

# RED FLAG

**MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM**



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

↓ Pittsburgh, USA

Los Angeles, USA →



## Struggle Sharpens Between Fascists and Anti-Fascists

### **BUILD COMMUNIST MOVEMENT TO FIGHT EVERY ATTACK ON OUR CLASS**

June 25—Angry masses across the US and around the world are taking to the streets to protest, disrupt and try to stop the bosses' fascist attacks on the youth and children of our class.

Groups acting as "Occupy ICE" temporarily shut down offices of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Service (ICE) in Detroit, Portland, New York, Los Angeles and elsewhere.

Masses have marched in the streets of Pittsburgh, night and day, enraged by the murder of 17-year-old Antwon Rose by cops who shot him in the back.

Their anger is a response to increasing fascism, both in word and in deed. Antwon was one of at least six black men and youth murdered by US cops in June alone. More than two thousand children, some as young as 13 months, have been ripped from their migrant parents by ICE, which imprisoned them in an assortment of jails and foster care facilities around the US—with no plan to reunite them with their parents.

Fascist propaganda, straight from the top, has tried to justify these attacks on our children—the children of the working class. Presidential speeches and tweets have compared immigrants to vermin. They have slandered immigrants as gang members, criminals, murderers and rapists. This kind of language exactly

parallels the way that the Nazi Party in Germany referred to Jews.

"Fox & Friends" co-host Brian Kilmeade sparked more outrage when he declared, "these aren't our kids...it's not like [Trump] is doing this to the people of Idaho or Texas." Centuries of racist propaganda have so dehumanized and demonized black men and youth that it is a radical assertion that "Black Lives Matter."

"What's the most effective way to stop this?" asked a student.

"Revolution," a teacher replied. "Revolution for communism."

Capitalism needs racism for its profits and to divide and conquer the working masses. Capitalism in crisis relies on racism to justify and institute fascism. Workers in the US – like those in India, Italy and elsewhere—are seeing our class increasingly divided.

On one side are the large numbers of angry workers of all "races" who are appalled by the open racist attacks and police terror.

Democratic Party politicians and operatives are doing their best to channel mass anger into the dead-end of voting. But most of the young people and many older ones have welcomed *Red Flag* and discussions of communism during mass rallies, social events and on the job.

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## Spain: Workers Welcome Refugees

### **BUILD AN INTERNATIONAL PARTY TO DESTROY CAPITALIST BORDERS**

SPAIN--On June 11, 630 migrant workers from Libyan waters were rescued and arrived at the shores of the Mediterranean seeking refuge in Valencia, Spain. They were received by more than 2000 volunteers with a banner saying "Welcome home" after the politicians of Malta and Italy refused to give refuge. The boat came with men, women (several of whom were pregnant) and children in precarious conditions seeking a dream: "a better future in Europe."

These refugees were fleeing the war that was provoked years ago by the Western imperialists seeking oil profits in this region. Imperialist wars have left destruction and more wars in countries like Libya, which has one of the largest reserves of oil.

Control of oil is the main reason for the wars in this region. The rulers' media portray it today as a war against the Islamic State (the war on terror). That's just another of the strategies they invent to be able to appropriate that oil.

It's the working class that suffers as a result of these wars. People are killed, cities are completely destroyed, and inevitably there is an exodus of workers to European countries in search of a better future.

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Valencia, Spain

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**WORKERS NEED COMMUNISM, NOT DEMOCRACY PAGE 4**

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## In the factories, the mines, the barracks, the farms, the schools, the streets: **SPREAD COMMUNISM TO BUILD A WORLD WITHOUT NATIONS OR BORDERS**

SEATTLE, USA, June 24— A world without borders is a popular idea. The struggle against anti-immigrant fascism—sparked by the forced separation of children from their parents at the U.S.-Mexico border—has made it even more popular. But many think it's only a nice dream. The ICWP has a plan to make it a reality. A communist world will smash all borders.

After a week of struggle with his fellow workers at a Boeing plant, a *Red Flag* distributor and organizer came up with what he thought was a solution.

“You take all these owners and throw their asses in jail. Then all this bulls—t of pitting native-born workers against immigrant workers—or any group of workers against another group of workers—will end.” It's a start!

At least a half-dozen *Red Flag* readers and distributors—native-born and immigrant, black, white and Asian—were impelled to start struggles among their factory crews around the racist persecution at the border. Discussions went on all over the plant. We turned this into a mass debate on communism. For days these organizers came to comrades for more “ammunition” to advance the struggle.

Non-party people started to discuss communism with their friends. It is precisely at times like this past week that our base is most willing to give communism a chance. Not every battle in every area followed the same path, but the discussion and debate of communist ideas gave strength to us all.

Everyone agreed ending borders is an impossible dream under capitalism. A pissed-off shop steward said, “It [the atrocities visited upon immigrants] goes on and on, Democrat or Republican. It just gets worse!”

Nations and patriotism were invented by the capitalists to guarantee their power and profits. Fascist attacks on immigrants are the normal way this system functions. Capitalism must pit not



only company against company and nation against nation, but also worker against worker.

### **How Communism Will Smash All Borders**

In communism, there will be no jobs to compete over. Capitalists give us jobs only if they can exploit us. If he can exploit someone from a different group or nationality at lower wages, he will give that job to that person.

Communism will have no wages or jobs. Everyone will get what they need. We'll struggle with everyone to contribute their work according to their abilities and commitment. We can welcome helping hands without fear of losing our livelihood.

In a communist world it won't matter where you work. We are all going to work for the common good, not compete against each other for market share. In fact, there will be no markets.

If workers must flee the oppression of the capitalist system somewhere, we'll welcome them with open arms. We won't have to turn military bases into gigantic detention centers. New immigrants and refugees will be quickly integrated by the masses into the life and work of our communist society. They will get the rest and training they need to expand the revolution worldwide.

As we get rid of nations, classifying workers as immigrants will end. Communism welcomes every worker everywhere!

### **The Communist Road Forward**

Our collective communist at-work discussions amid plant-wide debates strengthened our work beyond our forces in the plants. These workers have families, friends and activities outside the factory as well.

We've begun to see echoes of our communist plan among the many people these factory workers interact with. One organizer volunteers at a local high school with many students who are immigrants of who have immigrant parents.

“The bosses need us!” one of these students told another comrade. “But we don't need them!” When we get rid of them and their capitalist system with communist revolution we will be able to eliminate borders and nations for good.

Building one International Communist Workers' Party without borders today is the key to winning and building a world without borders tomorrow. A lasting victory of this week's struggle will be the decision of more workers and students to become Party members.



### **FIGHT FASCISM from page 1**

On the other side are an increasingly hostile minority, mainly white, who are doubling down in defense of the fascist in the White House. Some have been emboldened to openly attack black, Latino and Muslim children and adults – even in supposedly “liberal” cities.

Many are workers who are cutting their own throats as the Trump administration kills their jobs with tariffs and diverts their future Medicare and Social Security benefits into tax cuts for the rich. These fools are the bosses' tools – and the working class has a long memory.

#### **Our Plan:**

#### **Take Advantage of Every Opportunity to Mobilize Masses for Communism**

A black activist with decades in the struggle asked a comrade recently if we

thought the time for non-violent passive resistance was over.

We must be clear:

Our plan has never been to appeal to the conscience of the bosses to get them to back off from their fascist attacks.

Our plan is not self-defense, or the abolition of ICE.

Our plan is to weld the masses into a revolutionary force, motivated by a vision of communist society, that can take up arms to wipe out capitalism and remake the world. Our tactics in fighting every attack on our class must correspond to this strategy.

Only communism can eliminate borders and border enforcement, police terror and the police themselves. Only communism can end racism and the wage system which is its material base.



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## Report from South Africa:

# MOBILIZATION AT YOUTH DAY COMMEMORATION OF THE SOWETO UPRISING

It started on a worrying note that there was no mention of any event for Youth Day, which commemorates the day that youth in South Africa rose up against apartheid. Normally there are events everywhere in the country for this day. But this year only one event was mentioned. It was to take place in Johannesburg in a location called Soweto—where the mass uprising began in 1976-1977.

My collective and I did not know where we were going to attack these capitalists. We wanted to go to a place where masses would be – since the capitalist vultures use this day on which students died to their advantage. They turned this day into a day of recruiting the working class to join their capitalist political parties.

I then remembered that someone in a political group called DA (Democratic Alliance, an electoral party) approached me to join their party. He invited me to workshops, rallies, meetings, etc. He sent me an invitation for an event that would take place in the northern areas (known as coloured areas) for Youth Day.

I then informed my collective. Most of them just got jobs and can't afford to stay out of work—as we still live in a capitalist world. We then had to dig deep. We remembered that we do have some other comrades who are in the collective but who are not as active as they would like—due to their jobs and other duties.

We could not just sit and do nothing on this day as students lost their lives and many others were injured fighting for what they believed in. It pained my heart that they were willing to do so only for a change of language. They fought against being forced to be taught in Afrikaans, the language of the apartheid rulers.

Why would we not be willing to do so for the change of communism, which would change the lives of millions all over the world?

The place where we were going was known for its gangsterism, for killings and robberies. I took five comrades with me. We got there on time.

When I went to greet the organizer who had invited me with my comrades, some of whom were wearing our ICWP T-shirts, his face turned sour.

But we proceeded to engage the masses, distributing *Red Flag* to anyone who was willing to listen. Some were open to our ideas. Some were reluctant to talk to us, as they belong to the DA political party.

Having known the area myself, I advised the comrades to leave any devices at home: rings, watches, cell phones, wallets, etc. We were on our way out when we were approached by four thugs, two with guns and two who proceeded to search us.

I had been the victim of such a crime more than once. This made me very angry. I retaliated. I tried to defend my comrades by pulling them behind me and shouting at the culprits and calling to the police who were near—just a few steps away from us.

What did they do? Nothing.

As I pushed one of the gang members, I got a slap across my face, which stopped me for a second. The questions are still running through my head. Did the police not help us simply because

of our T-shirts, or because we were blacks in a coloured area? If anything, this has brought us comrades to the conclusion that the police serve the bosses at every turn and that only communism can end and will stop such attacks. The working class will build our Red Army. During communist revolution and in communism, we will deal with any and all fascist, racist attacks on our class with mass communist workers' power.

We distributed about 160 *Red Flags* and got 16 contacts who we will all follow up. One man who was about 50 years old had many questions about the paper and ICWP. We explained that it is a communist paper written by communists in South Africa and from around the world. When he asked what we are promising the people, we explained that in communism the masses will decide collectively what we all need and will produce and distribute it.

Crime will not stop us from doing the work. We will fight and die for what we want, which is a communist society.



Reading *Red Flag* at Youth Day, 2016

## Reading *Red Flag* in an auto factory in South Africa

I am an autoworker. I can say it has been a long, interesting and challenging journey through the ICWP of learning new things every day and meeting with various kinds of people with diverse ways of thinking, attitudes and backgrounds but all I can say is that all these challenges have built a strong and widely thinking comrade that can survive in any situation.

Ever since I joined ICWP, attended meetings and reading the *Red Flag*, filling myself with knowledge then I had to go to the next step of sharing that knowledge which is the distribution of Red flag

Well I took some *Red Flags* from a comrade in my collective to give to my colleagues (whom I promised to bring *Red Flags* for) to read. Luckily that day I was early at work, so we had more time to talk and I gave them the *Red Flags*, but they seemed to not understand the *Red Flag*.

I think they were expecting

some sort of a history book with theories, then I explained to them that this is a newspaper and we had a Xhosa newspaper in the old days called IZIMVU ZABANTSUNDU (OPINIONS OF BLACKS) where all black people would write and express themselves. I used that as an example to explain the *Red Flag* to them.

They were enlightened. During lunch time, we started talking about the *Red Flag*. One of my colleagues said that this is none of our concern because it's not happening here in South Africa. I then told him that it's the same thing that's happening here which is exploitation of the working class, and we agreed on that. He started expressing himself about how unhappy he is in this capitalist society, the other one was shocked and surprised that the same thing that we are experiencing here in South Africa is happening in other countries as well,

—Autoworker comrade

## SPAIN from page 1

The shows of support and affection that these migrants received from the workers in Valencia is the really important point and what we must highlight. When the working class unites there is no calamity, there is no hunger and there is no poverty, much less national borders.

These actions give us the confidence that workers in Spain and around the world can unite, in spite of all the bosses' propaganda that tries to divide us. And they call us, the members of ICWP, to become more active and to take our communist message to workers here in Spain.

In this period, the ICWP in Spain is working to strengthen our communist cell. We are studying dialectical materialism and preparing ourselves for the struggle in which we will defeat capitalism. Part of that is taking *Red Flag* to the factories to recruit more workers to our party.

The International Communist Workers Party (ICWP) fights for communism. We will build a better society, a communist society where the common good will be paramount without the need to have money. Society will be organized in such a way to promote collective consciousness, so that individuals think about the quality of collective life, rather than monetary gains as people do in capitalist society.

We will eliminate wage slavery, sexism and racism and tear down all borders. Eliminating the capitalists and their profits will eliminate imperialist wars. "Refugee" will only be an entry in a history book. Join this fight. We are the working class and we can change the world.



## RED FLAG AND COMMUNIST DECISION-MAKING

“How would decisions be made in communism?” asked a new friend. We had just met at a party and she was looking at *Red Flag* for the first time. “By consensus? Or in popular assemblies?” she wondered.

I explained our view of a mass communist party, open to everyone who shares our goal and who we can convince to join. All comrades should be in a collective (sometimes more than one). Friends are welcome at the meetings where we try to discuss things until the political “line of struggle” is clear and we are close to a consensus. Then all of us agree to carry out the plan “each according to commitment.”

But, I admitted, it’s hard to do that with big issues that affect the work of the party as a whole. We have collectives on different continents. We can’t all meet. When the masses hold and exercise communist power, we’ll be able to use technology – but not yet. I said to my new friend that if she joins the party, she will help figure this out.

I thought about it more later. The main party-wide decisions we make regularly concern what to put in *Red Flag*. How do we decide?

First, we rely on the initiative of the collectives (mainly) and individuals. What do they need in the paper? What are they willing to write?

Next, we have an editorial collective. It tries to get input from many areas using social media. Then it meets to review all the articles. We struggle to keep the authors’ “voice” and main ideas. But we also try to make sure that the agreed-upon Party line is presented clearly. Sometimes it’s hard to figure out which is the main aspect – how much editing does a piece need? We discuss it until we are close to consensus, then make a plan.

And if we agree we need something that nobody has volunteered to write, we try to find someone with the commitment to come up with a draft – often on short notice. Others will contribute later.

It’s not easy, but this is one way we are learning how we’ll make decisions in communism.

But there’s more. Someone, somewhere, disagrees with something in the paper. We hope they are still distributing that issue! But we also want that comrade or friend to write a letter explaining their opinion. That way, the paper can

unite the whole party, and all *Red Flag* readers, in the struggle to decide or sharpen our political line.

So, the process of producing and distributing *Red Flag* shows important elements of communist decision-making: Bringing more and more people into the process. Relying on their initiative and creativity. Struggling for consensus and acting on it collectively – sometimes when we don’t agree.

When we say “Join us!” this is what we’re talking about.



Working on *Red Flag*

### Democracy is the political form of commodity production

## WORKERS NEED COMMUNIST REVOLUTION, NOT DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS—PART I

*At this time in history worldwide capitalism needs fascism and war. Liberal rulers promote elections to try to lull the working class into passivity and divert workers from communist revolution. This is a serious error and a danger for the working class. For this reason, Red Flag is beginning a series of articles looking at democracy as a form of the oppressors’ class dictatorship. We invite comments, suggestions and contributions.*

CALIFORNIA, USA—“Democracy is a fraud,” said a teacher who recently joined a study group led by ICWP. “It’s like student government in high school. Students get to pick what color balloons they’ll have at the prom. But politicians paid and bought by big business pick what skills and ideas they’ll be taught.”

Democracy isn’t worth defending. Even as governments shift to the right, it’s not worth defending. Even as that shift enables waves of thugery. Even as racist and sexist attacks on minority groups, immigrants and others spike, as health care and benefits are cut, democracy isn’t worth defending.

The prospect of fascism developing unleashes a groundswell of anger among the people. The masses are awakening politically. Revolutionary opportunity sits side by side with reformist danger. The liberal forces, who just yesterday were exposed as inept, today try to channel the energy and anger of the masses into elections. The answer to a Trump in the USA or a Modi in India, is not a more representative democracy, but a communist revolution.

In pre-class society, food and other essentials of life were shared according to need. We have learned how that worked from modern hunter-gatherer societies like the !Kung San in African’s Kalahari Desert. Decisions were made and carried out by all adults in council arriving at a consensus. Communists see this as a good start in understanding how the communism we’re fighting for will work.

Democracy claims to give all citizens—rich or poor—an equal say in the important decisions about what happens in society. Its history shows otherwise! Democracy masks the reality of class society—where the major-

ity of people are wage slaves exploited by those who own the means of production. It stands in the way of an inclusive society, stabilizes class rule and government of the elite over the masses.

If we want to build a classless world free of oppression and exploitation, we need to trust each other. We need a society organized to promote open and honest discussions, where people say what they mean and mean what they say. We need a society where people work only to meet the needs of others.

Private property in the hands of a few became institutionalized in class society. Kings and lords used religion and state violence to hold on to what they stole from the masses—largely agricultural products. Ancient society (and throwbacks like feudal society) saw wealth based on land. Since in any given political zone there are limits to the land worth owning, this led to a small but stable group of landowners running the demands of state

Democracy arises from a society producing things for private profits. It is the political form of commodity production. The rise of a new type of wealth—merchant wealth from trade and production—began to rival and then surpass that of the landed aristocracy. Pressure grew for an expanded ruling class and a more dynamic type of

government. They called it democracy—but it was really the dictatorship of the rich!

Such a society lacks social cohesion by its very nature. No wonder then that the single most inclusive act modern democracy offers the masses is the secret ballot. It doesn’t matter what we say in public, it only matters what we vote in private. The main mass institution of democracy chooses secrecy over openness. It promotes fragmentation over social cohesion. It champions deceit!

Organizing society to only produce for social need will require a different – a more straightforward—political form. This is the communist political form we will develop as we organize a revolutionary new way of life. It will grow out of our day to day collective and cooperative activity of producing things for other human beings. Struggling to meet the needs of living human beings – not the hoarding of lifeless cash-money – will be the glue that binds us together. The idea of communist collectivity is a compelling political vision. It is one that we can begin to build now as we develop communist social relationships.

*The next article in this series will look at democracy and chattel slavery in ancient Greece and 17th Century England.*



## “REFORM UNDER CAPITALISM IS LIKE BEING HUNG WITH A NEW ROPE”

SEATTLE, USA June 23— Recently a Boeing friend talked to some rank-and-file socialists he knew. They were crestfallen about the repeal of Seattle’s new “head tax” on big corporations. Our friend had a different view. “I’m not so sure I’d like being hung with a new rope,” he told them.

The head tax was passed by the City Council and signed by the mayor less than a month ago. It required big corporations like Amazon to pay a pittance to the city for each of their employees. The money, about \$45 million in total, would go towards relieving the homeless crisis in Seattle caused by skyrocketing mortgages and rents. Even the socialists admit this is chickenfeed and won’t make a dent.

No sooner had the measure passed than big business mounted a campaign to repeal it. The bosses’ media flooded the area with visions of catastrophe if something wasn’t done to right this “injustice.” The mayor and a clear majority of the city council caved, repealing the tax within 24 hours.

Since then, capitalist propaganda has intensified. Daily editorials and columns urge us workers to accept the rules of capitalism. Any attempt to push past the limits of this system, they say, is foolhardy if not insane.

Another Boeing worker argued that we should understand how the law works. Local attempts to rein in capitalism fail because corporations can legally move elsewhere. We must push reform on a national level.

“That’s BS!” responded a *Red Flag* distributor. “This isn’t about laws. This is about who has

power in this system and who will have power in communism.”

“That’s why we need a revolution!” added a comrade.

But not just any kind of revolution. We need a communist revolution.

### Reformist Strategy Left Confusion, Cynicism in Its Wake

This head-tax fiasco has confused large numbers of people who are looking for alternatives to capitalism. Many are outright cynical.

A former socialist mayoral candidate posted on social media how disappointed she is. After “sacrificing” and traveling all around the nation, she feels like we are not making any progress. Her advice: “Stay strong.”

In other words, continue to follow the path of reform that has failed and failed again.

Even those who are angry have no clear path forward. They have been trained to fight for reforms and are stuck. Fighting for reforms can’t create enthusiasm for communism. It must be rejected.

### Communism: The Way Forward

A revolutionary strategy must focus on our goal: communism. In communism, housing will be provided by our collective labor.

After the revolution, we can start by seizing Amazon CEO Bezos’ five giant mansions and thousands of acres in the U.S. We can put them to good use housing the homeless. The mobilized masses will eliminate segregation along with homelessness.

In communism, nobody will pay rent. There

will be no mortgages to pay off. No banks and developers to profit off our need for shelter. And no corporations. There is no way we can reform capitalism to do that!

The nature of capitalist reform has become clearer to tens of thousands in Seattle and millions worldwide. That’s why our friend who talked to the socialists concluded, “Reform under capitalism is like being hung with a new rope.”

The bosses’ propaganda machine tells us that even if this is true, there is no alternative. But there is! You can join the ICWP and mobilize directly for communism.



### LETTERS

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### CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

The following are comments from comrades in South Africa about the editorial in the last edition of *Red Flag* “Communist Relationships: Lifeblood of Communist Society:

**\*The article is good.** It has brought me many memories of my youth. Almost forty years ago, as a young person then, we would have group discussions about the society we want to build. Ideas would come forth, I remember the one that I liked most was the one that says, “we want a society free of exploitation of man by man”. “A caring society where everyone shall share”. These and many ideas used to flourish and forty years down the line, it has become apparent that nothing short of a communist revolution will bring about that society. Although we were very young then, we were convinced that apartheid system was what we have to fight against and we were prepared to die. Looking back, those ideas and the spirit among many have not died but multiplied thousand folds.

**\*We’ve not had or struggled with the emotional relationship** with other comrades including new comrades. As much as the political struggle is important, the emotional relationship is also important. It helps us have a deeper understanding of our strengths and our weaknesses as comrades. It also helps us to politically criticize each other without a comrade seeing it as a personal attack. I think one of the things that creates that emotional relationship is spending more time with the comrades (meeting on a regular basis not once in a while) and knowing the background of the comrades (not only talking about politics). Strengthening the emotional relationship also helps us in our political relationship

**\*I feel very strongly** about this document. We need to see each other as brothers and sisters. That way nothing can stop us in achieving our goal. As I always say together we stand divided we fall. We differ in thinking and in doing. Some of us are fast, some of us are slow in

thinking. And there is the matter of age difference. We need to really get to know each other politically as well as personally. We need to be able to rely on each other. We need to be able to find refuge in each other. It is true that we really need to show one another brotherly/sisterly love so that we can trust each other with our lives.

**\*This is a good article on communist relationships** and how we can further strengthen our unity and understanding of one another within a collective.

**\*This is certainly true** to for our youth collective in Port Elizabeth in as much as we are comrades tied together by our political line, but the close friendly (emotional) relationship has helped us grow our collective immensely. Even when we are having a political criticism of each it makes easy to do it in a more comradely and honest way because we have a deeper understanding of one another.

**\*This helped us** to an extent practice communism in the way that we help each other based on our abilities to do so, both on personal and political level.

**\*I think it is important** to view fellow new comrades beyond just as “comrades” but to understand them personally, on a personal level: to know what kind of people they are, the disagreements they might have with ICWP and what is holding them back. That means we have to build these communist relationships by having constant contact and conversations that go beyond just talking about politics but to connect with them on other “life” issues whatever they might be. Things like dinners and just gatherings can help a lot in fostering these relationships. They can be good platforms to start these conversations.



June 25 – Bus operators of Line 60 in Buenos Aires join one-day general strike. An estimated one million workers shut down Argentina to protest the austerity policies of the government and the International Monetary Fund. Political strikes like these must put forward communism as the solution!

## Communists must mobilize resistance to wage slavery

I circulate *Red Flag* with the proviso we're a work in progress. Our strength, I argue, also highlights our weakness.

Our strength lies in introducing serious debate about communism among industrial workers at the point of production. We take up day to day issues and discuss how they would be handled in a future communist society. Work like this has never been done. It's an advance.

We then conclude something to the effect "only communism can end the wage system," while aiming to increase the circulation of the paper. In short, one of our main jobs as revolutionaries – promoting the ideas of communism – ends up being our only job. This is a weakness that devalues the main job that we do. We end up making communism an a-historical power, something that will come into existence sometime in the future.

"Ideas," Marx argued, "cannot carry out anything at all. In order to carry out ideas men (and women) are needed who can exert political force."

In our case these men and women are communists. They are revolutionaries who alter the existing order of things. At MTA, for example,

the existing order of social relations are dominated by the needs of capitalists. They set the drivers' needs in opposition to the riders' needs. They divide the working class.

We could set about altering that existing order of things. We could follow up and do more with what we started in the article "Communism Will Get Us All Moving." We could get wheel-chair riders and drivers to write letters to *Red Flag* (or get reports from them) about the issues, widening our discussions about communism, disability, oppression and exploitation but primarily learning how to exert ourselves as a political force and practicing the skills we'll need after the revolution.

"Wage slavery robs our humanity," *Red Flag* wrote. But it never robs all of us of all our humanity! It's the job of communists today to mobilize that resistance to wage slavery that resides in all of us. With our small forces we can't launch a revolution today but we can fight partial battles against day to day attacks of capitalism. We can fight them as commu-



nists, not as reformists. As we uncover the stories of the disabled, of drivers and their frustrations with wheelchair lifts, we can document the will of drivers and passengers to act as 'humans' and break the dictatorship of money (MTA budgets, the discipline of wages etc) over our lives. It's true that "...MTA and its capitalist masters are not interested in this," but communists and their co-workers are.

When our forces aren't big enough to form a Red Army and attack capitalism head on, we can build a guerrilla army and attack the outskirts of capital authority. "Smash the Dictatorship of Capital! Fight for Wheel chair lifts that work! Fight as Communists!" Work like that has never been done.

—A comrade

### The "Lesser' of Two Evils: Federal Prisons!

Forces loyal to the Democratic party organized a rally of a few hundred to protest the forced separation of families at the U.S.-Mexico border. The featured speaker was leftist congresswoman Pramila Jayapal.

Even among this crowd *Red Flag* was welcomed. We urged the demonstrators to "Read about building a communist world without borders."

The most often asked question was "What is the difference between socialism and communism?" We answered that socialism maintains capitalist relations and wage slavery, while communism ends all that. Communism makes eliminating borders and nations possible.

The difference was made even more clear by Jayapal's speech.

She started off by recounting one atrocity

after another committed at the border and the local ICE jail. Almost 300 mothers were transferred to this area from Texas after their children were taken from them. It was preaching to choir with this crowd.

Then she got to the point of the speech: her political solution. If only U.S. President Trump and U.S. Attorney General Sessions followed the law and were less cruel everything would be alright.

She visited with dozens of immigrants at the local private ICE jail and the federal prison. Those transferred to the federal prison felt like human beings for the first time she claimed. The federal prisons had rules and regulations that followed the law, while the private jails did not.

The answer she told the crowd was to send these immigrants to federal prison, not private jails. These are the same federal prisons where

about 80,000 inmates are in solitary confinement on any given day. These are the prisons one inmate described as "a clear vision of hell." The prisons where thousands descend into madness or are killed at the hands of racist Nazis. (*New York Times*, 3/26/15).

But don't worry about all that. They are governed by regulations and laws!

Federal prisons are what capitalism has to offer our brothers and sisters. Prisons are primarily there to scare people into obeying the bosses. We won't need them for that purpose. A communist society will mobilize masses to deal with any anti-social behavior. Such behavior will become less frequent when we end dog-eat-dog capitalism's culture.

That alone should motivate us to fight for a communist world.

—Comrades in Seattle, USA



**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, USA—June 23 to 26.**  
Comrades participate in mass protests against racist attacks on migrants and their families.

## LETTERS

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## CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

### Communist Relationships—key to fight individualism and build communism

I think this editorial is one of the most important documents that I have read so far because this side of the struggle, the emotional side, is often neglected. It is important for us when we recruit to go the extra mile. We must make the effort of knowing the person, befriending them, building close relationships with them.

Four or five years ago, I didn't know Comrade C or Comrade P, but if you look at us now, you would think we had known each other almost all our lives. So these relationships help. They strengthen the movement. At the same time they make struggle possible because you know they can sustain the struggle. I didn't only read this in the document. I have experienced it first hand. So I can really relate to the document.

I also like that it showed that once we build these communist relationships we will be able to fight one of the major things that will prevent us from actually building this Communist society we want: individualism. If we build these close communist relationships, this comradeship, we will be able to fight against these individualistic tendencies.

For example, in a household there is practically no individualism, because everyone is doing their part so the house can be clean, there's food and all that needs to be done. So from the parent to the child, everyone is contributing.

Even when a child has done something wrong, it's not like the capitalists, you don't simply send the child to prison. You try to reason with them and make them understand that what they've done is wrong, that there are consequences for their actions. So you come up with ways of making them realize that there are actions and consequences. But at the very same time, you want them to have the wisdom to not repeat the same mistakes. You need a balance.



PASADENA (CA), USA, June 18 – Forty protesters rally outside the Westin Hotel, demanding the ouster of a manager who refused to defend two black guests from a racist who verbally assaulted them in the pool area.

It is important even within our collective, if a comrade has done something wrong, we don't have to condemn them to the outside. We must understand that his or her problems are a direct result of capitalism. So we mustn't condemn comrades, just like you won't send your own child to prison because they have done something wrong. But we must struggle with them. And for that struggle to be possible, we must have this close communist relationship.

—Comrades in South Africa

### Learning communism through practice

My experiences and things I discover when I'm mobilizing show that you get more understanding of the line this way. Some people ask, "Is it possible to live without money?" Yes, we can really abolish the current system. To my understanding of the line, you will be given according to the need, not want, comrades.

The current system is what we are changing—slowly because it won't happen over night. The way people, comrades, are so indoctrinated; they even have excuses to promote capitalism while they are being exploited, while they are being taken advantage of by the current system.

As an example, when I was mobilizing I met this other comrade. He fell from the top of the truck straight down to the concrete brick. He fell on his head and collapsed. The bosses never called an ambulance, comrades. Imagine!

They just did first aid on him and he was taken to the hospital and there at the hospital they were told to take this comrade to IOD (Injury on Duty—like workers' comp) to be treated and compensated. Instead they took him to Livingstone (a local city hospital known for horrific services) and dumped him there. The system, it is so cruel, comrades.

When I was in Rustenburg, some other workers there work very hard. They never get paid.

Immigrants are working hard. They are being paid peanuts because they don't have proper identification.

There was this woman here in my location. There is a place there where she was supposed to be given that KFC franchise. But comrades, the way the system played her! She was ended, shot and killed.

So comrades, we need to mobilize the masses for communism.

ALUTA, comrades.

—A Comrade in South Africa

### Communism Means LIFE

I am an autoworker and I am a new member of ICWP. Joining the party has made a huge difference in me personally and mentally, it has changed the way I used to think and do things.

As we know, ignorance is the most dangerous thing that people are unaware of. People tend to take things lightly and not bother themselves about what's happening around the world. The poor think poverty is normal and that's how they are destined to live. I too used to think like that.

But joining the ICWP, reading the *Red Flags* and attending Communist school meetings opened my mind. Now I watch news and read newspapers and I'm updated with most things that are happening in the world. Even the way I interact with people is very different now because I know that the most important race of all these races is the Human Race. And I do, however, have a clear vision of how people are supposed to live LIFE, not this thing we are living of which I am scared to even call it LIFE! We will never live a normal LIFE or see the value of LIFE under this Capitalist Society. The only way that we will live LIFE is through a Communist Society where everyone is equal, valued, appreciated with their different skills, where there will be no class and where everyone will see life as a GIFT.

All I'm saying is that there is a lot of change in me ever since I joined ICWP, because now I know how things change and where all good ideas come from. Even when I speak to people, they all have interest in listening because I speak about things that make sense and things that are hidden from them.

—Autoworker in South Africa

### Can't Vote Out Fascism

As one of the lead articles in the last *Red Flag* (Volume 9 Number 7) pointed out, many thousands of workers worldwide are strongly denouncing the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)'s separating children from their families at the US-Mexico border. This has included worldwide protests. Protests against ICE's compliance with orders from their fascist masters now also include brave, militant actions. In at least 8 cities across the US, workers and youth are blocking the entrances and exits of ICE headquarters.

The outcry against ICE's latest fascist attacks is inspiring. However, our outrage against the fascists and their minions who are now occupying the White House can easily lead us to believe that we can win by voting the Trump gang out.

This is a mistake. We need to remember that President Obama deported more people than any previous administration had. While we must fight against ICE's present actions, we need to remember the terrified screams of children in Afghanistan who had seen death and destruction from the drones Obama ordered.

Capitalism requires xenophobia and racist

terror in order to survive. Capitalists in every country must turn to open fascism when their economy is in crisis...and that is right now. The only real solution to fascism is a revolution that smashes capitalism and establishes real communism worldwide. We in ICWP should continue to join those protesting ICE and also take this opportunity to build our party—a party that can lead the way to building a better world.

—Veteran Comrade

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## Donald, Decline and Decay:

# COMMUNIST REVOLUTION WILL DEFEAT IMPERIALIST WAR AND FASCISM

“Great-power competition is now the primary focus of U.S. security,” declared war secretary Mattis in January 2018.

The world’s biggest capitalists vie to maximize profits by dominating labor, resources and markets around the world. This imperialist rivalry – exploding periodically into world war – has driven world events for a century.

*Except when revolutionary masses have risen to fight for workers’ power.*

Empires rise on the backs of the workers they exploit – especially abroad. And when these empires fall to their rivals, they crush those workers’ lives and bodies.

It’s said that “when elephants fight, the grass gets trampled.” But the working class isn’t grass! We are the most powerful force in history. Fights among imperialist rulers are opportunities for us to destroy their deadly racist system with communist revolution.

### US Imperialism in Decline – Rulers in Disarray

The US dominated for 70 years through a combination of military might, diplomatic alliances and economic clout. But it’s no secret that US imperialism has been losing ground, especially to an openly capitalist China.

With Trump in the White House, the US decline is rapidly accelerating.

On the diplomatic front, Trump revels in isolationism — North Korea notwithstanding. He insults long-time US allies, as at the G7 meeting in Canada. He shreds whatever may remain of US imperialism’s threadbare claim to “moral leadership.” He guts the State Department. (Said Mattis: “If you don’t fund the State Department fully, then I need to buy more ammunition.”)

One analyst compared this to the fall of past empires: “In none of those cases will you find a great power willfully dismantling its own alliances.”

Former US allies are scrambling for new partners. China is already the main beneficiary.

Many leading US imperialists soon denounced Trump’s presidency. “For all the rot that is visible in America’s standing and ability to influence global affairs,” wrote a former Bush advisor, “more is spreading beneath the surface. ... [They] augur something much worse tomorrow.... like the world of the late 1920s or early 1930s: disorderly and unstable, but with much worse to follow.” What followed then was world war.

Others embraced Trump’s slash-and-burn diplomacy along with his open racism and support for fascists. They like that he promotes unquestioning patriotism while dividing the US working class. They were happy to use Trump to cut taxes on the rich while slashing social programs.

But Trump’s new tariffs – especially on steel and aluminum – are another story. Even short of a full-scale trade war, these import taxes cut into the profits of manufacturing firms, large and small. Retaliatory tariffs— are already hurting hurt US exports.

Wall Street financiers and their allies in manufacturing oppose these tariffs. But so do the Koch Brothers, whose “Oil Patch” capitalist faction has fought bitterly against the main (Wall Street) US imperialists. Koch money is pouring into congressional campaigns of “free trade” politicians

(even some Democrats!) running against hard-core Trump supporters.

### It’s Not Just Trump – It’s Capitalism’s Internal Contradictions

The decline of US imperialism stems from the very process of capitalist development that once brought it to the top.

Money capital separated itself from industrial capital. Capitalists living off their investments were increasingly isolated from those who organized and managed production.

This domination of finance capital characterizes imperialism, along with the export of capital (foreign investment). As Lenin said, finance capitalism “is a state of parasitic, decaying capitalism [that] cannot fail to influence all the socio-political conditions of the countries concerned.”

Capitalist economists have warned since 2012 that “too much finance is bad for the economy.” One argued in 2013 that the financial sector had “consumed America’s economic growth.” It was hauling in a record 9% of total US production, some \$1.4 trillion, without producing anything. It didn’t even make the economy run better.

Another analyst noted three years later that “financialization” – supported by Democrats and Republicans alike — intensifies inequality. And workers know it. Many lose faith in openly capitalist politicians. They may look to “populists” like Trump or Bernie Sanders.

We can’t let that happen. Trump’s populism is fascism, pure and simple. It can’t be defeated with “democracy” or even “socialism.” The only way to defeat fascism – the political form of decaying, parasitic finance capitalism – is communist revolution.

Stories in this paper from Seattle (USA) to El Salvador to South Africa show that masses are ready, willing and able to embrace communist ideas.

*Let the imperialists focus on “great-power competition.” Our task is to focus with laser-like intensity on the revolutionary class struggle for communism.*



Red Army soldiers and communist-led civilians smashed the fascist Nazi army at Stalingrad, 1943.



January 27, 2017

**AS WE GO TO PRESS: June 26—The U.S. Supreme Court has upheld Trump’s Muslim Travel Ban 3.0. This racist attack on Muslims and all workers is consistent with other sharp fascist attacks by the Supreme Court this session. Only communist revolution can defeat fascism.**