

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM



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



**SAN DIEGO,
CA, USA**

APRIL, 2018

RED STUDENTS AND TEACHERS MARCH FOR INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY WITH CARAVAN

MEXICO CITY, November 11— On November 4, the first caravan of Central American migrants, mostly Hondurans, arrived in Mexico City. The city opened the Jesús Martínez “El Palillo” Stadium as a temporary shelter.

The ICWP club in Mexico City club carried out a series of actions to show international solidarity.

A group of young people took us to the shelter to donate food and warm clothes for the cold weather. We were able to witness firsthand the fatigue, hunger and fragile state of health of some of the thousands of people who were staying there.

A young man from San Pedro Sula told us that when he heard about the caravan, he didn't hesitate a minute to join it and set out for the United States. He told us that those who suffer the most along the way are mothers with small children.

We wrote a leaflet “Internationalist Solidarity with Central American Migrants” (available on our blog: icwpweb.wordpress.com/) calling on students to support the

caravan with donations and to join our communist study circles .

A couple of days later we carried out the plan. Our teacher comrade requested permission from his colleagues for us to hand out the leaflet and speak to their classes.

Our comrade began every presentation by saying “We are members of an international organization that wants to put an end to capitalism, we want to build Communism.” Then he explained how capitalism and its crisis is the fundamental factor affecting migration today but that migration is as old as humanity itself. Meanwhile the young people distributed the leaflet to all the students in the class.

The teacher ended his presentation and then gave a young comrade from El Salvador the opportunity to speak to the class. The students paid more attention when he mentioned his place of origin.

He explained that the Central American migrants are fleeing from conditions of poverty and violence caused by decades of imperialist

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Capitalist Catastrophe: **MASS MIGRATION CALLS US TO MOBILIZE FOR COMMUNISM**

SEATTLE (USA), Nov. 17—At our potluck last weekend we decided we had to write a leaflet for high school and community college students concerning the migrant caravan. We did. Everyone there was sent a copy of a draft for comment.

Not all agreed with everything. One friend emailed back, “The goal based on the content appears to be to get people involved with the [ICWP] cause... The information it contained seems appropriate to your goal.”

A comrade answered, “Thanks... Yes, that is our goal. Because just supporting them with money or donations is good, and we do that. But that does not address the real problem. We need to convince people that we can change the world someday!”

The Whole World is Watching

We're not the only ones having this discussion. The whole world is debating what this caravan means.

And no wonder! Puerto Ricans are fleeing hurricane damage. Venezuelans are fleeing socialism (capitalism by another name). Rohingyas are running from racist persecution. Zimbabweans are fleeing to South Africa. Algerians to France. Africans in Italy to France. Moroccans to Spain. Syrians to Lebanon and Turkey. Eritreans, Ethiopians, South Sudanese, Yemeni to anywhere. Sixty million migrants are on the move.

Meanwhile, the fascists are pushing racist xenophobia. We are mobilizing to spread the communist answer.

In Seattle, we started to discuss these two options with nearly a dozen immigrant workers at a community college and Boeing. Everyone got *Red Flag* and/or the ICWP leaflet. With most, we hadn't raised communism until this time.

They come from all over the world. They were born in East Africa and South Africa. They are Native American and Pacific Islander. South East Asian and Filipino. And of course, black, Latin and white workers born in

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Communist Collective Responds to Garment Workers' Questions

HOW WILL A COMMUNIST WORLD WITHOUT MONEY FEED THE MASSES?

How can we mobilize for a communist world without money? This article describes the process of a Party collective of workers. They do mass work (distributing Red Flag at a garment factory). They listen to workers' questions and discuss, in their collective, how best to respond. They make plans to grow. When we invite readers to join the ICWP, this is what we are asking you to do!

This article also begins a discussion of how communism will organize food production. But it is too general. We ask the authors and other readers to discuss and write about things like: How will we get control over the land, the seeds and the tools? What will we do with large areas of farmland that are deeply contaminated with deadly chemicals? How will we decide what to eat and what to grow? Will urban farms help to abolish the contradiction between city and countryside?

The article says that "in the future, the masses will come up with better ideas, but this is a start." Let's all start coming up with better ideas now.

—Red Flag Editorial Collective

LOS ANGELES, USA—"A world without money?" asked a garment worker with surprise as he took a copy of *Red Flag* while he left the factory. A friend of his, who also took the paper, immediately said, "Like the time of barter, everyone exchanged things without needing money—and they lived better."

Another time, at this same factory, a worker took the newspaper and stood looking at a banner that in part said, "For a World without Money." She thought for a minute and then said, "Then it would be a poor world." Another garment worker said, "I already live without money."

We brought these comments to our collective (Club) of the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP). We decided to discuss the issue and how we can explain that slogan a bit more in the newspaper. Because the men and women workers usually leave quickly and there is no time for long discussions at those moments.

At the beginning of the discussion with comrades and friends of the club, other questions came up, such as, "How are we going to buy things?", "Who is going to pay us?", "Who puts

up the money to start production?"

A comrade explained that at present, everything that exists, from food and clothing to streets and big buildings, has been produced by the workers. However, the bosses own everything, arable land, forests, rivers, factories, mines, transportation systems, hospitals and the necessities of life that we produce, making us into wage slaves.

We explained that the world has not always been like this. In antiquity nobody owned anything, and everyone lived in groups, where everyone shared the food, shelter and security of the group. They were considered one single family. That time is called pre-class communism.

In that period and even now, food was and is the center of parties and activities. Our ancestors saw the production of food as the beginning of a healthy and pleasant life.

"Before, people lived from nature," said a participant.

"The bosses have stolen that natural world from us through their police, courts and laws," said another.

During the meeting someone asked, "What are the basic things in life?" The answers were: food, housing, health, clothing, education, entertainment, transportation. We decided that each of those topics needs a separate discussion and article. In this meeting we concentrated on how we will produce food without money.

Collective Production and Distribution of Food

The comrade who led the meeting explained that after the workers as a class under the leadership of ICWP make the revolution somewhere and take power, they will eliminate money. Money will no longer be worth anything, neither to buy nor to sell. Nobody will own anything. Everything will belong to everyone, that is, the human family.

To produce food for the subsistence of all, there will be land. There will be no need to buy or rent. The banks will be history. The seeds already exist; knowledge already exists. Since they won't be produced for sale, organic and better-quality products will be used to produce food for



the new free workers.

In other conversations we have used the example of the San Joaquin Valley, in California, USA. With more than 21 thousand square miles, it is capable of producing food to feed the whole world. There are hundreds of other huge areas where food can be produced.

Collectively we will decide how, how much and what to produce, whether it be grains, meats, vegetables and fruits, and we'll do this in harmony with the environment.

We'll prepare food well and collectively. No more individual kitchens and tasks! Production and teaching centers, hospitals and other places will be where the collective kitchens will be. In the future the masses will come up with better ideas, but this is a beginning.

In communist society there will not be either barter or poverty. The myth of barter is that you exchange beans for rice, but those who have nothing to exchange cannot get anything either. In communism, on the contrary, everything will be shared and nobody will go hungry. Today there are poor people because the capitalists have stolen everything, but in communism the capitalists will no longer exist.

Society through the Party will guarantee that those involved in this food production also receive what they need for their other needs.

The struggle for a communist world without money is one of the roots of a new life that is worth fighting for.

We concluded at the meeting that we must continue these discussions and invite more workers from our base, so they can help us expand the ideas of the need to fight for a communist world.

Read our new pamphlet *The Communist Fight Against Sexism*

available at:
icwpredflag.org/sxse.pdf



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International Communist Workers' Party

www.icwpredflag.org

GARMENT ORGANIZERS "OPEN TO THE WORKERS" ABOUT COMMUNISM

EL SALVADOR- "In a factory we have always distributed the newspaper individually to our members. Although everyone knows that we are part of the International Communist Workers' Party, we have always done it this way. But one morning we began to distribute it in front of everyone. Our members and the other comrades approached us to get the newspaper and we gave it to them.

There were many workers who were reading *Red Flag* inside the factory. This has made us very excited. We hope that more will join us in the club meetings we have. We are on the right road and we are growing in quality and quantity.

But this prompted an investigation inside the factory by the bosses, who are showing their discontent with the distribution of *Red Flag*.

The bosses and union leaders went around investigating who was distributing the newspapers inside the factory. They went to question some workers. This created a very tense atmosphere.

Union leader: I want one of those newspapers that they are going around giving out.

Comrade: If you want, I'll give you one.

Union leader: Oh, you have them.

Comrade: Yes, because it is from the communist party.

Union leader: Ah, I know what they say. They always talk about what they do in South Africa and other parts of the world.

In a meeting later on, one comrade said, "We have realized that the bosses can no longer do anything against the party inside the factory."

Another comrade replied, "We have to be open to the workers, not to the bosses. It is an illusion to believe that the bosses can't do anything. They are always doing something against our class, from the exploitation and everything we live through here."

We know that they want to find out who the people attending the meetings are. But we are firm and those of us who are convinced that com-

munist is the only solution will keep fighting and put an end to this capitalist system that oppresses us everyday. We are clear that our goal is revolution and not reform. In practice we are showing this.

"Our main objective must be to organize and strengthen our club. We need to distribute *Red Flag* so that communist ideas are available to more women and men workers. That is our main goal, not to get distracted by other issues," said a comrade.

A worker said, "I already started talking to other workers about the need to fight for a communist system, and they told me to invite them to the next meetings. I will give them the newspaper, *Red Flag*."

**Long live the international working class!
Long live the International Communist Workers' Party!**

MEXICO from page 1

policies imposed on the region, which favor the interests of the ruling class. He said that therefore not only are donations urgent but also communist mobilization. He ended by inviting students to the Party study groups that begin this week in the city.

The majority of students said that they agreed with the ideas that were put forward. Many read the leaflet attentively while some others were indifferent.

Another teacher comrade, who was teaching at the time, invited his students to ask questions or make comments.

Some said that it did not seem reasonable for a single person to accumulate as much wealth as Mexican billionaire Carlos Slim. Others expressed their doubts and questions about the possibility of building Communism because of the errors of the past. There were also some comments about the possibility of Mexico giving work visas to migrants. Some argued that the country was not in a position to make this possible since there were Mexicans without jobs who should be given priority.

We answered that capitalism functioned so that a few would accumulate wealth and power for the subjugation of the majority. We said that we must learn from past and present errors in order to



carry out a new communist revolution.

We addressed the issue of work visas and unemployment by saying that there is no lack of work that needs doing. We need a lot of work to meet everyone's needs but in capitalism this was not a priority. In order to intimidate active workers, the capitalists need a permanent reserve army of the unemployed.

We said that borders and countries only serve to divide us. They were created to benefit the

local bourgeoisies, not to benefit humanity. After the discussion many became interested in the study circles.

We ended the week of activities by marching through the school together with dozens of students carrying red flags. A teacher made speeches attacking capitalist education. He called for international solidarity and communist organization. (See above) It was a week of very good actions and communist political struggle.

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the US.

A student from Africa is writing her current events article taken from the front page of *Red Flag*. We had a half-hour discussion with four immigrant Boeing workers at work and on the ride home. These conversations were sparked by recent caravan pictures from Tijuana, MX. They soon turned into intense discussions about the role racism and anti-foreign propaganda plays in capitalism.

We reviewed the various ways the bosses push racist xenophobia. Trump's racist ad during the elections came up more than once. A comrade who was in the Army during the Vietnam war described how the officers used racism to try to make young recruits think the Vietnamese were less than human. As the war dragged on, this racist depiction was more easily defeated among soldiers. Rebellion among the troops followed.

Only communism can end racist xenophobia. Even liberating one area will advance our goal. We'll welcome workers from anywhere. They will join with workers from the liberated area,

giving millions a taste of how the world can function without nations and borders.

We will welcome the extra hands, because communism will eliminate the competition for jobs. In fact, communism will end exploitive jobs altogether. We will work collectively to provide for our needs.

US Workers, Students and Soldiers Are Part of the International Working Class

A high school student that comrades knew from distributing *Red Flag* outside her school took a bunch of leaflets. She passed them around in her history class. The school is filled with working class students—black, Latin and Asian—as well as immigrants and the children of immigrants. She invited our comrades to come and support her team, strengthening our social ties with her and her friends.

Comrades and friends have already distributed 500 ICWP leaflets and hundreds of Red Flags. We still have another high school to reach and some social activities to attend.

We'll follow up on the advances we made so far. We'll do our part locally to advance the international struggle for communism. Our goal is to end this capitalist catastrophe and all the other catastrophes inherent in this system.



Los Angeles USA
January 2018

NEW LEADERS STEP UP TO MOBILIZE FOR COMMUNISM

LOS ANGELES (USA) — “Welcome, friends, comrades, family. I’m glad to be here, with people who believe that a better world IS possible! That world is waiting for us to build it, by joining together, by studying the past, by looking into the future.”

That was how a newer comrade opened her talk to a recent ICWP dinner/forum about Trump, the USA elections, war, fascism and our communist response.

“Trump did NOT create the political situation that turned voters against both major parties,” she continued. “He was able to use the anger and fear from a shrinking middle class and from neglected blue-collar workers... Trump was able to ride a wave of popular discontent all the way to the White House.”

The comrades and friends at the forum generated a long list of things that make us angry.

“Trump has shown himself to be a heartless

fascist,” the speaker declared. She listed three major defining characteristics of fascism: aggressive nationalism, militarism and racism. We see all of these today.

She summarized recent *Red Flag* articles on sharpening inter-imperialist rivalry, especially between the US and China. She related it to the global capitalist crisis of overproduction and the potential for world war.

“But their crisis is our opportunity. Capitalism has created billions of enemies searching for a better world. That world is communism,” she emphasized. “A world without borders or nations, where everyone is welcome everywhere. A world without the wage system, where workers’ power eliminates the racist police, courts and jails.”

The speech ended with a call to build the ICWP, concentrating on recruitment in industrial concentrations and in the military. This led to a

thoughtful discussion of what gives us hope and what more we can do.

One worker encouraged everyone to bring family members and friends to the next forum, noting that he had brought his wife and daughter to this one. They protested that they hadn’t been “brought” but had come because they wanted to be there. Both said they wanted to be more involved.

“I found the research/work for writing a talk to be exciting—learning of events in Africa/USA/China,” reflected the main speaker afterward. “I had a much clearer knowledge of ‘One Belt, One Road’ and the confrontation in the South China Sea. And it was stressful — meeting deadlines, rewrites and standing to address a roomful of people. After the talk itself, I was glad that I was able to be of service to the party’s aims.”

PARTY POTLUCK PLANS, DEBATES COMMUNIST RESPONSE TO RACISM, XENOPHOBIA

SEATTLE (US), Nov. 11—Last Saturday, the ICWP hosted a potluck in the midst of our campaign to smash racist xenophobia. The food was delicious. The debate about our communist response invigorating. The plans to bring our revolutionary message to high school and community college students more widespread than usual.

Teachers, retired staff, school volunteers, active and retired Boeing workers and other friends and families passionately grappled with how to respond to the caravan heading north. Meanwhile, the kids had a great time in the kitchen.

One exchange was particularly revealing.

“Let me play the Devil’s advocate,” began one friend. “I admit that I am cynical. I don’t have confidence that workers in the Midwest can be won anytime soon. So, what do you think about incremental change that can get us to communism eventually?” He meant reform and electing reformers.

A comrade spoke against cynicism. She talked about the outpouring of help for the caravan from

Mexican workers. Another described the communist-inspired fight against racist xenophobia and the “little Hitlers” in the Boeing factory. He explained how the battle to put communism upfront these past months and years had prepared groups of workers for this fight.

“This reminds me of South Africa back in the day,” added a friend who was born there. “At one time, people were passive. You saw someone dead on the sidewalk and you crossed over to the other side and went about your business. Then workers started to fight back, first in small numbers then larger numbers. That really changed things. That’s what’s happening here.”

Finally, a retired Boeing worker summed up the argument for a bold communist response.

“There is no need to be cynical, except if you are talking about politicians. People have tried electing Obama and others. It hasn’t worked, so naturally they are looking around for alternatives. They’ve tried all sorts of reforms and look at where we are now.

“I was born in Mississippi in the deep South

(US). They still had some sharecropping [tenant farming] back then. I had to watch out for white people. When the farm work dried up, I had to move to Michigan. Eventually, I got a job at Boeing. Today I’m sitting in the house of a white man and woman discussing how to end racism [in all its forms] with communism. This is progress!”

The potluck took the words of this long-time Boeing worker to heart. We made plans to collectively write a communist leaflet that would appeal to high school and community college students and immigrant workers. In the next two weeks, we will distribute the leaflet and *Red Flag* at three high schools and a community college.

The idea is to use this literature to spark discussions in the classrooms, among sports teams and at social gatherings outside. To get this done, we must rely on students and teachers who are new to this political work. They represent the kind of communist “incremental change” that can have lasting results.

TENT CITIES: REFUGEES AND COMMUNISM

US, November 19—Tent cities are springing up in Chico, Northern California. They are housing refugees from the massive wildfire that destroyed the town of Paradise leaving 70 plus dead and 1,000 missing.

Tent cities have been springing up further south in Oakland, CA, for over a year now. They are housing refugees from the ravages of profit-gouging real estate developers. Like their compatriots in Chico, the tent families have no defense against the toxic smoke-filled air drifting in from the fires. Breathing it, according to experts, is the equivalent of smoking from 14 to 20 cigarettes a day.

Tent cities are springing up in Tijuana, Mexico, next to San Diego, CA. They are housing refugees from the violence of imperialist exploitation in Central America.

The tents mainly house white families in Chico, black families in Oakland, and Central American families in Tijuana. Stretching the length and breadth of California they signal the many faces of the general crisis of capitalism.

Presently, in the world there are 400 ‘natural’ disasters a year affecting some 200 million people. This, according to a UN report, is double the number reported 20 years ago. With the exception of earthquakes, the intensity of the others — floods, wildfires, droughts, hurricanes and so on

- is caused by climate change. And what is climate change? Nothing but unchecked need for private profit, or capitalism in action.

As the general crisis deepens, however, so does the response of the masses. The tent cities go up and food arrives. It’s not asked for, it’s donated. Here and there a restaurant cook or taco truck arrives and meals are prepared. Clothes are donated. A group of teachers set up classes to help restore a sense of normalcy among the young kids.

There is no market, no exchange, no money. The masses meet the needs of the masses as best they can. Overnight the basis of a share-and-share alike communist society pushes aside the useless model of free-market capitalism. “From the masses, to the masses” is the unspoken operating slogan. Meeting the need of strangers, not exploiting them for profit, is the over-riding principle.

It’s a spontaneous expression of communism, not a political one. It doesn’t attack capitalism. As such, it has its limits and is uneven. The tent cities in Oakland, for example, get less support. Those in Tijuana are threatened by fascist forces. Racism is still a major weapon of capitalism. While all this reminds us that it will take a revolution to

win a communist society, the readiness of the masses to abandon “the market,” profit and private property and organize directly to meet the needs of people speaks volumes to the power of our communist organizing principles.



The Working Class Deserves Communist Education

DEFEND TEACHERS WHO FIGHT FOR THEIR STUDENTS!

LOS ANGELES, USA, Nov. 20 – Schools today, whether public, private or charter, are capitalist schools. They teach the ideas, behavior and skills the bosses need. Some people say that the public schools are “our schools.” This is an illusion. The governments that run all schools use them as instruments of class rule.

Education in a communist society will be totally different. Communist will do away with money and classes and the private ownership of the means of production. Everyone will contribute as best they can, and everyone’s needs will be met so that nobody lives better or worse than anyone else. Social relationships of cooperation, collectivity and share-and-share alike will be primary and communist education will promote those values.

Communist educators build trust in each other and struggle to bring out the best in each one of us. They fight against the ideas and practices that divide us as a working class: racism, sexism, nationalism and homophobia. They know that edu-

cation can’t be confined to the classroom, but must extend to the community as well. They teach that an injury to one is an injury to all and we must practice what we preach.

When educators don’t toe the line, they can come under attack from the bosses at any time. No matter how high their students’ test scores are, or how well they deliver a standards-based instruction, the Board of Education will try to shut them up or get rid of them.

At Washington Prep High School, a teacher, known affectionately as “Mr. P,” has been taken out of his classroom. He has lived in the community since Junior High. For thirty years he has been a respected educator, department chair, soccer coach, mentor and friend.

Has he been accused of being too outspoken in standing up for students? Of protesting the LA Sheriffs’ murder of 17-year-old A J Weber around the corner from the school last year? Of welcoming migrants and refugees? Of calling for a better world for all, a communist world without money, racism or borders? NO.

The Board of Education has wanted to get rid of him for years, because he tells the truth about the capitalist system we live in and fights against it. Now the same Sheriffs that Mr. P protested against when they murdered A J Weber are threatening to file misdemeanor charges of “inappropriate physical contact with a minor.” Everyone who knows Mr. P knows that this is bogus.

Many teachers, parents and students have joined with him in the fight over the years. Many have marched on May Day, protested racist police terror, and joined with ICWP in protests against racist attacks on immigrants.

We are reaching out to members of the community and *Red Flag* readers to join the fight against the frame-up of Mr. P. Already, colleagues, parents and ex-students have written letters of support. The girls’ soccer team has also started circulating a petition calling for him to be returned to his position as coach.

But the real victory will be a stronger collective of parents, students, former students and teachers in Los Angeles. Help us get the word out, donate money, distribute *Red Flag*, and join ICWP!

Read our pamphlet

Communist Education for a Classless Society

Available at icwpredflag.org/mpe.pdf



TO BE ATTACKED BY THE ENEMY IS NOT A BAD THING BUT A GOOD THING

"It is good if we are attacked by the enemy, since it proves that we have drawn a clear line of demarcation between the enemy and ourselves. It is still better if the enemy attacks us wildly and paints us as utterly bad and without a single virtue; it demonstrates that we have not only drawn a clear line of demarcation between the enemy and ourselves but achieved a great deal in our work"

—Mao Zedong, 1939

Racism, Fear and the US Elections

WHY WE NEED COMMUNIST COLLECTIVITY, NOT VOTING

LOS ANGELES (USA)—“At least we won the House of Representatives,” commented a college teacher who likes *Red Flag*.

“The Democrats won, but we didn’t,” a teacher comrade replied. “They are another capitalist party.”

“That’s true,” the first teacher admitted. She added, “Voters in the US are mainly motivated by fear.”

“That’s true, too,” replied the comrade. “The Republicans mobilized their base by pushing fear of immigrants and black people. The Democrats mobilized their base with fear of the Republicans.

“And that’s part of the reason why working on elections isn’t a good way to get conversations going about the society we really need,” she continued, handing her friend a copy of the new issue of *Red Flag*.

The most open racism was the Republican campaign attack on the refugee caravan from Central America. Black, latino/a, Muslim and indigenous candidates – especially women – were ridiculed and insulted. Voter suppression unapologetically targeted black and indigenous neighborhoods—and swung key elections.

The bad news is that far too many white workers did not see racism for what it is: an attack on the whole working class. On the other hand, black and latino/a candidates did win races in many mainly-white districts.

The other bad news is what the capitalist media is promoting as the good news: almost half of possible voters actually voted, in spite of the racist suppression. This was the highest turnout for a non-Presidential election since at least 1966. In some places – like Native turnout in North

Dakota – attempts at suppression backfired and voting increased.

Why do we say this is bad news? Because voting can’t end racism. Racism is rooted in capitalism’s need to divide and conquer the masses of workers while piling up huge profits from super-exploitation.

The Democrats want us to fear the Republicans but what they fear more is the revolutionary potential of the masses to destroy racist capitalism. Voting is at best a diversion from the real anti-racist work of mobilizing for communism.

The good news is that many people of all ages already see that US capitalism’s two-party system can’t and won’t “fix” what’s wrong with the world today. They want an alternative—and we have it.

A young adult was happy to take *Red Flag* from a comrade at a post-election meeting of “progressive Democrats.” She’d seen the paper before.

“What do you think about it?” the comrade asked.

“I’m down with it,” she replied, and contact information was exchanged.

There’s more.

Beyond voter suppression lies a bigger issue. The US electoral system was never designed to represent the masses or to let the masses decide anything.

From the start, it was set up to represent states. That meant (and still means) the groups of capitalists who run the states. Even back when fewer than 10% of all US adults could vote, the Constitution took pains to prevent them from having a direct say. Money ruled—not “the people.”

“Progressive Democrats” say they want to “get corporate money out of politics.” The only way to do that is to get rid of the corporations and the whole capitalist money system. And we will – with communist revolution, not by voting!

And more.

Liberal anti-communists make a big deal about communists not believing in “democracy” (voting). That’s true. Voting isn’t the best way to make decisions, even when we are in a position to decide things for ourselves.

The teacher comrade quoted above explained this at a committee meeting at work. “Why would we think that the way to make the best decision for a group is to ask each person what they personally want for themselves as an individual? We should all be thinking about what’s best for the group.”

That’s how communism works now and will work in the future. We try hard to get as many people as possible to participate in communist collectives. In these collectives, we start by asking what the working-class masses most need. We discuss how we can work together most effectively to accomplish that.

Today, we might be deciding how to improve *Red Flag* or how we can advance the Party industrial work internationally. When we are building communist power in the future, we might be deciding what to produce or how to extend the revolution. Always we need to discuss how to bring more comrades into the Party collectives.

Help us: How can we get you and your friends to join the ICWP? Because that would be a really good thing!

Workers are the losers in South Africa elections:

FIGHT THE CAPITALIST MONSTERS—WE HAVE A WORLD TO WIN

SOUTH AFRICA—The 2019 national elections are fast approaching in South Africa. The capitalist ruling class and their political vassals are fighting really hard for the support of the masses in order to win the elections.

The political landscape is fragile and volatile. The masses are facing head on and feeling the effects of overproduction and capitalist greed.

Most people are not working. Poverty is striking. The latest stats show that about 53 children die every day because of hunger here in South Africa. Crime is on the rise. More than 50 people die everyday from murder alone. Overall 30 million South Africans live in poverty.

This is not unique here in South Africa but it is what our working-class family are facing in virtually every nation from India to Brazil to Mexico.

As usual, because the elections are coming up,

the politicians are on full alert trying to win the votes from the masses. They are hands-on fighting with one another to win power.

All these horrors which are prevailing are not the result of individual political parties or individual “corrupt” presidents or ministers within the nations, as the media would like us to believe.

They are the direct consequence of capitalism with its never-ending expansion and exploitation of the masses in every aspect of human life. This is primarily driven by capitalism’s overproduction and competition between the capitalists and between big capitalist nations or between imperialists.

Certainly the imperialists’ competition here in South Africa is full on and is being fought at the local level between various factions in the ruling party, the African National Congress (ANC), and between the ANC and the other opposition parties

like the Democratic Alliance and the Economic Freedom Fighters.

The faction that favoured Russia and China in opposition to the Western imperialists seems to be on the losing side with Ramaphosa being in power. He favours the West.

Just last week war criminals like Tony Blair and Bill Clinton were here, surely devising their plans.

Regardless of who wins influence in this competition the only guaranteed losers are the workers and masses because these politicians aren’t our friends.

We are only losers in so far as we sit and don’t do anything to fight these monsters. They are using the land rhetoric, nationalist sentiments and driving racial divisions amongst the masses to divert us from the real problem, which is capitalism, and to prevent us from uniting from within and internationally.

This is why we call for every working-class brother and sister, and students alike, to join ICWP and accelerate the fight against capitalism in order to establish a communist society that is not based on money, exploitation and greed.

Join the fight for a system that is based on meeting the needs of the masses, that is committed to using the productive power of the working class for their own benefit and needs, not for profit.

Communism will abolish hunger, poverty, and crime because food and shelter will not be produced in order to make billions. They will be produced for their primary purpose which is to provide shelter and nutrition to the masses.

It will be done by workers themselves by organizing their society in the way that it meets their needs. Join the struggle today and prevent us from being losers in capitalist games, but instead to become winners who forge the future. We have nothing to lose but our chains.



Capetown, South Africa, Nov. 18 – Dis-Chem distribution center workers on strike against a racist pharmaceutical company. In Johannesburg, police fired rubber bullets to disperse thousands of protesting strikers.

LETTERS

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CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

Material Basis of Sexism: More than Low Wages

A comrade wrote (last issue) that the *Red Flag* analysis of sexism “downplays the super-exploitation of women.” He argues that “the material basis of capitalist sexism is the super exploitation of women workers.” This includes “their underpaid labor in production and their unpaid labor in the home.”

Certainly, the super-exploitation of women workers is part of the material basis of capitalist sexism. But the comrade’s analysis is one-sided. It obscures key contradictions that propel the historical development of sexism.

First, he ignores a vital difference between “underpaid” and “unpaid” labor. One is commodity production (in the factory). The other is production for use (in the home). We should write more about this. It explains a lot about the changing status of women since the late-eighteenth century.

Pre-capitalist production was mainly for use. Almost all took place in or near the home, rural or urban. Slaves, serfs and servants had to produce mainly for the use of their oppressors.

Capitalism made commodity production (for sale) dominant. This created an opposition between “women’s work” in the home and wage-labor in the factories. Nineteenth-century feminists talked and wrote and argued a lot about what this might mean for women.

Lower wages for women echoed earlier laws and ideas that equated women with children as

“dependents” of a male relative. But they were far from the whole story.

Starting in the 1800s, capitalist commodity production expanded into consumer goods (cloth, clothing, soap, food products). These were once all produced by women at home for use.

This expansion affected women in important ways, differently depending on class and location. It is another aspect of the material basis of capitalist sexism.

Also important is the interconnection between production and reproduction. Private property arose (well before capitalism) in tandem with the family (and religion and the state). These controlled women’s sexuality for purposes of inherited wealth.

Reproduction – the production of future labor power – cannot be ignored in discussing the material basis of capitalist sexism.

Women today worldwide are oppressed in ways that derived from earlier class societies. Gender roles even owe something to their origins in pre-class society. This is not to say that their origins are biological. It means that we can’t fully understand capitalist sexism without understanding its history.

In the blog extension of the comrade’s letter, he explains sexual harassment in terms of terrorizing women into accepting low wages. This is far-fetched. He assumes that sexual harassment is more common in working-class neighborhoods. Is this even true? This example shows the fallacy of his conclusion that “super

exploitation explains almost every aspect of capitalist sexism.”

—Comrade in Los Angeles (USA)

South Africa: Planning the Fight Against Sexism

A few weeks back we were struggling with each other in a meeting about the need for us to do more in the fight against sexism. Even though the party is growing here in South Africa our membership is still male-dominated.

So the question was can we change this? We can’t seek the eradication of sexism while we are only males. We need female comrades to give leadership side-by-side with their male counterparts.

Therefore the recruitment of woman to join ICWP becomes primary, so we have made specific plans to rectify this issue.

For example, two of our comrades in our collective: One works at a call center, the other works at a retail. The comrade who works at the call center, at his work place they are 20% male and 80% female, but we do not have a single reader of the *Red Flag* there.

So we need to change that because that’s a fertile ground for us to plant our ideas. So our short-term goal is for us to establish networks of readers of *Red Flag* there. The next step will be for us to struggle with those readers so that they can be members—but it must go farther—those members must be active member.

—A comrade

Mexico City: Students Study Communism

Last Saturday night we members of ICWP and young university students got together to discuss *The Communist Manifesto* and our **Red Flag** newspaper.

Some of us prepared dinner, others met each other for the first time. While we were eating we started the discussion in a very pleasant way.

We presented the students with the **Red Flag** and explained that some of us at the dinner belonged to ICWP, an international communist organization.

They asked about the countries where we are present. We responded that we are on four continents, and that the industrial clubs of several countries were our best work but that all the other clubs also have the potential to mobilize the masses for communism.

The teacher introduced *The Communist Manifesto*, explaining the history of its elabo-

ration, the class struggle, utopian socialism and other topics. In the discussion issues arose such as the dictatorship of the proletariat, the Russian revolution, Leninism, socialism and its difference with communism, the Chinese revolution and Maoism, and the development of productive forces.

We pointed out that the conditions exist for production to pass to the hands of workers to satisfy their basic needs. The productive forces and distribution logistics have already developed sufficiently. But that this will not be possible without a communist revolution.

The atmosphere of camaraderie and trust helped us share some reflections and personal experiences.

I told the group that as students we have some ideas and petty bourgeois pretensions that make us individualistic and doubtful about committing ourselves to a revolutionary

process beyond our period as youth. This was something that was happening to me. These pretensions had led me to make mistakes that damaged the Party process. The young people answered that we all make mistakes, that it is precisely these that we have to learn from.

From this we concluded that there was an urgent need to incorporate more workers to the Party in Mexico since they are part of the truly revolutionary class, that we young students are partners on their road. We said that we must use our energy and resources to strengthen the organization of the workers.

We promised to continue with the study circle the following week. We will screen the film "The Young Karl Marx" and hope that more young people can attend this activity.

—Young Comrade in Mexico

The Working Class Has No Borders

I had to go to Tijuana, Mexico from San Diego, USA for work on November 15. I saw some of the people from the caravan waiting to ask for asylum.

I had intended to cross the border in a car, but the US immigration police have closed a number of inspection lanes coming out of Mexico, making it practically impossible to cross north. So I walked across. This is harder than it used to be, when people crossing south into Mexico were almost ignored by the Mexican immigration police. Now you have to fill out forms, answer questions, get a visa and have your passport stamped and your luggage searched. Seems to me that this is just to imitate the misery that the US immigration puts people through going north.

I walked into Mexico at El Chaparral, where a mass of people stood in line, hoping for a chance to apply for asylum. It is likely to take weeks to get to apply. I noticed a dad cradling a small baby with at least two other small kids right next to him. Next to him were many similar families with small children.

The kids were not very active for 9:00 am and I saw very few toys. A friend had just hit up for some money to buy underwear and jackets for the kids, but seeing what families and kids are going through makes the misery clearer.

When I came back through the plaza at 3:00 pm, I saw many fewer people, but people had left boxes or small suitcases to hold their place in line. This was sad, too, but not as bad as the little kids in line in the morning.

Walking back into the US, I saw a US soldier putting concertina wire on top of a high steel wall already surrounded by high concrete walls. Decoration for the "invasion" farce, I guess. The Tijuana-San Diego border has a lot of new construction of higher walls to replace the old walls that have been here for a long time.

On the news I hear Tijuana politicians being less than welcoming. In the rich neighborhoods of Tijuana out near the ocean, people are complaining about the refugees sleeping on the beach. Where I went in Tijuana, however, I heard nothing but sympathy and support for the Central American refugees coming through town. The working class has no border!

—San Diego Red

Smash All Borders, End Racism and

Xenophobia Support Immigrant Workers!

A march against immigrants fueled by fascist comments from the mayor of Tijuana has shown the ugly face of fascism in this city of immigrants. Some 300 demonstrators walked to different landmarks in the city and harassed a few dozen defenders of immigrants.

The virulence of these attacks can be seen in photos and videos. Shock groups with faces covered with ski masks wearing T-shirts with fascist slogans and carrying Mexican flags can be seen next to someone wearing a cap with the slogan "Make America Great Again."

Some immigrants interviewed by the press, fearful of being assaulted, have expressed their desire to return to their places of origin. Racism and xenophobia are on the rise in this city, and seem to increase as more migrants continue arriving in Tijuana. On the other hand, although only a few immigrant defenders came out to take a stand in the streets, the solidarity of a large part of the population has been demonstrated, bringing food, medicine and clothing to the immigrants.

Meanwhile, Trump has found a good ally in Juan Manuel Gastelum, mayor of Tijuana, a member of the National Action Party (PAN). This party has been linked by many to the "Yunque," a secret organization defined as anti-communist, Catholic, and anti-Semitic. This "public servant" expressed his hatred towards immigrants and has said that he asks that Article 33 of the Mexican Constitution be applied to them, accusing them of being vagrants, drug addicts, violent, etc. In other words, deportation of those who are considered foreigners non grata. In addition, he wants to establish police checkpoints at the entrances of the city to prevent foreigners coming in to Tijuana. The same language is also used in Europe, and very soon in Brazil, and counting.... Capitalism breeds them, and fascism brings them together.

We Must Build Cross-Border Solidarity

On November 10, there was a pro-immigrant demonstration near the US-Mexico border in El Paso, Texas. Two hundred people called for an end to the militarization of the border, solidarity with the immigrant caravans and against jailing



El Paso, TX, USA, Nov. 10, 2018

immigrants coming to seek refuge. It included local activists and as well as a group led by Rabbis from other cities who said that Jews and others must not tolerate these attacks on those who come seeking refuge. There must be many more such demonstrations, this time with red flags and communist solutions!

The Democratic Party diverted many peoples' anger at the racist attacks on the immigrant caravans to the election. The politicians of both parties support borders and immigration laws and jails. The masses must organize to welcome and help the immigrants in the caravans as part of the fight for a communist world without borders. In communism, everyone will be welcomed and needed everywhere to help collectively produce everything they need.

There is a fear that the chain of solidarity with migrants could crack as the fascist groups gain ground. The collaboration of those showing solidarity is based more on empathy and love of neighbor. We must win them ideologically not only to help, but also to participate in building a movement that fights for communism. The ICWP through **Red Flag** and our digital media are playing a very important role in the struggle to build a communist movement that crushes racism and fascism at their roots. We invite everyone to be a part of this struggle, and to collaborate with the distribution of our **Red Flag** newspaper and to be part of this movement.

—Comrades in the US

Imperialist Conflict Devastates Yemeni Masses

MOBILIZE WORLDWIDE FOR COMMUNISM – OUR LIVES ARE AT STAKE

Over ten thousand of our working-class family in Yemen have been killed by merciless Saudi air attacks. Fifty thousand more have starved to death in a famine caused by the bombing of civilians' farms and fisheries, together with a Saudi naval blockade. Fourteen million more are on the verge of starvation.

Over two million Yemenis are internal refugees. Thousands more have fled the country. In August, the Saudis dropped US-made bombs on a school bus, killing 44 children and 10 adults.

Only communism can put an end to this atrocious carnage!

Imperialists Face Off Over Control of Oil Profits, Sea Lanes

The devastation in Yemen has been created by the world's major imperialists and local capitalists fighting over control of oil and sea lanes. US imperialism and its traditional allies are facing off against the rising Russia-China-Iran imperialist axis. At stake is the enormously profitable southwest Asia ("Middle East"). Since World War II this region has been the cornerstone of the US petrodollar empire.

Yemen is strategically important because it lies at the mouth of the strait of Bab el Mandeb. Over 4.8 million barrels of crude oil and petroleum products travel through this strait daily. Long-standing US control of this chokepoint is now threatened by Iran's expanding influence in Yemen, through its Houthi allies.

Yemen also has a porous 1,000-mile border with Saudi Arabia. In case of an Iran-Saudi war, a Houthi-controlled Yemen could serve as a base to mobilize the two million Iranians living in eastern Saudi Arabia, which produces 90% of Saudi oil.

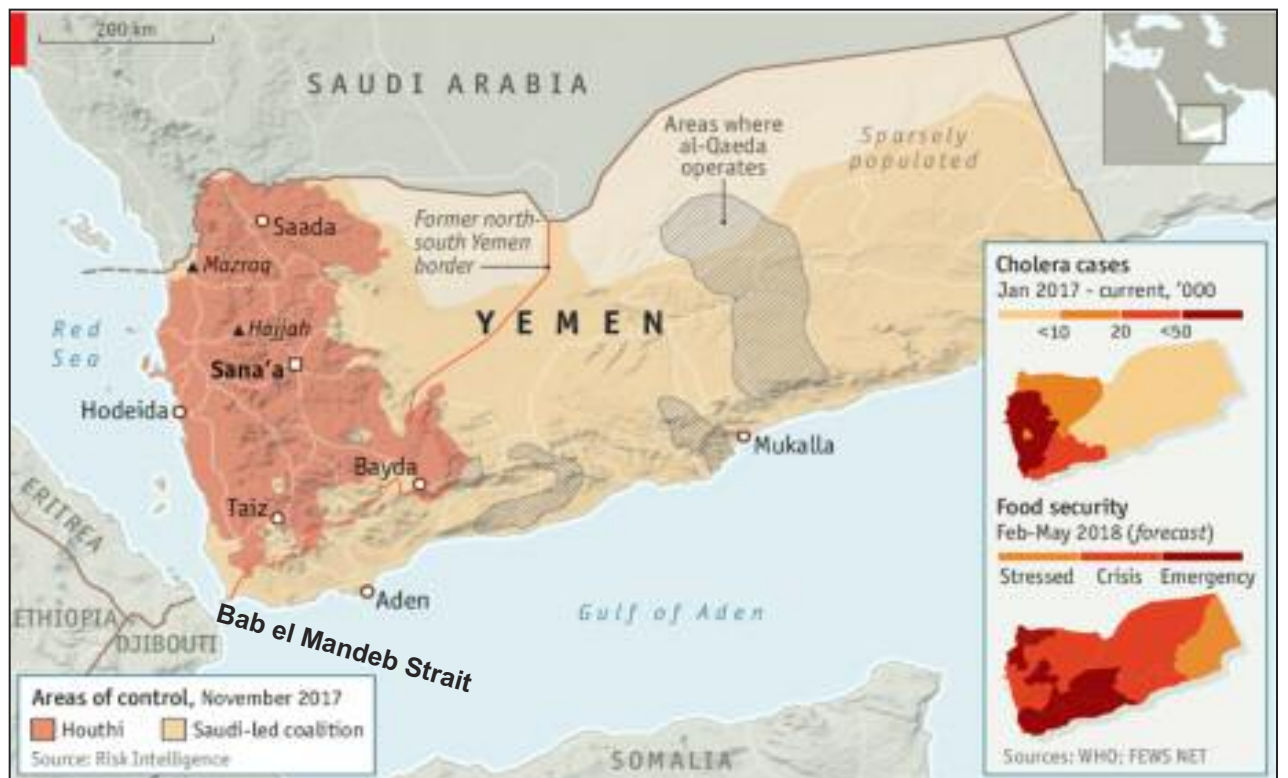
Under capitalism, geography and natural resources become reasons to slaughter workers by the millions. This mass murder is dictated by the needs of capitalists-imperialists to maximize their profits. Only communist revolution can end this inhumane system.

In communism, the working masses will turn geography and natural resources to serve our own needs. One united international working class will work collectively and share the products of our labor according to need in a world without borders or nations or money.

Once we have rid the world of capitalism, we won't fight or compete over any place, no matter what resources it has or is near. The life of each and every worker will be valued above all else. Not one drop of workers' blood for oil! Not one child starved for "strategic" geography!



A child holds a fragment of the U.S. Lockheed Martin-made MK-82 bomb used in the August bombing of a school bus full of Yemeni schoolchildren



The Crimes of Saudi Arabia's Mohammed bin Salman

On Oct 2, 2018, Saudi operatives murdered Jamal Khashoggi inside their embassy in Turkey. Khashoggi was a journalist for the *Washington Post*, a member of the Saudi royal family, and a critic of virtual dictator Mohammed bin Salman (MBS).

Some US rulers are using this brutal murder as an excuse to expose the Saudis' genocidal three-year Yemeni war. Until recently it had US blessings, weapons and intelligence. But that's not really why they turned against MBS. His real crime – in their view – is refusing to change course in Yemen. His bigger crime is making deals with Russia and China.

The US Council on Foreign Relations calls the Saudi war in Yemen a failure. This group is the mouthpiece for the main section of US imperialism. They advocate a negotiated settlement, while bombing missile sites to strengthen their negotiating position. These imperialists want to extricate the US from Yemen to better pursue their plans to prepare to confront China in the South China Sea and Russia in Eastern Europe.

The Iranian rulers are also seeking to negotiate in Yemen. They are overextended by supporting Hezbollah and Hamas as well as the Houthis. And they are facing strikes by industrial workers and other mass protests against an austerity war budget.

US, Saudi Rulers Divided — Communist Working Class Will End All Capitalists and Imperialists

The US rulers are divided over Middle East policy. This was clear when the CIA confirmed that MBS ordered Khashoggi's murder but the Trump administration denied it. MBS is key to their plans.

The Saudi ruling class is divided about Yemen and whether to stay with the US or join the China-Russia axis. A newly-formed Saudi opposition group has called for King Salman's brother to take power. An outspoken critic of MBS and his Yemen war, he returned to Saudi Arabia from London on Oct. 30 to organize opposition to MBS.

The struggle among capitalists and between US, Chinese and Russian imperialists over

the Middle East is sharpening. But the masses under attack—from Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Iran, and the whole world—are growing angry and seeking solutions.

Workers can't side with any of these capitalist-imperialist murderers. The solution is communism, a world where all the resources are shared, where human life is nurtured in growing collectives. ICWP is committed to building a world without wars, exploitation, racism, sexism, nationalism or xenophobia.

ICWP must grow worldwide now. Only a communist working class mobilizing for communism can stand in the way of the rulers' mass slaughter. Workers, soldiers and youths like you need to join ICWP. Together we will turn the capitalists' crises and wars into a fight to bury their deadly system forever. Together we will build the communist world we need and deserve.

MBS strengthens ties with Russia and China

The Saudi rulers promised Trump to purchase the \$15 billion US-made THAAD missile system. But they hinted in late September that they were planning to buy the less expensive Russian S-400 instead.

Also, Saudi Arabia and Russia struck a private deal in September to raise oil output to cool rising prices. They are increasingly deciding oil output policies bilaterally, before consulting with the rest of OPEC or the US.

Some US companies boycotted MBS' "Davos in the Desert" conference in Saudi Arabia after the Khashoggi murder. Here the Saudis joined the newly-renamed Russia-China-Saudi Direct Investment Fund.

The head of the Saudi-owned Al Arabiya news channel wrote that if the US imposed sanctions on Saudi Arabia, it would "stab its own economy to death." He threatened that Saudi Arabia would produce less oil which would double its price, and would price it in Yuan or other currency. This would be a death blow to the petro-dollar.

He also wrote, "Imposing any sanctions on Saudi Arabia will cause the kingdom to resort to other options...Russia and China are ready to fulfill Riyadh's military needs [which] will include a Russian military base in Saudi Arabia."

That's what has angered many US imperialists – but not Trump, who has his own Russian connections.