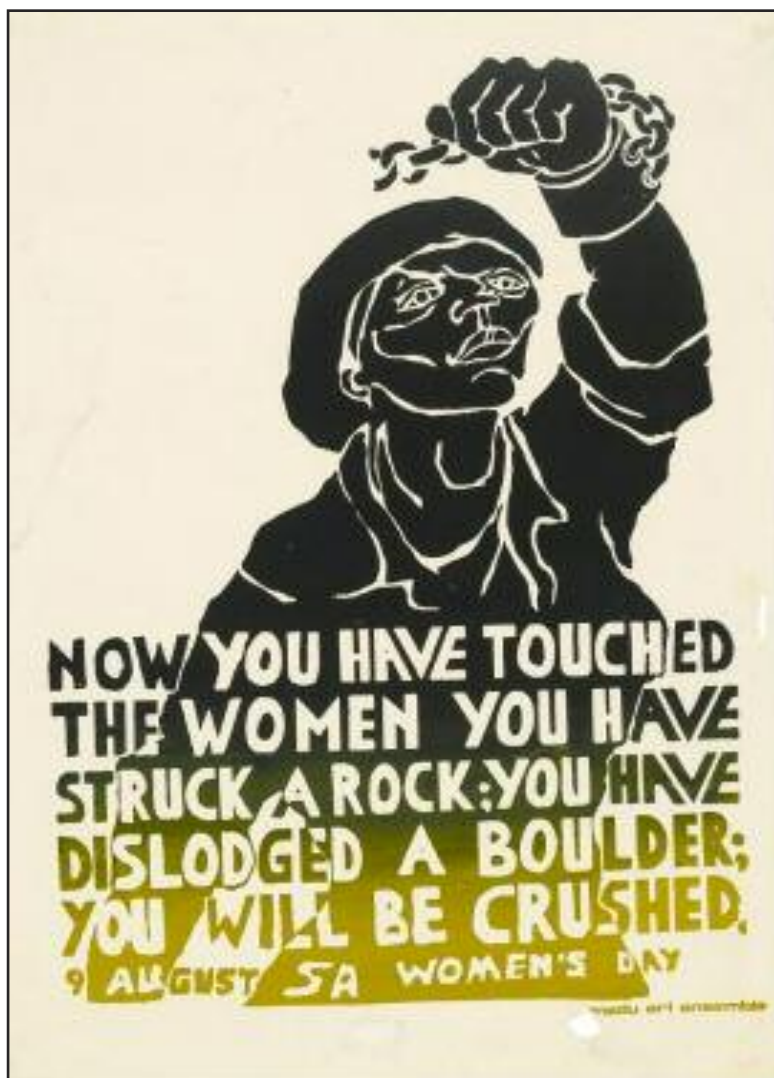


# RED FLAG

**MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM**



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



**SOUTH AFRICA  
WOMEN'S DAY,  
AUGUST 9  
SEE PAGE 2**

South Africa:

**AUTO WORKERS BUILD  
NEW COMMUNIST COLLECTIVE**

The following is a report from three comrades who work in an auto factory in South Africa. These are all new comrades.

The week before there was a club meeting to which Comrade Themba came for the first time. The other club members explained the party's ideas to him. He said he wants to learn more and agreed to help distribute Red Flag at work, which the club planned.

Comrade Silumko: Well we have just been distributing Red Flag here at our auto plant. It was a great honor sharing knowledge and to give Red Flag to people. I must say that the whole pile just went so quickly because everybody was interested. So all the guys took the Red Flags.

The response was very positive because all the people are suffering and now they can see that there is actually a solution for this, which is only by mobilizing the masses to join ICWP for communism.

From our distribution of Red Flag, I got about five contacts from my co-workers who were very interested. I promised to get them in the group.

Comrade Kuhle: I'm glad that I received the Red Flag today. Thank you to Comrade Silumko and all of you comrades. I went all over the plant and then people were happy. Then they wanted to hear more. I wish that they could have known better because they wanted to hear more but we only had a little time because we were at work and then others wanted to go home, you see. What I would like is that if the three of us ever have time to share what we know, because they look really interested.

Comrade Themba: I got five contacts today from people interested in the Red Flag and this movement. It is important to push this movement. The people were very interested. They took all the Red Flags.

Maybe tomorrow they will want more because a few of them didn't get them. They asked me many questions about ICWP. They said they would read it and give me feedback tomorrow. I promised tomorrow I will come back.

Thanks a lot, comrades. That's our day.

El Salvador:

**RED FLAG HEATS UP  
SWEATSHOP STRUGGLE**

EL SALVADOR—A few days ago, comrades distributed a leaflet denouncing to the international working class the labor harassment, shouting, and other disrespect that the bosses order their supervisors to carry out against the men and women workers in the maquilas (sweatshops). This weekend we met with members of the ICWP club in one of these factories to learn about the reactions to the leaflet.

The leaflet has its effects. It was well received by hundreds of men and women workers. "What we could not denounce, these (comrades from ICWP) do denounce," said a union activist who works there.

"They made this leaflet for you, right?" they asked one of the ICWP comrades the next day.

"I wrote down the email that is on the leaflet in case I need it," said a woman worker.

"There has been harassment, interviews, to investigate what we talk about in the party meetings," said a comrade. One of those who was harassed told them, "We are left-wing people and we fight for the international working class."

"This year they have installed more cameras on the inside and outside of the factories to control everything that we do," commented a worker. She declared, "They, the bosses, don't want any organization to wake up the workers about a better system."

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**COMMUNISM  
NOT  
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**SYRIA:  
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**MEXICO  
TEACHERS  
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**ABOLISH  
CAPITALISM'S  
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PAGE 6**

## Women Workers Were Key Leaders in Fight Against Apartheid

# COMMUNISM WILL END RACISM, SEXISM AND WAGE SLAVERY

In South Africa, Women's Day (August 9) commemorates the march of thousands of women to Pretoria's Union Buildings in 1956 in protest against apartheid's pass laws that sought to restrict the movements of non-white South Africans. (See box)

*A woman comrade begins the history:*

In 1956 thousands of South African women stood up and said enough was enough. Things were very bad. Black South Africans had to carry identification anywhere they went. And there were places that were no-go areas for Black women. White men could do whatever they wanted and there would be no consequences. It is all thanks to the women that the law of identification was lifted. Women like Lillian Ngoyi, Albertina Sisulu, and Helen Joseph, despite the color of their skins, got up and took a stand. That is where the phrase, "You strike a woman, you strike a rock" came from.

*Another member, a man, takes up the account:*

In 1956 women from all walks of life in South Africa marched to demand an end to apartheid. My mother was involved in this march. She was sixteen years old and went with my grandmother. They marched 20 kilometers (12 miles) from one area down to catch a train to Johannesburg. From there they marched around 300 kilometers (180 miles) to the Union Buildings in Pretoria.

Women were coming from all over the place: from rural areas, urban areas. Some of their husbands were staying in places like Johannesburg where they worked in the mines, so they were directly affected by the system. They took the decision to demand an end to apartheid and an end to the pass laws.

This was a significant event. Apartheid was known for its brutality and intolerance to opposition and for the force with which they suppressed dissent. So for women to stand up and demand an end to that injustice was significant because the women in this society are characterized as objects, as weak, fragile and emotional. The march showed again that this is untrue.

My mother was lamenting that it was more than 50 years ago but we're still talking about the same things now. Men think they can literally buy

women or they can do whatever, touch them wherever they want if they feel like it.

This is not just an attitude of men; this is an attitude that is perpetuated by the capitalist society we live in. For this to change, for the dreams or aspirations of 1956 to be realized, we need full emancipation. This means the eradication of capitalism because sexism, like racism, grows with capitalism. For it to fall, capitalism has to fall.

I tell my mother that what was lacking then is what we are providing now: the communist outlook, communist leadership to the working class. If they had organized and mobilized around communism, things would be different today.

We see what is happening now. These are the symptoms of the system we are living in. I don't think it is wise for us to fight only against the symptoms, like the #metoo movement does. The important thing is to fight the disease: capitalism.

Once we do that, we will destroy the material basis of sexism, which is capitalism. Then half the battle will be won against racism, sexism, and corruption. It is imperative for the emancipation of women for us to destroy capitalism and replace it with a truly just and equal society: communism.

In communism women will be involved in production and also in the distribution of production.

Both men and women will be involved in domestic tasks. So the eradication of capitalism becomes primary in fighting sexism. Both now and in communism we will engage in ideological struggle against sexist views. All forms of sexism, racism, and other capitalist tendencies must not be tolerated and will not be tolerated by the workers under communism.

So this is what I told my mother. If they fought for communism things would change. It is not too late to fight for communism because women all around the world are talking about the same

## THE LEGACY OF APARTHEID

Apartheid's laws divided the country into different areas for different racial groups. Black people were supposed to live in "homelands" which included some of the most barren deserts of the country. To survive, the men had to find jobs in the mines and factories, which were in the white areas. They had to carry passbooks at all times which included their employer's name.

In 1955 the government passed a law to require women to carry passbooks. This meant that unless a woman had a job, she couldn't join her husband in the city. In 1956 20,000 women marched to Pretoria to present their demands.

Although the apartheid system and its passbooks were eliminated in 1994, capitalism and its brutal exploitation remain. Men are forced by capitalism to leave their families in the countryside to seek jobs in the factories and mines. In Rustenburg, there are thousands of such men working in the mines and living in hostels. They can only return to their families in the countryside on holidays.



thing. And it is our job in ICWP to organize all workers, including all women all around the world, to fight and defeat capitalism and build a new communist society.

## SEXISM REMAINS IN SOUTH AFRICA, IN SPITE OF THE ABOLITION OF APARTHEID

Women comrades in South Africa report that sexism is still very much still a problem. Even when we praise the heroes of the struggle, we tend to mention the male freedom fighters and seldom mention the women freedom fighters, conveniently forgetting that it was their selflessness that forced the then-president, Hendrik Verwoerd, to listen to the Black people.

The anti-apartheid struggle did not have as a goal the emancipation of women through the abolishment of a capitalist, commodity system and the creation of a communist economy and social order. Its goal was to end the oppressive economic, social and political system of racial

separation known as apartheid. By doing this, the African National Congress and the South African Communist Party created a government where a few Black South Africans became major, national office holders, apartheid laws were abolished, and capitalism remained in South Africa.

Sexism cannot be fully eliminated under capitalism. We must do away with wage slavery and create a communist social, economic, and cultural organization of society. This will create the material basis for men and women to live as comrades and to fully develop our human potential.

Women still face discrimination on their jobs. Sometimes you will find that the female

worker is more qualified than the male one, but the bosses will give the post to the male worker.

Sometimes you will find that a woman is in charge but the males don't give respect to her as much as they would a male.

Some males still think that they can say and do as they please to a woman. They touch her and she complains. The answer is, "You must be happy I touched you. That shows you are a real woman because women are made to be touched."

At home men simply make it a woman's job to raise and train children. Even when a daughter of the family becomes pregnant before time, the

See **SEXISM IN SOUTH AFRICA**, page 3



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## Mobilizing for Communism in South Africa

### WORKERS AND STUDENTS, WOMEN AND MEN, JOIN ICWP

SOUTH AFRICA, August 3— We just came from the mobilization on a campus. The day went tremendously well. We were four comrades. We distributed over 60 *Red Flags*. Our primary goal was to establish some contacts on the campus so that we could coordinate our work and try to integrate the work on the two campuses and expand our work from there.

We did manage to get some contacts. The fortunate part about the contacts is they are females. Most of the students we talked to were females. We stressed the fact that we need more females in our Party.

“I think this will help us form the group at two universities where we have members. I did explain this to them,” explained a comrade.

“I also had a conversation with one young woman who is part of the Black Consciousness movement. She thought we were the South African Communist Party since she heard the word communism. I explained to her that you cannot say you are fighting the capitalist system but you align yourself with the bosses, you take orders from the bosses. So that’s not fighting capitalism.

“I think today’s mobilization will really help us a lot to try to recruit some students because

most of the contacts that we got are on my campus. So I will try hard so that every time we receive a new issue of the *Red Flag*, to contact them and give it to them. We have their numbers and they are keen to learn more about the Party. They said they will raise some questions in the group when they’ve read the *Red Flag* and thought about what we presented to them.

So I think it really went well today and I think that more will come from what has been done today.”

Another comrade had a conversation with a young woman who belonged to the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) student organization. He explained, “After we talked awhile she was more interested in knowing more about us.

“We argued about what is right because I was saying we should fight directly for communism, not the so-called steps to Communism. History has proven to us that they don’t work. The socialism that the EFF is trying to fight for, which they mix with some black cultural consciousness philosophy, has been proven not to work. It’s not really a solution. It’s called reformism.

“We explained that what we are going to get with socialism is just state capitalism like we saw in the Soviet Union and also in countries like

Cuba and China. So as much as we can nationalize industry, as long as we don’t eradicate the material basis for capitalism, which is first and foremost money and concentrating the means of production in private hands instead of collectives, nothing will change.

And we explained that we can’t win the fight just locally because capitalism is global, so therefore we need a global mass party, the ICWP, to actually win this fight and eradicate capitalism once and for all. That’s what we talked with the students about.”

Some were against what we said. We learn a lot even from those conversations too. Some of them, even though they were against our ideas, took *Red Flag*. Hopefully they will read it and have some questions they can ask on our website.

**August 8 Update:** We have met with two of the female students we met at the school the other day. They want to learn more about the party so they can join. This is good because we have had a lot of struggle in our collective about the importance of recruiting more female comrades.

Unity of women and men workers—and the leadership women can give—are crucial to the victory of communism.

#### Joining ICWP

The first time I went to an ICWP meeting was when I was invited by a neighbor at his place. I asked him what it was about. He said it is a meeting we will be talking about communism. He had already given me the *Red Flag* and I knew just a little bit about ICWP.

When we got there, I had questions on how communism would work, given that we will not use money. The comrades were clear in their response that there are no definite rules written in stone about how communism will work; however, we do have guiding principles that we will mobilize the masses to produce for the needs of the working class as whole, we will organize ourselves to the best of our abilities and sharing the fruits of production instead of selling them.

The comrades talked at length too about the horrors of capitalism and how the system of exploitation doesn’t have color, it affects workers

regardless of their race, gender and nationality. They talked about the urgency to fight against it. The comrades at the meeting asked me to join ICWP. I agreed to join not because I thought everything they were saying was perfect. But I saw, and they made clear the urgency with which we as the working class need to mobilize ourselves in order to fight capitalist blood suckers. If we don’t, nothing will change, and we will continue to suffer great sufferings.

I must say it has been a pleasure being a member of ICWP. I’ve learned a lot from mobilizing workers, students and miners. Since I joined, we have grown as a collective, we have made mistakes and learned from them, I encourage everyone to join ICWP and fight to end this terrible system.

—A comrade in South Africa



South Africa, 2015

## SEXISM IN SOUTH AFRICA

### from page 2

woman, the mother, gets blamed.

Some males still think that a woman’s place is in the kitchen. They will sit at home and wait for the woman to come back from work and cook and clean the house, forgetting that she is equally tired.

Some comrades in our collective still have the mentality that women should do household work. Some of them still feel that what they say is more valuable than what a female comrade says. But we are not giving in to that.

We are struggling within the party against these sexist practices and against the history that has taught us all sexist attitudes and behaviors that hold back the fight for communism. One struggle has been with the students, who began as an all-male collective, to make the internal changes necessary for the collective to include women. The report above shows that we are making strides in that direction. Aluta continua!

## EL SALVADOR SWEATSHOPS

### from page 1

“Our party is growing,” said a comrade. “In the area where I am they have stopped yelling at us. But the most important thing is that more workers understand that we need to keep organizing ourselves in ICWP for a communist system. Under capitalism, poverty for our class will not end.”

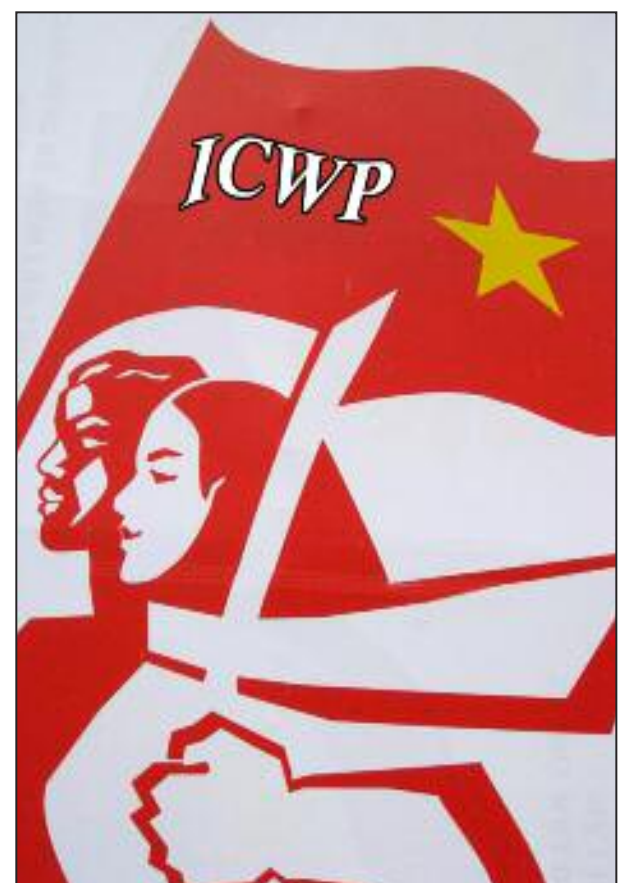
“We also were invited by union members to a meeting inside the company. They presented us as the representatives of our party, explaining that we are not a union or an electoral political party, but instead that we fight for the working class internationally.”

“They are fighting for a better system,” indicated the union representative to the men and women workers.

This prompted a very interesting discussion about whether these kinds of invitations to these meetings were a good idea for the Party.

Workers suggested that we must distribute leaflets like these more often. We are in the same company but each area has its own problems.

“Our party is gaining ground,” concluded a comrade.



## OVERCOME OBSTACLES TO PUT COMMUNISM ON THE AGENDA

SEATTLE(US)—Ten thousand demonstrated at the federal jail against the deportation and separation of immigrants' children from their parents. The week before, the party and friends started mass debates among hundreds of Boeing workers about how only communism is the solution. That was the same message we brought to the protestors. A Boeing friend, inspired by the discussions and debates at work, went with his wife to visit the encampment outside the prison. The potential for putting communism on the agenda was apparent.

Our party club followed up at a number of workplaces and schools. Our discussions centered around whether only communism could put an end to these fascist policies. In particular, could socialist candidates make the situation better?

Only communism, not socialism, can end nations and borders. Socialism maintains both.

Furthermore, socialism is not a stepping stone towards communism. Nor is it a more palatable form of communism (lite). It is an obstacle. That's why the ICWP fights directly for communism.

In particular, the democratic socialist movement has a long, treacherous history that many friends and comrades are not aware of. It betrayed the communist aspirations of workers over and over again, all around the world.

The social democratic movement in the U.S. was born out of just such a betrayal. The majority of the old socialist party members supported the 1917 Russian Bolshevik revolution. The pro-Bolsheviks followed the party's constitution and elected a new executive committee. The old right-wing committee annulled the election on bogus grounds. When the newly elected leaders tried to take their seats on the executive committee, the right-wing called the cops. The left-wing walked out. Such was the beginning of both the democratic socialist movement and the new communist movement in the U.S.

Even given this history, some friends and comrades are skeptical that the U.S. ruling class will use these democratic socialist politicians to build the anti-communist campaign that the capitalists need today. These friends and comrades think the bosses are only using these socialists to attract youth to the Democratic Party.

Whether or not you think the capitalists will use them to mount an anti-communist campaign depends on how receptive you think workers will be to our communist ideas and therefore, how the bosses will react. Even more important than what the capitalists think and do, is what the party and its base think and do.

### The Proof of the Pudding is in the Eating

Our communist mobilizations in the workplaces and streets (and the follow-up) have made the opportunities to put communism on the agenda in every class struggle clearer. Self-critically, we haven't always put building a base for communism at the head of the agenda during our party meetings.

Inspired by the struggles of the last few weeks, we tried to correct this weakness at our last club meeting. We spent most of our time discussing a comrade's new work among immigrant workers.

The main obstacle was communicating with these workers. Many were not proficient in English. They spoke a half-dozen other languages.

We attacked the problem with revolutionary enthusiasm. We enlisted help from friends and comrades locally and from other areas. We would not accept the proposition that these problems were insurmountable.

Despite our best intentions, our plan had flaws. Rather than throw up her hands, the comrade in charge of this work found out what changes had to be made. Now we are back on track.

Nothing proves the potential for communist revolution like building the close, personal communist relations with workers that can lead to a bigger party.

## Socialism Doesn't Lead to Communism

### END FASCISM AND WAGE SLAVERY BY FIGHTING DIRECTLY FOR A CLASSLESS SOCIETY

LOS ANGELES (US) "That's what I'm talking about. I'm interested in fighting for a classless society," a young man responded enthusiastically after a comrade offered him *Red Flag* and explained what ICWP was about.

"Then you should join us," said our comrade, adding, "Give me your telephone number to keep in touch"

"I'll give you my email address," said the young man.

"Great!" said our comrade, "Take an extra paper for a friend."

"I sure will, thanks."

Many similar conversations occurred outside an event sponsored by the Democratic Socialist Alliance (DSA) of LA featuring Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

**We explained that we fight for a society where we produce only for human need. Socialism will not lead to communism—it is state capitalism. Voting won't stop fascism. Only revolution to destroy capitalism and building a communist world will end fascism and meet the needs our class.**

The response was very positive. Many gladly took the paper. Some nodded thoughtfully when we said that the rulers need to push candidates like Ocasio-Cortez because they fear the masses opting for communism.

Some one asked, "But how do we get there?" We talked about mobilizing the masses for communism now. She took an extra copy of *Red Flag* to show a friend.

Self-critically, we should have asked more people for their contact information and brought more than the 100 papers we distributed. Lots of people are taking the alternative of communist revolution seriously. We have to be serious about making bold plans to put it forward and get to know them.

Ocasio-Cortez is part of a long line of Democratic Socialists who have been used by the ruling class to try to divert the masses from revolution and communism by building

anti-communism and illusions in electoral politics and peaceful reform.

The DSA, of which Ocasio-Cortez is a member, was founded by Michael Harrington in 1972. He campaigned for the lie that the "extreme" left and the extreme right were equally bad. He sought to make the DSA the left wing of the Democratic Party. The rulers used this to bring youth and workers angry at capitalism into the Democratic Party to keep them away from communist revolution.

Ever since her victory in the Democratic Party primary in New York, *The NY Times* and other mouthpieces for US imperialism, have given Ocasio-Cortez a lot of favorable publicity. While the old guard leadership of the Democratic Party does not support her, many US rulers and politicians view her differently. They see no threat from Bernie Sanders, Ocasio-Cortez, or other socialist candidates. They see these candidates as a way to win masses to support capitalist reform and patriotism.

At the event in LA, some people said they disagree with Ocasio-Cortez when she supports protests against ICE only in the short term in order end family separation. They said she does not call to abolish criminalization of immigrants altogether. They said that Ocasio-Cortez states that she does not intend to condemn the Israeli government's violence against the Palestinians—

even though Israeli snipers recently shot and killed 127 unarmed Palestinians.

These persons want more principled socialists to take on the old guard in the Democratic Party.

Their concerns are understandable, but they are dangerously wrong to think that they can change the Democratic Party into representing the interests of the working class! Only by building a mass communist party, ICWP, to fight for a communist world without borders, wage slavery, racism, sexism or money can the interests and needs of the working class be met.

**Times are ripe with opportunity and danger.** Fascism is growing in the US and worldwide. Angry masses are looking for an alternative to capitalism-imperialism. Social Democrats are mobilizing, with the support of the rulers' media, to try to divert masses into the dead end to reform capitalism.

They push the lie that communism doesn't allow mass participation, that democratic socialism will. But only communism will inspire millions to take leadership and initiative to collectively build a society that meets the needs of workers everywhere, where every one will have the health care and housing they need. Masses of youth and workers, like the ones we met, are open to the real alternative to capitalism: communist revolution. We need to more boldly build ICWP at work, school and in mass events.

Read our manifesto, ***Mobilize the Masses for Communism*** at [icwpred-flag.org/MMC/MMCE.pdf](http://icwpred-flag.org/MMC/MMCE.pdf)



# US-RUSSIA PROXY WAR IN SYRIA KILLS HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS

*Red Flag* has pointed out that the struggle of competing capitalists drives events everywhere. The rivalry, of the US vs. Russia, China, and the EU, is not confined to trade wars and sanctions; it leads to major wars.

These wars do not always involve big powers' armed forces. There are proxy wars in which big powers get others to fight for them. The US CIA tried this; their biggest success was arming the Jihadists fighting the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan in the 1980s. The CIA's "Operation Cyclone" trained and armed Afghans, eventually costing the US about \$20 billion and producing huge Afghan casualties. The Soviets withdrew; a bloody civil war followed. The US government counted this a big success. US supported Jihadists included close associates of Osama bin Laden and helped form Al Qaeda.

In 2012, the CIA, with the Saudis and others, armed Syrian forces aiming to remove Bashar al Assad's regime. On the other side, the Russians supported Assad's regime. At least 500,000 Syrians died in the fighting that created millions of refugees. Let's trace how this proxy war played out.

The Russians have had a naval base in Syria at Tartus since 1971. Putin met Assad in 2005 and forgave Syria's multi-billion-dollar debt to Russia. From 2007 through 2010, Russia made big arms sales to Syria. In 2009, the Tartus naval base was dredged for larger vessels.

In March 2011, protests against the Assad regime began in southern Syria and were brutally suppressed. The Russians blocked attempts in the UN to sanction Syria and, in 2012, provided weapons including attack heli-

copters and anti-aircraft weapons to Syria.

In 2012, Saudi Arabia and the CIA smuggled weapons to Syrian rebel forces. In 2013, the CIA project "Timber Sycamore" operating out of Amman Jordan, provided assault weapons, anti-tank missiles, pickup trucks, etc. CIA paramilitaries trained Syrian fighters. Estimates are that these CIA fighters killed about 100,000 Syrian government troops and allies.

US-backed troops fought alongside and supplied weapons to Al-Qaeda's Al Nusra front. Many weapons passed quickly into the hands of ISIS.

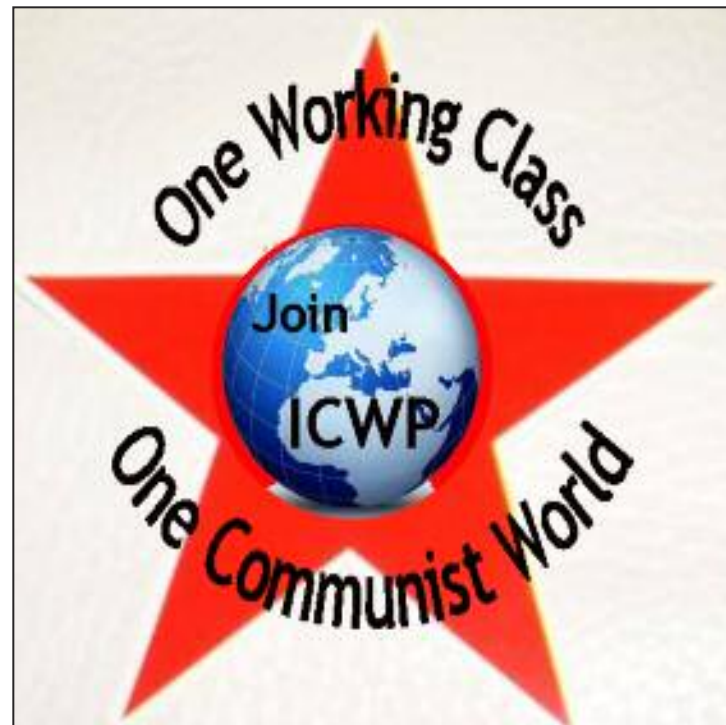
After anti-regime forces gained ground in September 2015, Russia brought in 48,000

troops and tanks and deployed Russian air defense systems. Russian airstrikes seriously weakened anti-government forces and helped the Syrian government retake Aleppo and Palmyra in 2016. Hezbollah and Iranian troops coordinated attacks with these strikes.

A Russian general claimed 71,000 airstrikes against "the infrastructure of the terrorists." Russia made cruise missile strikes from submarines in the Mediterranean and ships in the Caspian Sea and air strikes from an aircraft carrier in the Mediterranean.

In 2017, the US discontinued Timber Sycamore.

In 2018, Russia sent civilian "contractors" to support the Syrian government. They engaged US troops; US artillery reportedly killed hundreds of "contractors."



The US intervention failed, and US power in the Middle East was weakened. The Russians gained: they now have a long lease on the Tartus naval base where they can station ships and a long-term presence in the region. Proxy wars can affect imperial powers' ability to dominate regions.

All capitalists' wars result in death and misery for the masses.

There is no peaceful capitalism. The masses can make a future only by fighting for communism that has no money, profits, nations, and need to dominate regions and will mobilize masses to meet everyone's needs. Communist masses will need weapons only to guarantee that capitalists never regain power.

**Join ICWP and help make the future that we, the masses, need.**

## LETTERS

### Imperialist World War Is Inevitable

The article in the last *Red Flag* on "Trade Wars, Capitalist Crisis of Overproduction" leaves the door open to a dangerous misinterpretation.

It quotes a commentator saying that out of sixteen cases in which a rising power threatened to topple a predominant ruling power twelve ended in war.

This could lead readers to think that today's rising power, China, could displace the declining US without resorting to war.

As Lenin said, imperialist powers had already completely carved up the world by the end of the 19th century. Any re-division to accommodate a rising power requires world war.

The commentator, Graham Allison, cites four cases in which imperialist rivalry supposedly did not end in war. Two of these are bogus. Regarding the other two:

In the early 20th century, the US and Germany were rising to challenge England's dominance. Allison says there was "no war" between England and the US. England saw Germany as being a more imminent threat and declared war on Germany, starting World War I. The US entered the war and was the main im-

## LETTERS

## LETTERS

perialist beneficiary. It took, however, a second World War to end British world dominance and for the US to take its place.

During the Cold War (1940s-1980s) the Soviet Union rose to challenge US global dominance. However, the Soviet Union never threatened the US economically. Its thrust was ideological and it fought the US over spheres of influence through proxies. Nevertheless, the socialist camp – Soviet Union, China, Eastern Europe, etc. - was excluded from the world capitalist market. This impeded the further expansion of Western capitalism, which was choking on a severe crisis of overproduction. The opening of China to western investments released the pressure, eliminating the urgent need for war.

Allison cautions: "War between the United States and China in the decades ahead is not just possible, but much more likely than recognized at the moment. Indeed, judging by the historical record, war is more likely than not. ... The preeminent geostrategic challenge of this era is not violent Islamic extremists or a resurgent Russia. It is the impact that China's ascendance will have on the U.S.-led international order."

## CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

He doesn't soft-pedal the possibility of war and we shouldn't soft pedal the inevitability of world war. I think the *Red Flag* article does that when discussing capitalist crises of overproduction.

This crisis, it states, "sharpens competition as capitalists fight for market share." But it doesn't say that a capitalist crisis of overproduction, with its uneven development, inevitably leads to war, and in the epoch of imperialism, to world wars.

It also says, "At other times, however, overproduction leads to capitalist growth." Maybe. But today, growth (like China's "Belt and Road") means taking away market share from the US. That is, in today's crisis, growth brings war closer.

The laws governing capitalism's development dictate that at certain stage in the crisis of overproduction the excess productive forces, including workers, must be destroyed, so that capitalism can rebuild itself and restore a healthy rate of profit. The best capitalist vehicle for this is world war. We and the masses must be alert to the dangers and opportunities of world war.

—A Comrade



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## ETHIOPIA-ERITREA PEACE DEAL: NO PEACE FOR EXPLOITED WORKERS!

July 9—After a 20-year military standoff, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and his Eritrean counterpart Isaias Afwerki have agreed to “normalize relations.”

Behind the scenes is a \$2 billion loan from the United Arab Emirates, deposited in Ethiopian National Bank. Chinese imperialists have invested billions more in infrastructure and industrial parks where Ethiopian workers are ruthlessly exploited. But not forever!

### Capitalist Investors Need Peace

Two years ago, mass protests forced the Ethiopian government to scrap the first phase of its plan for foreign capitalist development. But not before they had murdered hundreds of ethnic Amhara and Oromo students and farmers to quell the protests.

Ethiopia was in turmoil. Since 1991, Ethiopia has been ruled by the Ethiopian People’s Liberation Front (EPLF), Tigray nationalist party. (Tigrays are a third ethnic group.) It was increasingly unable to provide the stability demanded by foreign investors.

Finally, this April, the EPLF elected Ahmed, a member of the majority Oromo ethnic group, as party chairman. His election to the presidency was a done deal.

Ahmed has made some reforms to fool the masses. He released some political prisoners and lifted the state of emergency. Now he has put together a peace deal with the Eritrean rulers.

They, after seceding from Ethiopia, fought a brutal war from 1998 to 2000 in which at least 70,000 people were killed.

“We have agreed to allow our airlines and ports to operate freely,” said Ahmed. And this is the bottom line. When Eritrea seceded, Ethiopia lost its Red Sea port, Massawa. Now Ethiopia can again do business through Massawa.

### It’s All in the Service of Imperialism

Chinese imperialist investment in Ethiopian infrastructure and industrial parks is proceeding at full speed. It’s part of China’s “Belt and Road” Initiative.

China has funded a railway from Ethiopia’s capital, Addis Ababa, to Djibouti as well as a light rail system in Addis Ababa. While building infrastructure, they have also invested massively in local mines and processing facilities. The railways and roads constructed with Chinese loans will ship natural resources extracted by Chinese firms to feed the Chinese industrial machine.

This is the pattern of Chinese neo-colonialism throughout Africa. African governments incur massive debt for infrastructure and Chinese investors take their compensation in natural resources.

Who is collateral to this debt? The working class and the oppressed masses of Ethiopia. Who will pay the price? The working-class masses through super-exploitation and repression.

An example is the Hawassa Industrial Park,

near the small city of Sidama. A Chinese construction company built 56 identical hangar-sized metal sheds devoted to textile production there.

This is just one of four industrial parks that have opened since 2014. Eight more are planned by 2020. Ethiopia plans to create 2 million new jobs in manufacturing by 2025.

Loans from China and the United Arab Emirates allow the government to offer the companies tax-free status for five years.

### The life blood of capitalism is surplus value.

That’s why the Hawassa industrial park has attracted brands like Calvin Klein and Tommy Hilfiger as well as the Chinese-Sri Lankan firm Indochine.

The super-exploited garment workers in Ethiopia earn the lowest wages of any garment factories in the world. They get a basic wage of \$27 US per month. Most are young women from rural areas who have to ask their families to send them money to survive.

But the imperialists of the world have a surprise coming if they think that workers in Ethiopia or anywhere else will be exploited forever. Workers have gone on strike once a month in the Hawassa Industrial Park, because of maltreatment at work and exploitation.

When workers like these grasp revolutionary ideas and join a communist party, they can wipe out neocolonialism and capitalism itself and build a communist world.

## FIGHTING FOR A COMMUNIST WORLD WITHOUT BORDERS

LOS ANGELES, US, July 21— The ICWP participated in a march against the separation of families at the border. Friends and comrades distributed *Red Flag* and had many conversations emphasizing how communism will unite the international working class in one common global family.

“I went to my second ICWP protest a couple weeks ago”, wrote a high school student who had also helped distribute *Red Flag*. “My mom went this time it was so nice seeing her get involved in communism. A close friend and my sister also came. It was a really good experience to be able to share with them. I felt good and happy to be surrounded with other people wanting to express their voice wanting a good change in the world.

“During the march I saw a woman in a wheelchair needing help. In an instant many people gathered around to help. It made me feel like there were still good people in a world slowly turning bad. It gave me hope.

“On the way home my mom kept telling me that what we are doing is a good example for people that are scared to speak up. ‘It is good that we

go out there and protest for people like me that are here illegally,’ she said. ‘I’ve noticed that in the protest there were a mix of all people but less Hispanics. In my opinion they are afraid to participate but they shouldn’t be. We work hard in this country and deserve to be treated fairly and equally and shouldn’t be afraid to speak our minds.’”

The new young comrade concluded with, “It was honestly an honor and a pleasure to participate in such a good cause and would do it again any time. All of us have decided to join the party and fight for communism.”

The student has been part of the ICWP student collective at her high school for the past year. She



is going to continue with that. And we have made the plan to involve the mother with the party workers’ collective.

## “ABOLISH ICE!” – OR “ABOLISH CAPITALISM’S BORDERS!”

Abel, age 8, fled El Salvador with his grandmother because gangsters threatened to kill him if she didn’t pay a monthly fee. ICE officials took him from her at the border and soon deported her. Abel – now considered “unaccompanied” – was so terrified he could hardly speak.

This story was reported by a lawyer who describes herself as “devastated by my inability to alleviate the suffering.” Multiply it by 3000 and you will understand why angry masses in the US and elsewhere are taking to the streets in growing numbers.

You’ll also understand the call to “Abolish ICE!” It sounds radical or even revolutionary. But it’s not.

The US Department of “Homeland Security,” formed in 2003, merged and reorganized the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the

U.S. Customs Service. One of the new agencies was the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

The Trump administration’s openly fascist family-separation policy is now so unpopular that 19 ICE agents are calling for change. They say that Customs enforcement is increasingly handicapped by its connection with brutal anti-immigrant policies. In the US and elsewhere, it’s hard for them to get anyone to cooperate.

To “Abolish ICE” would mean again separating the policing of customs and immigration. Instead of ICE, it would be the hated “Migra” carrying out fascist deportations.

Communists insist that the working-class is one international family. “La clase obrera no tiene frontera.” Communist revolution will destroy borders.

Since the 19th century, communists have been accused of “destroying the family.” In a sense we will. In communism we will all collectively share responsibility for the well-being of everyone of every age, instead of leaving that to the “family.”

But it’s capitalism-imperialism, not communism, that tears children from their parents and grandparents. It’s capitalism-imperialism, not communism, that forces workers migrate.

We don’t “demand reforms” from the vile capitalist rulers. We organize masses for revolution to make our communist slogans a reality:

No borders! No nations! Everyone welcome everywhere! From all according to ability and commitment—to all according to need!

## Mexico: Union Politics and Corruption:

### **TEACHERS NEED COMMUNISM, NOT UNIONS**

MEXICO CITY —In a recent gathering a teacher asked an ICWP member what they thought of the election of the new president, Lopez Obrador. She saw how those who he had called the “mafia of power” congratulated him: Salinas de Gortari, Vicente Fox, former president Peña-Nieto. She knew that the Secretary of Education will be Esteban Moctezuma, president of the capitalist media conglomerate TV-Azteca Foundation.

“Yes,” the comrade replied, “capitalism continues. The same discredited politicians of previous governments joined MoReNa to continue feeding from the public trough. Does anyone believe they will stop being corrupt?”

“And what do you in ICWP think about the Education Reform? In the Union of the Colegio de Bachilleres they said that now nothing can be done against it since it is already a decree. Now they have begun to try something. Apparently, they don’t want to lose control of the teachers and their dues.”

In fact, the alliance of the SNTE (teachers’ union) with candidate José A. Meade was catastrophic. They lost control of the collective vote that allowed them to negotiate political positions

in the governments of the PRI and PAN. SNTE leaders used to get millions to promote education reform.

For education workers the SNTE continues to be an openly bosses’ union, lacking legitimacy to represent them before the new government. It is part of the corruption that never went away when Peña Nieto promised to retake control of the Ministry of Education. The SNTE kept selling labor contracts, collecting percentages in managing bank loans, controlling huge budgets granted by Aurelio Nuño supposedly to train teachers, acting as hit men and thugs in the union sections where teachers tried to elect democratic representatives.

The CNTE is a national movement of education workers in opposition to SNTE. Its declarations make it appear to be a counterweight to the right-wing, a group that will not go along with the PRIlista regime.

It questioned the alliance of Lopez Obrador’s left-right “Together We Make History” coalition with a group affiliated with the discredited former SNTE leader Elba Esther Portillo. It objected to the appointment of Esteban Moctezuma as the head of the next Ministry of Education. It exposed the ambiguity of the education proposal,

that on the one hand promises to cancel the reform and on the other proposes elements to reinforce it, give it continuity or simply do not completely touch it.

However, promoting nonpartisanship, reform, and nationalism (as CNTE does) disarms the working class and leaves it at the mercy of the capitalists. The working class needs a society in which education and production are only to meet the needs of the masses: communism. No union or reform group can or will fight to destroy capitalism and build the communist world we need.

Teachers need to organize themselves in the International Communist Workers’ Party, not in unions. They need to join the ICWP!

Lopez Obrador’s agreement with the economic oligarchy is to transfer public resources through apprenticeships to young people in the private companies. His victory is not a victory for the working class. It is a dispute over which group of capitalists are the dominant power. The bourgeoisie has not left. It is leaving its representatives in the educational and teaching institutions to guarantee the continuity of capitalism.

## **BUILD WORKING-CLASS UNITY AGAINST RACIST TERROR**

Over 150 people marched and rallied in Clearwater, Florida to support the family of Markeis McGlockton, 28. Markeis, who was black and unarmed, was killed by Michael Drejka in an argument over a parking space on July 19th. The Pinella County Sheriff has refused to charge Drejka, who is white. As in the 2012 murder of Trayvon Martin two hours away, Drejka’s defense is “stand your ground.”

**Racist attacks like this are the tip of the deadly iceberg of fascism.**

It’s bad enough that racist killer cops make young black men and boys feel like they are walking around with a target on their back. Now every black person in the US has to watch out for some random white person who might call the cops on them for.... Barbecuing in a park. Napping in their dormitory lounge. Using the pool in their hotel. Or worse: some free-lance fascist like Drejka whips out a gun and shoots them.

Many Native American, latino/a, and Muslim workers and youth in the US have similar stories.

This is what Jim Crow looked like. It’s what Apartheid looked like. It’s what fascism looks like today in the US, Europe and elsewhere.

The capitalist rulers egg on the free-lance racists, then back them up with state power: the

cops, the courts, the jails, the laws. Their goal: to terrorize the most oppressed groups of workers and youth – the ones the rulers rightly fear the most – and to divide the broad masses of the oppressed.

“There has always been and will always be a clause somewhere and somehow that is designed to keep us down,” said a Pinella County NAACP leader.

**There won’t always be.**

Markeis’ father told the crowd, “We’re trying to get a movement on this thing.” Someone called out, “There’s a movement, buddy. There’s a movement.”

Movements like this must make revolution their strategy and communism their goal. The struggle is long and hard. But the masses, led by the working class and united to throw off capitalism’s chains on our minds and our lives, will dig out and destroy the roots of racism. No clause, no cops, no fascist thugs or racist terror will keep us down.



## ISRAELI APARTHEID from page 8

of them are in jail, mostly for “desertion” or “going AWOL” in order to work to help their families survive.

Young American Jews recently abandoned a free propaganda tour sponsored by a Zionist group called “Birthright.” They joined Palestinians protesting home demolitions.

Dozens of groups mobilized thousands of people in Tel Aviv on July 14 to march against the Apartheid “Basic Law.”

Eighty thousand marched in Tel Aviv on July 22, part of a one-day general strike against religion-inspired attacks on LGBTQ people.

In the US, young people are pouring into the streets to protest racist immigration policies. “From Palestine to Mexico, All the Walls Have Got to Go!”

Their revolutionary potential will be realized

when those young people, and older ones, embrace international communism as the only solution to the political-economic-social-cultural-environmental catastrophe that is global capitalism.

**Communism: Even in Israel/Palestine**

Utopian-communist ideals inspired kibbutzniks before Israel even existed. Kibbutzim were hundreds of Jewish agricultural collectives in which private property was banned. All goods were held in common and allotted to members according to need. Jobs were rotated and everyone participated in making decisions.

Two fatal errors prevented this experiment from advancing the international communist movement. First and foremost, kibbutzim were all-Jewish communities built on land formerly used by Bedouin nomadic herders or by Palestinian farmers. Second, they tried to function as islands in a sea of capitalism.

Capitalism swamped them. Manufacturing, and with it wage labor—unequal wages. A jump into the stock market. Land privatization policies that enriched Israel’s wealthiest capitalists. An influx of anti-communist Russian Jews.

Even worse, Zionist capitalists and their imperialist backers used these early Jewish farming villages on Arab land to stoke their racist propaganda mill. They used them to justify the “settlement” movement that has effectively annexed the West Bank.

Jewish-nationalist utopian communism shows that both nationalism and utopian communism are dead ends. The future of communism lies in a massive, integrated, International Communist Workers’ Party and world revolution. Help build this movement by reading, circulating, and translating *Red Flag!*

## RED SAILOR WRITES: MY FIRST YEAR IN THE NAVY

I joined the US Navy for a lot of reasons, both practical and principled. But it wasn't until unfavorable circumstances cornered me that I seriously considered enlisting. "Men make their own history," as Marx wrote. "But they do not make it as they please."

I had just finished college with a wonderful but economically worthless degree. I found a job at Home Depot, loading 90-pound bags of concrete into contractors' trucks.

I knew the Navy represented a sacrifice of many youthful years. But I needed to pay down school debt and build up an emergency fund. The GI Bill was an impressive deal.

Others hoped to travel the world, and I did travel to many ports all over the globe. But I saw this more as a happy side effect from a larger unhealthy treatment—a chemotherapy called "deployments."

But long after the money was saved and spent—the GI Bill used up—I would be most proud that I helped to spread working-class consciousness inside the Navy. Spreading ideas that will make for a better society to a very important section of society that rarely comes in contact with these ideas.

Sailors and marines are thoroughly indoctrinated into a military mindset. This includes potent cold war anti-communism that equates left-wing politics with terrorism.

My bootcamp training guide listed very left-wing radical organizations as terrorist organizations. It didn't list specific groups, leaving sailors with a vague belief that anybody too left of a red-white-and-blue trust in unfettered capitalism was a terrorist, or at least in cahoots with terrorists.

### Making Friends and Raising Politics

My first year started when I hopped onto a bus

to be shipped to the Navy's Great Lakes training center (bootcamp). It ended when I left A-school and joined the Fleet.

In bootcamp I met people from all over the world. One bunkmate was a chemist from Africa seeking US citizenship through military service. Unfortunately, he failed the TB test and was thrown out.

I sifted through people trying to find ones who were interested in philosophy, dialectics, politics, or even marxism. I found that religious people tended to be interested talking about philosophy.

If any conversation came close to politics, it usually involved racism or sexism. Calling out racism usually seemed to be the end game. As long as it was recognized, everybody thought it was a job well done. Rarely did I meet people concerned about analyzing the roots of racism and sexism or doing things to change their observations.

I met another guy in my division. We were surprisingly similar. He was a little older, like myself, and mature enough to endure bootcamp indoctrination without it inflicting anything more than a few headaches.

He came from South America and lived through some terrible times with drug wars in the 90s. This made him a great deal more politically conscious. In college, he was a business major, and a little disappointed with his studies. We hit it off and started talking about philosophy and economics, then dialectics and capitalism, and eventually about marxism.

All seamen headed to A-schools after bootcamp, where they would further train in their specific rate. Luckily, my new friend and I were heading to the same A-school. And our 27-week training program was one of the longer ones.

A-school was still pretty restrictive, but much

easier than bootcamp. We had more time to hang out and discuss politics. We read an article that was a great introduction to dialectics. ([marxist-philosophy.org/Intro/DialIntro.pdf](http://marxist-philosophy.org/Intro/DialIntro.pdf)). We looked over a book on dialectics. We also read a book that gave a marxist class analysis of the drug wars where he grew up.

We built a strong friendship and ended up in the same city. We didn't see much of each other because I was deployed when his ship was in port and vice versa. But at my new command I made more friends, who would become close to me after we deployed together.

I was learning a lot very quickly. It was a stressful time and probably the most difficult period of my enlistment to reach out to sailors and discuss working-class ideas and communism. And yet during this period I met one of my closest friends and someone who not only cares about society but who wants to fight the good fight.

We do make our own history, and sometimes we make it better than we anticipated.



During the US war in Vietnam, sailors played an active role in the anti-war movement

### Genocidal Attacks on Gaza Call Us To:

## END ISRAELI APARTHEID WITH INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

August 2—It's official: Israel is an Apartheid state.

And US imperialism is preparing to reward it with the largest military aid package ever. Meanwhile the US has frozen \$hundreds of millions in food, medical and other humanitarian aid to Gaza, where 70% of its 1.9 million people rely on this aid to survive.

Thousands continue to protest at the Gaza border. Israeli soldiers have killed over 150, including children: most recently, a twelve-year-old boy.

Nationalist politicians like Hamas, peace talks, international sanctions and boycotts have gotten

the Gazan masses nowhere. They – along with workers throughout Israel, the Middle East and the world – need communist revolution to tear down all walls and erase all borders.

### Non-Jewish Israelis Now Legally in the Back of the Bus

A new Israeli "Basic Law" declares it to be "the nation-state of the Jewish people" even though 20% of Israeli citizens are not Jewish.

This new Basic Law – the equivalent of a constitutional amendment – tears up the Israeli Declaration of Independence. That 1948 document promised "the development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants ... freedom, justice

and peace ... complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex...freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture" and more.

Those promises were soon exposed as lies, just like the lies in the US Declaration of Independence. The new Basic Law, however, is an open Declaration of Fascism. Palestinians (Christian, Muslim and secular) in the West Bank and Gaza live under Israeli military rule in conditions that, more and more, resemble the Apartheid era in South Africa.

Some Druze and other legislators are petitioning the Israeli High Court to "stop this racist law." (The Druze are an ethnically Arab minority group.) This will most likely go nowhere. Neither will appeals to the World Court. And let's remember that the end of Apartheid has left the South African masses—especially black workers and youth – mired in the same bitter poverty

The potential for a brighter future can be seen instead in the young people who are stepping up to defy their fascist rulers and expose their racist lies.

### Rebellious and Disaffected Youth Open to Communist Ideas

Palestinian children and youth are again fighting back. We must do everything we can to help them envision a communist future to fight for.

And it's not just Palestinians.

Disaffection is widespread among Israeli army conscripts from poor homes. Some ten thousand  
[See ISRAELI APARTHEID, page 7](#)



Tel Aviv protest against nation state bill July 14 2018