was the era of rapid globalization. The big capitalist powers embraced “free trade”—that is, low tariffs.

Since the “Great Recession” of 2007-2009, the growth of world trade has slowed a lot. World trade is only growing about 3% a year and the US corporate profit rate has been falling.

Only about 12% of US corporate profits are

due to foreign trade, but rivals to US capitalists are in line for big profits in trade. The European Union has a much larger share of world trade than the US and their trade is growing faster.

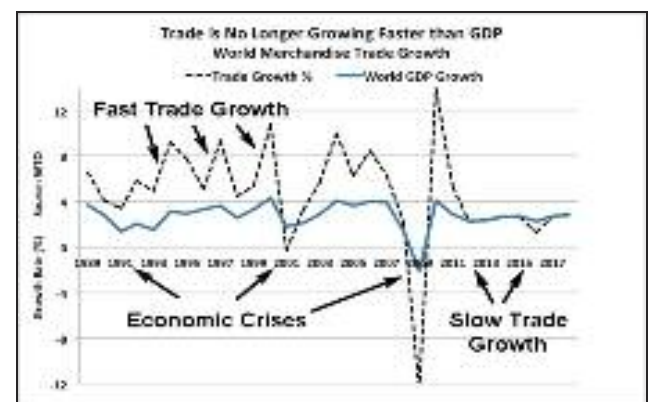
China's current trade is smaller than US trade, but China is making enormous transportation investments in many countries. Their One Belt and Road project plans huge spending on land and sea transportation infrastructure that will increase their trade with South Asia, Europe and Africa. China now has a workforce more than twice as large as the US and EU combined, and their economy is growing fast.

Free trade works for national capitalist states when the capitalists' profit rates are rising. All the big players can gain from a bigger pie, even if that pie is sliced very unequally. Then globalization looks good. The most powerful capitalist economies will be the strongest boosters of “free trade.”

However, the US is now a declining power relative to world capitalism. Rival capitalists have grown larger. China is rising, gaining in economic and military power. Although “free trade” is still the dominant ideology of the big capitalist powers, the opposite view—called “protectionism”—is growing.

The Trump administration is raising tariffs and threatening to scrap trade deals like NAFTA, even if this means sharpening contradictions with long-time allies and with China. This is the desperate strategy of a declining power trying to prevent further decline. The same could be said for “Brexit” in the UK.

The political expressions of this strategy are nationalism and populism, the false ideas that the miseries of the capitalist system in each country are due to immigrants and foreign powers. The Trump campaign and right-wing movements in the UK, France, Italy and elsewhere are built on



the big lie that racist attacks on immigrants benefit other workers.

These movements are the early stages of full-blown fascism. Workers who are fooled by them help declining bosses increase their profits, increasing their exploitation of the whole working class.

Many governments are still trying to lower trade barriers. The EU completed free trade agreements with both Canada and Japan at the end of last year. Japan, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Mexico, Malaysia, Vietnam, Peru, Chile, Brunei and Singapore have ratified a Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement without the US.

In the US, however, some big-shot economists see globalization as over. They are backing high tariff policies. Liberal Democrats like Bernie Sanders are supporting Trump's protectionism.

With or without protectionism, the US can't prevent its further decline. The 20th century experience of two world wars shows what happens next. Rising powers demand more and declining powers won't let get go. The results are not just trade wars but big shooting wars.

The march toward war and fascism can only be stopped by destroying capitalism with communist revolution. Join ICWP and help do it.

China, the USA and the Koreas:**COMMUNIST REVOLUTION WILL END BOSSES' WARS**

On March 8th, Trump accepted Kim Jong Un's invitation for a face-to-face meeting before the end of May. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and other advisors warned against it.

Two weeks later Trump appointed John Bolton as National Security Advisor. Bolton had advocated "the legal case for striking North Korea first" in the Wall Street Journal in February.

Bolton has said openly that the meeting will be useful only to get negotiations over quickly so a military confrontation can start sooner.

Inter-Imperialist Conflicts Spinning Out of Control

"If events spin out of control," wrote the New York Times, "Mattis could be forced to choose between his loyalty to the chain of command and the moral imperative to avert a catastrophic war."

The main US imperialists are strongly opposed to Trump's North Korea initiative. They are preparing to escalate military operations in southwest Asia (the "Middle East") which is strategically critical to the US in a way that northeast Asia is not.

US industrial, agribusiness, high-tech and finance bosses also oppose Trump's tariffs on

China. They fear that a trade war would do "irreparable harm" to crucial efforts to break into the huge China market.

These rulers are weaker than ever before. Their imperialist rivals China and Russia, and regional powers (or would-be powers) like North Korea, Saudi Arabia and Turkey are not the only ones who can take advantage of that.

Workers, soldiers and youth must take advantage of this crisis to step up preparations to destroy deadly imperialism with communist revolution.

US imperialists' fear-building headlines aim to direct the masses' energy into impeaching Trump and electing Democrats in November. That would be a serious mistake.

War is a direct and inevitable result of a system based on private property in the hands of a few, who compete to exploit the masses. Communism immediately abolishes private property and exploitation and, with it, war – except for the revolutionary war to wipe out all remnants of class society.

China Rising, US Declining

World War II ended in 1945 with the US firmly

in control of the Pacific Rim – and with the Chinese rulers succumbing to a massive communist-led revolution.

Chinese communist leaders fought for "national liberation" and then "New Democracy." But many Red Army soldiers took home the idea of moving quickly to communism. A huge struggle developed, culminating in the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution of the 1960s. The communist forces lost, defeated mainly by their internal weaknesses in the face of massive force.

Today the "Communist" Party of China – and its junior partners in North Korea – have degenerated into capitalist gangsters.

While Trump was appointing Bolton, Kim slipped into China to meet with Chinese president Xi Jinping. They patched up relations after months of anti-Chinese maneuvers.

The Chinese imperialists hope to regain regional leadership that slipped when the two Koreas began talking directly around the Seoul Olympics. They don't want war, which could cripple their economy. But having nuclear-armed China "at the table" raises the stakes for the Trump crew that's planning to attack North Korea.

Working Class Rising

In China, military veterans demonstrated for two days in February 2017, rattling the ruling class. In March 2018, women factory workers in Guangzhou who make Michael Kors handbags went on strike for eight days. Mass evictions from large Chinese cities have spurred a wave of protests.

In South Korea, ship workers and public-service workers have battled the bosses. Even in repressive state-capitalist North Korea, the widening income gap is leading to rumbling among the masses. Some have reportedly said that the wealthy and powerful "should be bumped off first if a war breaks out."

These workers, and many more like them around the world, will one day reclaim their communist heritage.

We invite multilingual readers to translate ICWP's communist literature into every language possible. With these weapons the international working class will turn fights among imperialists into a final battle to defeat all of them.

**LETTERS****LETTERS****LETTERS****CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS****"Black Panther" Movie Racist Against Black US Youth**

Small groups of comrades and friends had various discussions after they saw "Black Panther" here in the northwest US and Canada. The reviews in *Red Flag* were useful. One additional point that came up was just how racist the movie is – against US black people

Listen to the accents! Accents are very important in this movie. The white villain (Klaue) has a white South African accent. The CIA hero Ross has a white northern American accent.

Most black people have black African accents.

But not quite all the black people have African accents. When the film opens, N'Jobu is discussing what appears to be a planned hold-up with his sidekick. N'Jobu is talking with a typical black Detroit accent, what we might call an inner-city accent. Then King T'Chaka shows up and N'Jobu switches to an African accent, as does his sidekick, Zuri, who turns out to be a spy for King T'Chaka. N'Jobu's young son Erik is meanwhile playing basketball outside.

N'Jobu, clearly a bad guy, is killed. T'Chaka

and Zuri fly off to Wakanda, abandoning Erik. Erik returns years later and successfully challenges T'Challa (T'Chaka's son) and becomes king of Wakanda. Erik, having grown up in inner-city Detroit, speaks with an American black inner-city accent (and has the mannerisms that go with it).

The trouble is that Erik is the only one who does so, and at the same time is the real villain of the movie. He's portrayed as a thug, a ruthless killer. This taps into (and reinforces) the racist stereotype of black American – inner-city resident - thug - killer etc. And he's young, which completes the stereotype. This stereotyping begins with the first lines of the movie.

And why is Erik such a thug? The implication is that it's because he grew up in inner-city Detroit, not Wakanda.

Black Panther is as racist as any stock stereotypical Hollywood movie that portrays young American black men as dangerous criminals.

—Critical Comrades

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Dalits and non-Dalits can Unite for Communism

I was asked to write a letter regarding furious Dalit-led Bharat Bandh demonstrations in India. (see article page 4) In fact, I was a participant. To the readers unfamiliar, I want to start by saying that there is a phenomenal increase in the violence against the Dalits since BJP came to power. There is the famous case of the four Dalit youths tied to an SUV and flogged mercilessly in the home state of fascist Modi. This is only the tip of the iceberg. Anger and frustration have been simmering with numerous such assaults. Dalit youth in urban cities face a bleak future without jobs. Many

must rely on their parents who have faced a life time of discrimination. The situation of the Dalits in villages is even more grim.

I am a 31-year-old educated Dalit youth. I have gone all around the country looking for a job to support my family and parents. I only get contract work that does not last more than three or four months. Then I have to look for another job. This is the story of millions. But there is a difference in the numbers. The millions include many Dalits but there are Muslims and Hindus as well.

This festering anger and frustration exploded like a volcano as the masses poured into the streets. What triggered absolute hatred was when the chief justice of the Supreme Court ruled that the Dalits were taking advantage of the law that makes it possible for them to accuse atrocities meted against them. According to the Supreme Court, now the Dalits will have to have a prior approval of the police to lodge a complaint. Police are the ones who ransack the houses of Dalits, beat them up, rape them and now the Dal-

its have to get their approval to file a case!

After this verdict, the Supreme Court judge got a protection of over 1500 security personnel. This includes elite commandos who monitor his security details around the clock with all the high-tech gadgets monitored by satellites and advanced secure communication. When the country was burning, the government panicked and filed an emergency motion to the Supreme Court to review their decision. The well protected judge refused saying the Dalits have legal protection according to the constitution.

I have no doubt that we need a communist revolution as explained and advocated by ICWP. I have spoken to many of my friends before, during and after Bharat Bandh about the need to fight for communist society. As we fight for this society, we will make sure that people like the Supreme Court judge are annihilated by the masses. I firmly believe that Dalits and non-Dalits can unite as I saw last week. We have to unite as a class. The old barbaric tradition stands today only because capitalism needs it. The end of capitalism will usher us into a new era that we all are dreaming about. Let us continue our relentless struggle. Nothing can stop us.

—Comrade in India



Who's the "Illegal?"

I recently had a discussion with an industrial worker who said that a racist supervisor told him, "Nobody likes people going illegally into their backyard." He was talking about US President Trump's immigration policy. This company employs many immigrant workers and, as always, it uses a lot of racism against them. Even though my friend is one of those most affected by this racist policy, at the beginning he agreed with Trump, thinking of his "private" home back in his country of origin.

I told him, "If the US bosses respected this idea, they would never have come to the backyard of the Native Americans. They didn't just come to interfere, but to steal their lands and to murder them massively. This was one of the bases on which this capitalist empire was founded."

The same thing happened in Latin America where the Spanish bosses came to loot, kill, and keep everything for themselves.

My friend said, "That's right. I hadn't thought of it like that." This led us to a discussion about a communist world without borders and without exploitation. Here another contradiction surfaced, because he hopes to open a small factory in his place of origin if he is deported.

He said, "What I want is to have enough to live comfortably with my family." I told him that to achieve that we need to organize ourselves and fight for a communist world.

There is a constant struggle with this friend for him to participate in our meetings and activities. Each time he is more open to talking about communism. I invited him to the dinner to commemorate the Paris Commune and to prepare for the May Day March.

—Comrade in Los Angeles, USA

Mobilizing the Masses in South Africa

On our first day of mobilization of the masses, we distributed *Red Flag* to the masses. It was very successful. The second day of our mobilization, we went through each

issue collectively and discussed each and every issue with the masses. There was a question about what difference our revolution is going to bring to the society.

That was explained by telling them about our mission to abolish the capitalist system and the bosses, where everyone will be sharing whatever we might have. Our explanation was well welcomed by the masses.

The third day of the mobilization we went through the *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* that we have distributed and we discussed it again after we viewed the DVDs of the Unknown Wars and the epic battle of the Russian front in WWII. After that we also brought to their attention that this is what should be happening against the capitalist bosses' system and our revolution to free society in order to win against the bosses' capitalist system.

They showed more interest and asked us for more reading material in the future. What makes me happy is that a number of young female clubs were formed. My phone ran out of data but we got some numbers of those who wanted to join the movement and I am talking to them.

We even explained the dialectics to them and I showed them the video of people singing "Bella Ciao."

—A Comrade in South Africa

Internal Contradictions: Optimism Versus Pessimism

The last article on dialectics ("Fighting the Flu") does a good job explaining why internal contradictions, rather than external conditions, are the decisive factor in change. Also, it's optimistic: it shows that by grasping our own internal contradictions, we communists can make progress.

But the last section, ("Let's Grasp ...") is about the current state of capitalism, not our internal contradictions. The current state of capitalism is for us an external condition, which can

be influential, but not decisive.

This last section is pessimistic. It lists bad things that are happening — drug overdoses, police murders, school massacres, fascism. No mention of regular demonstrations of millions worldwide.

It says that knowledge of these horrors will "motivate" us to mobilize the masses for communism. How? How would you explain this in terms of our own internal contradictions?

It's the playing out of internal contradictions that determines whether we can mobilize the masses for communism — our own and the masses. An important contradiction is that between pessimism and optimism. On the whole, the masses like the idea of communisms but are pessimistic about achieving it. Similarly, we like the idea of mobilizing them but are pessimistic about being able to do it.

For example, a Boeing shop steward made a special trip to our comrade to praise *Red Flag's* article on communist workforce development.

"It identified the problem [the company's sham development program]" she said. "It came up with a solution [communist development in communist factories]. It told us how to get there."

The comrade discussed this response with a close friend of the party, who also became excited about this positive response. Self-critically, we failed to immediately develop a plan to get the shop steward active in mobilizing for the communist solution she likes. We'll rectify our mistake next week.

We communists can learn from centuries of experience in the fight for communism, including the four great revolutions starting with the Paris Commune. We have the increasing militancy of the masses and their increasing disillusionment with capitalism and its democracy. And finally, we have the science of dialectics, which will allow us to take advantage of these conditions. Our optimism is based on reality.

—Seattle comrades

Working-Class History: The Paris Commune of 1871 (Part II)**WORKERS NEED CLEAR POLITICAL VISION AND DECISIVE LEADERSHIP TO WIN POWER AND BUILD A NEW SOCIETY**

The first article in this series showed how the Paris Commune, a major historical milestone, arose from the Franco-Prussian War (1870-71). It opened the era of working class world revolution. For the first time, workers took power and used it to organize and run society in their own interest. We build on their legacy by fighting for communism and nothing less: a world where the masses produce and distribute everything to meet their collective needs.

The masses who organized the Paris Commune saw they needed armed struggle to set up and defend their new society.

During the Prussian siege of Paris, the masses went hungry and died of disease while the rich drank champagne. The masses converted town halls into soup kitchens and closed-down theaters into Red Club centers that housed refugees and became forums for daily discussions. There, workers made a mass idea of the Commune as an alternative to capitalist power.

The Commune started a new way of living. They declared a moratorium on rent and prohibited evictions. They took over hotels to house those made homeless by the war and by Napoleon III's destruction of their neighborhoods.

They encouraged workers to take over their workplaces. Women participated in all aspects of the Commune.

They freed education from the control of the Catholic Church, which they attacked for defending the rich and only teaching workers' children to be wage slaves. They said that education and work should be combined for a person's whole life: "A person who wields a tool must be able also to write a book with feeling and talent." They insisted that girls should be educated as well as boys.

The National Guard Becomes a Workers' Army

By 1871, the National Guard in Paris had grown to 340,000 troops. Many unemployed workers had joined for the small stipend. Others joined to defend Paris.

The Guard had elected their own officers for a hundred years, as a way to entice the rich to serve in the guard to defend France. But now that angry and hungry workers were joining in huge numbers, they chose leaders who represented the workers' interests. Some were communists. National Guard units had constant mass political discussions.

In February, the Federation of the National

Guard was formed. Seventy-two hundred delegates met and declared that "The National Guard must henceforth replace permanent armies which have only ever been instruments of despotism and which inevitably bring forth ruin of the country...The national citizen militia is the only national force, to the exclusion of any other."

The French government became terrified of the Paris National Guard and the masses' growing rebellion. On March 18 the French Army came for their cannons. But the Paris masses defeated the French Army, sending them back to Versailles.

Negotiations with the Bosses Weaken the Commune

The Blanquists, who were Marxists, argued for marching on Versailles immediately on March 19 to seize the initiative while many French troops and officers were still German prisoners. They urged the defeat of the French capitalists while calling on sympathetic soldiers and the workers throughout France to support the Commune. Unfortunately, they had not yet built a mass base for this strategy.

They were defeated by the more numerous followers of Proudhon, an anarchist who argued for setting up the Commune as a model of social transformation first while negotiating with the government. Instead of marching on Versailles, they held elections to the Commune Council.

But the rulers in Versailles had no intention of negotiating. They intended to crush the Commune and take Paris by force. Soon after the Commune began, the French government began attacking it and bombing the outskirts of Paris.

By the time the communards marched on Versailles, the French capitalists had regrouped. They had surrendered to the Prussians. In return, the German bosses, equally afraid of working-class insurrection, released thousands of captured French troops to attack the Paris Commune.

The communards held the French army at bay for two months, fighting battles every day. Fi-



PARIS, March 29 — Tens of thousands of workers, teachers and students flood the streets in solidarity with rail workers who are disrupting France with intermittent strikes. They are protesting changes proposed by President Macron to the rail system, university admissions, and to unemployment and pension benefits. Rail workers in the United Kingdom have also walked out.

As the 50th anniversary approaches of the French worker-student uprising in "May 1968," many are calling for a "May 2018." If another objectively revolutionary situation develops, let's take advantage of it this time by mobilizing masses for communism. More next issue!

nally, at the end of May, the French bosses' army attacked Paris with 200,000 troops. They unleashed a campaign of murder and terror against the Parisian masses, aided by the German government and army.

During a week of intense fighting, the masses set up and bravely defended huge barricades, but there was no centralized plan. Between 3,000 and 10,000 communards were killed. Afterwards, tens of thousands more were executed on orders from the French government (supported by all other capitalist governments) to try to erase the memory of the Paris Commune.

The masses fought with fierce commitment to the Commune. But they lacked a clear centralized strategy based on the understanding that the capitalist state, the mortal enemy of the working class, must be eliminated and replaced by a communist society. And they lacked a mass communist party to lead their struggle.

When faced with imperialist war and mass starvation, the masses rose up, took power, and attempted to set up a society on communist principles. It is a beacon for the world's workers today; its valuable lessons belong to the entire working class. This May Day, let's **Remember the Paris Commune and March for Communist Workers' Power!**



CELEBRATE MAY DAY WITH ICWP

LOS ANGELES DINNER: APRIL 21, 6 PM

PARTICIPATE WITH ICWP ON MAY FIRST

EL SALVADOR, MEXICO, INDIA, SPAIN, SOUTH AFRICA, USA