

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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



Let's change the system, not the climate

Youth Climate March see page 6



Above: Madrid, Spain; Right: Capetown, South Africa

New Zealand Massacre:

Comrades in India Respond by Fighting for Communist World Without Borders

March 29 – Comrades in India have friends who received word that their family was at one of the mosques in New Zealand where an ultra-racist killer had massacred fifty people. After three days of agonized waiting, the worst possible outcome was conveyed to them, not by either the Government of India or New Zealand. Father and son had died in the massacre.

We must all transform our grief and rage into a deeper commitment to smash this racist system with communist revolution.

As usual, many news outlets are portraying this as the work of a deranged lone gunman. However, fascists like the killer are the products of virulent xenophobia pushed by the capitalist bosses. Their hatred of Muslims and their xenophobic attacks on immigrants (mostly from India) reflect the bosses' desperate effort to divide the workers to save their bloody profit system.

The victims' families received overwhelming moral and financial support in New Zealand and Australia, including many white workers and youth. There is a huge opportunity to inject communist politics among our friends and readers.

A *Red Flag* reader from Australia wrote: "I came today to stand in solidarity with our Muslim community in the wake of the Christchurch atrocity. Despite myself having no religious beliefs I came to express support to those scapegoated by imperialism.

"I also came to illustrate that racism is a cancer that destroys working-class unity. I stepped into a mosque today for the first time in my life and the rest of us first-timers were made to feel welcome. It is dying capitalist imperialism that divides us. Only its destruction with communist revolution can once and for all end racism and bigotry."

Anti-Muslim racism has grown into mass terror in India and Myanmar. Ongoing wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Yemen and elsewhere have attracted many workers to the mosques and Islam. However, workers are open to the communist alternative when we struggle about how capitalism needs division and ultimately fascism.

Comrades in India are making advances in uniting Dalit, Muslim and other workers from India and neighboring countries. This persistent work will create a solid base for our party to create a communist world without borders or bosses that will struggle to meet our collective needs as a class.

Let's make everyone feel welcome to step into the International Communist Workers' Party!

South African Student Comrades Deepen Conversation about Communism

**What will communism look like?*

**How are we planning to achieve and lead communist revolution?*

**What are advantages and disadvantages of communism?*

**Does individual freedom exist in communism?*

SOUTH AFRICA, March 30 – Yesterday our student collective met for the first time. We were three students from two different universities. One comrade was not present because he is currently out of town. But we were able to include the youth collective in another city via Skype.

We had very deep and long discussions, starting with the new comrades' questions.

Comrades explained that the Inter-

national Communist Workers' Party mobilizes and organises the workers internationally to join the struggle towards communism. This will free the workers from the dictatorship of the capitalists. The Party is struggling towards building a communist society that will be primarily meant to meet the needs of the working class.

Other comrades explained that in order to be able to build this communist society, the working class will have to own the means of production, which are currently owned by the capitalists. We realize that they will not voluntarily let go of those means of production. Hence the only way is to take them by force through a revolution.

See [QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT COMMUNISM, page 3](#)

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Second Boeing Jet Crash:

Who Do You Trust: Bosses or Workers?

March 11—Boeing CEO Muilenburg and his pal Trump tried to keep the crash-prone 737 max flying. Along with Boeing's lapdog, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), they were eventually forced to ground them, but only after most countries banned the jet from their airspace.

The present spin says all that is needed is a software fix. In fact, the plane was knowingly designed to be prone to stall. A stall occurs when an aircraft tilts up too much. If the incline is great enough, lift decreases. Then the plane crashes to the ground.

"How can that be?" asked a Boeing friend. "Why would they knowingly design a jet that would kill 346 people to save a little money?"

That's the way he thinks, and most workers think, but not how the bosses think.

A few years ago, Airbus came out with a new single-aisle A320. It was more fuel efficient, in part because it had bigger, more modern engines. The Airbus wings were high enough to accommodate these bigger engines. It was a big seller.

The wings on the 737 were lower. The company could either design a new plane or raise the landing gear and position the engines closer to the body and more forward. Not surprisingly, they chose the second option because it was \$10 billion cheaper to develop, and it would get to market quicker.

The aerodynamics of this modification tended to make the nose of the plane rise. That's what causes a stall.

Murder for Profit

With profits on their mind, the executives convinced themselves they could compensate with a software program. The idea was that the software would automatically bring the nose down if a sensor said the plane was tilted too high. Instead,

in two instances in less than five months, the software crashed the plane.

Now the company wants to convince the flying public to concentrate on the software fix. Even if the fix makes it easier to disengage the automatic anti-stall maneuver, you are still left with an unstable plane. But a fix is cheaper and quicker than a total redesign.

Most workers have learned through bitter experience that profits are always primary for capitalist companies. So why did this particular worker have doubts?

The rest of the conversation offered a hint. "Capitalism is here to stay," he asserted when we began to talk about how this would never happen in communism.

He didn't want capitalism to continue, but he saw no way out. "Offer a worker a lot of money and they will give up the struggle. They are looking for an easy way out."

This cynicism could lead to putting more faith in the CEO (who actually does get a lot of money, \$30 million last year) than in his fellow workers. Even now, the truth is many workers are not looking for an easy life. They want a meaningful one. And this will only be truer in communism.

As workers struggled to come to grips with this tragedy, we saw some indications of our potential. When one racist said there would be no problem if those "foreign pilots only learned English," workers jumped all over him. They called his comment "racist bullsh-t."

Another worker had heard similar xenophobia on TV. A company spokesperson implied that Ethiopian pilots weren't as well-trained as U.S. pilots.

This worker was not about to let the bosses off the hook with this racist slur. He went to nearly everyone in the crew saying how stupid the spokesperson was.

It was also inspiring to see workers educating themselves about aerodynamics in a few days. This information has been hidden from "ordinary" workers. It has been restricted to university-schooled engineers. Even as the company and the FAA continued to hide what was going on, workers fought to understand the science.

In communism, all aerospace workers will learn the science behind what they are building. In turn, they will spread this knowledge to the population at large. Designing crash-prone airplanes in secret will become a relic of the long-defeated capitalism system.

**Soviet poster:
Pass the knowledge of
old manufacturers to
young workers**



Capitalism = Murder

March 21: The *New York Times* revealed today that the doomed Boeing jets in Ethiopia and Indonesia lacked two important safety features because Boeing charged extra for them. A back-up fire extinguisher in the cargo hold and oxygen masks for the crew are also optional.

What a dramatic example of a murderous system which places profits over human life!

One hundred and fifty-seven people in the Ethiopian Lion Air crash. One hundred and eight-nine people in the Garuda Indonesia crash. Because Boeing charged extra and the airlines refused to pay.

And "regulators"—the overseers of airline safety in the bosses' governments—did not require them.

Communism will eliminate money, markets, production for sale and profit. Our motivation will be human life and comradely relations of production. Nothing will be produced without every safety feature we can think of. There won't be "safe" airlines for the big carriers and less-safe airlines for others.

Boeing's nickel-and-diming at the cost of human life reflects more than the ghoulish essence of capitalism. It also reflects the desperate competition between Boeing and Airbus in a world where inter-imperialist rivalry is getting more vicious and heading to World War III.

Boeing and Airbus rightly see this competition as a matter of life-and-death for them. Eventually one of them will go under, as Boeing's US competitor McDonnell Douglas did.

In the process, they take us down with them until we rise up to overthrow them.

So, too, the larger competition between imperialists—especially US and China—for whose militaries Boeing and Airbus build war-planes. As *Red Flag* has explained before, the US is a declining power, facing a rising rival China.

In 2014 the Chinese Air Force had eleven Boeing 737s in service. Last November, Airbus teamed up with Lockheed to compete for US Air Force tanker contracts.

Just like companies, in capitalism imperialists constantly compete for markets, resources and labor to maximize their profits. This inevitably leads to crises, wars and world war.

As capitalist bosses move towards war, they increasingly build fascism to attack and divide the masses. At the same time, they promote patriotism to try to win us to kill and die for their empire and their profits.

We need to fight to get rid of capitalism and build communism—a system based not on mass murder for the profits of a few, but on the unity of workers to produce collectively to meet our needs.

For our own survival and that of our working-class family around the world, we must end this murderous system. Join us to fight for a communist world!



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Comrades Organize a Communist May Day in El Salvador

EL SALVADOR— “In the meeting before May Day we need to talk about the history of International Workers’ Day. That’s how people who come to the march will know why they march. The unions only take them and never explain the reason. And also because we must make a good plan to distribute our newspaper and the immigration pamphlet as much as we can,” suggested a worker leader in the last meeting of the Leadership Committee here.

We are planning our participation in the May Day March. The comrades are organizing in the factories, the fields, in school and the university, encouraging more people to join us.

The comrades of the industrial clubs are gaining more experience in organizing each of the party’s activities. They are doing so with a lot of discipline. They know that the mobilization of May Day is a great opportunity for *Red Flag* and our pamphlet “Fight for the Day When No Worker Will Be Called Foreigner.” to reach thousands of workers.

As communists it is our duty to promote the widest circulation and dissemination of our communist literature, to awaken the consciousness of the workers and to raise the understanding of those who are already organized.

Our farmworker comrades are also inviting their friends to join the Party, and also to attend the great march. This creates a broader collaboration in the communist struggle.

The street is ours! Let’s put an end to poverty and oppression and factory closures! In communism there will be no layoffs because there will be useful work for the whole working class.

The International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP) invites the working class to join our ranks and fight directly for Communism. Our political line must reach all parts of the

world.

Our goal today is to mobilize the masses for communism, as the only truly revolutionary alternative. It is not easy, but this is a collective struggle of men and women workers, students, farmworkers, and teachers. We are dedicating our lives to build Communism as the main objective of all the exploited and to build our Communist Party as its leading force.

Up with the working class! Long live Communism! Workers, communism is coming!



Discussing Communist Revolution with Industrial Workers

LOS ANGELES (USA) — “And how do you plan to make the revolution?” asked a worker who recently began reading ICWP communist literature.

He and two of his co-workers recently received *Red Flag* and the immigration pamphlet. “We explained that mobilizing the masses for communism is the basis for making a revolution. That we need thousands and then millions of workers. The people in the army and the masses in general must take these communist ideas and turn them into a revolutionary force.

We said that, although relatively small, our Party has members and political work in other countries such as Mexico, El Salvador, Spain, South Africa and India.

“That’s impressive,” the worker said, with a smile of amazement.

He told us about his experiences at work and how he has seen and felt exploitation. He says that the company receives three times more than what the workers are paid. He also commented that they were given a monthly bonus a while back, but if someone had an accident, they would take it away. This created conflict among the workers themselves. “It’s a way of dividing the workers,” he said.

During the meeting, the situations in Venezuela and Cuba came up. We explained that these are not communist countries, but capitalist ones. We talked a little about the revolution in Russia and China. But these revolutions left the foundations of capitalism intact and now they are openly imperialist. We said that in communism there will be no money, no exploitation, that we will produce to meet the needs of our own class, and that

this is the basis of communism.

It was a very friendly conversation. The worker brought a bottle of wine, but we didn’t open it because he was driving and one of his small children was with him.

We had agreed beforehand that the meeting was to invite him to the May Day Dinner and see how he can help us invite more workers to the event. He agreed to take the flyer to the other two friends so they can invite their families.

We also asked him to participate in our club meetings so that we could discuss many of his doubts and questions. We said that we would invite the other two friends also. He agreed and said he would try to participate in those meetings.

This is a new advance with a group of industrial workers, linked to the garment workers’ club.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT COMMUNISM from page 1

Currently these capitalists use the police and the military to fight among each other and also to control the masses and keep them from taking power. For that reason, the party mobilizes the soldiers (who are our class brothers and sisters) to turn the guns against our class enemies. That’s how we plan to lead a communist revolution.

Another comrade tried to answer the question of advantages and disadvantages by stating that there is nothing the working class is gaining from capitalism. They face exploitation, hunger, and death from preventable events that are caused by the capitalists’ pursuit of profits.

Therefore, the working class has nothing to gain from the current system. They have everything to gain from eliminating the system and building a society where they produce for their basic needs. That is the advantage of communism.

This is not to say there will be no problems and challenge. Contradictions are always present. But the working class, using the dialectical philosophy of struggle, will always try to find ways to solve them. The principle is to advance the class struggle and eliminate exploitation however it presents itself.

Communist society will ensure individual freedom because our guiding principle is “from each according to commitment and ability, to each according to the need.” This guiding principle ensures that individuals won’t be restricted by what capitalists’ markets dictate.

But individual freedom should not be confused with individualism, which is against the spirit of a collective. A collective consists of individuals and they are completely allowed to contribute in a way they can, to partake in every action.

The new comrades agreed with a lot of we said. They took 20 & 10 *Red Flags* respectively to distribute. They promised to commit themselves more. We agreed to hold such meetings every two weeks.



MAY DAY 2019

Mobilize Masses for a Communist World
Without Borders!

March with ICWP Wednesday, May 1
San Salvador – Los Angeles – Port Elizabeth
Seattle – Barcelona – Mexico City

ALSO:

Seattle May Day potluck: Saturday, April 13,
7:00 pm
Los Angeles May Day dinner: Saturday, April 20,
6:00 pm

Socialism is a Form of Capitalism

We've said this often, and we'll say it again. Cuba? Venezuela? China? The Soviet Union? European social democracy? Socialism has never been a step on the way to communism. It's not what the masses need.

"Revolutionary socialists" (like the Bolsheviks) distinguished themselves from "democratic socialists." They correctly criticized democratic socialists for trying to keep the masses from breaking capitalism's chains.

During World War I, revolutionary socialists stuck to working-class internationalism. "Working people have no country. We must fight for our class."

Democratic socialists betrayed the working class. They parroted the capitalists' bloody nationalism.

However, revolutionary socialism thought that it needed capitalist social relations of production like wages and markets.

The material base of revolutionary socialist society subverted the goal of communism. It turned communist leaders into a new capitalist class.

And it led them, too, to abandon working-class internationalism in the name of "defending the socialist motherland."

Now along comes *New York Times* columnist Roger Cohen. This self-described centrist Democrat says that capitalism and socialism can coexist (March 8, 2019).

Cohen praises the health and welfare systems in "socialist France." He notes that "Socialist presidents have governed France for half of the past 38 years. But France has a vibrant private sector. It is a capitalist economy."

The European rulers decided after World War

II, Cohen says, "that cushioning capitalism was a price worth paying to avoid the social fragmentation that had fed violence." In other words, to prevent workers' revolution. To prevent communism.

Says Cohen: "socialism or its cousin social democracy (as opposed to communism)" balanced "the free market and the public sector, enterprise and equity, profit and protection."

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Cohen and his class thought that "ideological struggle seemed over." They thought – or hoped – that communism was dead.

But "growing inequality and marginalization — byproducts of financial globalization — have thrust socialism center stage."

Not to worry, Cohen assures the capitalists. "Europe demonstrates that socialism and the free market are compatible."

"The dirty secret of European welfare states," he adds, "is that they tend to be business-friendly."

Cohen's goal is to persuade Democratic Party leaders to embrace charismatic young "democratic socialists" like congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (AOC). Why?

Because "the energy in the Democratic Party lies in the progressive camp." Without "a new era's left-leaning energy" he doesn't see how the Democrats can defeat Trump.

Not that he agrees with everything AOC proposes: "I don't think soaking the rich is going to get a Democrat to the Oval Office."

But beyond electing Democrats, Cohen has learned the lesson from Europe that socialism can be an effective way of coopting protest.



"The basic requirement of any Democratic candidate," says this cynical boss, "is to make the forgotten, the struggling and the invisible of American society feel visible again."

Feel visible! That's it? Are young radicals going to let AOC coopt them into the Democratic Party just so the masses "feel visible"?

Or will they reject socialism's snares? Will they learn that the masses can make revolution and transform society? That industrial workers, soldiers and sailors are key?

Will they step forward to mobilize for communism? Help figure out how to organize communist workers' power?

That ideological struggle is not over. It's just beginning.

LETTERS

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CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

Struggling Against Racism and Idealist Thinking

March 21— Like many, many others I joined a vigil last weekend in support of the survivors and the families of the fifty Muslims murdered by a white-supremacist in Christchurch, New Zealand.

A Muslim group organized the event and publicized it through local interfaith groups. About 50 Muslims did their evening prayers on the steps of City Hall. About the same number of non-Muslims surrounded them, offering symbolic protection. A short rally followed.

I see, in the massive worldwide outpouring of solidarity, the potential to mobilize masses for a world without borders. But I also see the danger of "idealist" thinking, religion in particular.

The mass slogan of the Christchurch vigils was "only love can conquer hate." Someone

said that to me. I replied that we need to understand there is a small class of people who benefit and profit from getting the rest of us to hate each other. I was going to add that to conquer hate we need to conquer that ruling class, but she had stopped listening.

Love can conquer hate—seriously? Love can stop BJP fascists in India from terrorizing and massacring Muslims? Love can stop Bolsonaro from persecuting LGBTQ people and planning genocide against indigenous people in Brazil? Love can stop US immigration officials from separating families at the border and jailing asylum-seekers in freezing cells?

Not in the real world.

This ridiculous pacifist slogan might make sense if you think that "god is love." And if you are relying on this this supposedly all-powerful

god to... do what? Change the "hearts" of white-supremacist murderers?

The problem is that most people don't yet see that "hate" is the racism, religious prejudice, sexism and xenophobia that the capitalists use to divide the masses. That's how a tiny ruling class can continue to exploit and oppress the whole working class.

Maori academics and activists have noted that the Christchurch shootings were not the "worst massacre in New Zealand history" as some have said.

"We have lived with historical and colonial terror and trauma since 1642 and we continue to live with racist violence," said a Maori leader. But even this link between racist violence and "colonialism" does not point to the root of colonialism: capitalist imperialism.

Why do so many people engage in wishful thinking (idealism)? Is it because they don't see the material roots of racist violence? The masses' potential to uproot the system of racist capitalism? That communism can end racism?

When we know someone well, we can begin to find out. We can try to win that struggle.

In the meantime, it's important to know that when religious groups are the ones organizing protests against racism, non-religious people who want to fight racism will be there too.

I got into some good conversations at the vigil. I gave out three copies of our new pamphlet about xenophobia and made several contacts with people from other countries.

Yes, it's a contradiction when communists take part in religious activities. Life is full of contradictions — and struggle.

—Los Angeles area (USA) comrade



Reforms, Revolutionary Violence and Materialism

Recently US Senator Elizabeth Warren introduced a bill in the US Senate that would require giant US corporations to “create a general public benefit” and balance their profit with “the best interests of persons that are materially affected” by the company. This is part of Warren’s 2020 presidential bid.

This bill will never become law. Even if it did, what it demands is impossible. Capitalism is a system based on exploitation, on the capitalists taking the new wealth that workers create and turning it into their profits. This capitalist-worker relationship is part of material reality.

Relations of Production are Material

“Material” means that capitalism is something real. It has a permanent nature and its own “laws of motion.” These economic laws must operate whether people like them or hate them, just like laws of nature.

Under capitalism, the rich get richer and social inequality grows. Profits are only possible if wages are kept down. Capitalist competition means that any company that doesn’t maximize profits will get eaten alive by its competitors. The rate of profit gradually falls and creates giant crises as in 2008.

Karl Marx discovered these laws of motion a long time ago. The facts show that they still apply today. The condition of the masses is getting worse in many places.

In the US, most new jobs have low wages. Affordable housing is just a dream. Retirement is a thing of the past for most people.

In most other countries the situation of the masses is far worse.

Reforms are Small and Temporary

Warren’s bill is just a part of an election scam.

But in many places the masses are fighting for reforms inside capitalism. Teachers’ strikes in the US and the “yellow vest” movement in France have forced some concessions from the bosses. But these gains will last only until capitalists figure out how to take them back.

It is impossible for capitalism to serve the masses. Its laws of motion can’t change, but it can be destroyed and replaced with communism.

Capitalists Rule All Governments

Getting rid of capitalism means overthrowing capitalism, which now rules everywhere on the planet, whether in its “private ownership” or socialist forms.

Capitalists control the parties in elections in every country. They sponsor or bribe all the candidates. Candidates who promise that capitalist corporations will serve the masses are the biggest liars of all. Elections can’t change capitalism or eliminate it. Capitalist governments must be overthrown.

Revolutionary Violence

Humanity has had a lot of experience with overthrowing ruling classes. This experience shows that exploiters never give up peacefully.

Slavery, feudal aristocracy, the rule of the Bourbons in France and the Czars in Russia all had to be overthrown by violent revolutions.

Today’s capitalists have powerful militaries to defend their rule, but they have a critical weakness: the military ranks are filled with working class people! That is why ICWP organizes soldiers and sailors to turn the guns around against the capitalist bosses.

Capitalist Violence

While their rule continues, capitalists kill hundreds of thousands every year in their imperialist

wars. In Syria, Yemen, Libya, Ukraine, Iraq and Kashmir, capitalists fight and massacre. Other capitalist powers arm themselves for future slaughter.

Even without wars, capitalism murders our class siblings every day in industrial accidents, sub-standard or nonexistent medical care, environmental pollution and racist terror.

No Violence?

Some people hope that violence can be avoided and capitalist exploitation could end by some peaceful process. This refusal to deal with the material reality of capitalism leads to all kinds of errors. One is idealism—the view that material reality can be changed by just changing people’s thinking, or that somehow god will intervene in human affairs and change the nature of capitalism.

The answer to this is to understand the material reality of capitalism. Nobody, faced with a flat tire, thinks that the solution is to change the way we think about it, or to pray that god will fix it. Workers understand enough about the material reality of tires to get them fixed.

The exploitative nature of capitalism is a material reality. We must understand that this reality can only be ended by destroying capitalism. Ideals and ideas can motivate us to make this happen, but material systems can only be destroyed by material force.

Deciding not to use workers’ mass violence against capitalism means deciding to let capitalist exploitation and violence continue indefinitely. Join ICWP and help mobilize the masses to throw out capitalism and begin the communist organization of society to meet the needs of all.

LETTERS

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CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

Responding to Capitalist Propaganda

As the capitalist crises intensifies so does the capitalist propaganda against communist ideas. This is clearly visible in capitalist media but more particularly in capitalist educational institutions.

The capitalist crisis of overproduction coupled with automation (driven by profit maximization) has produced inequality of the largest scale. Life continues to be unbearable to the working class and the masses.

The masses’ dissatisfaction with capitalism is growing. They are looking for alternatives to this horrific system. But as this dissatisfaction increases, so does the capitalist reaction. The capitalists are responding with force and more propaganda to dismiss communism, which is the only solution to capitalism.

At the centre of this capitalist propaganda in schools, particularly in South Africa, is Karl

Popper (1902-1994). He claimed to have refuted ‘Marxism’ (more accurately, Dialectical Materialism) as Pseudo-Science or “reinforced-dogmatism”.

Central to Popper’s “refutation” of Dialectical Materialism is his claim that dialectics undermines the laws of logic by allowing two contradictory statements to be true at the same time.

Of course, this is not what the first law of dialectics says. It says there is Unity and Struggle of Opposites in the material world. These are processes that are connected which interfere with each other. They are united by both being part of the system but struggle with each internally within the system itself. This unity-and-struggle represents a Dialectical Contradiction.

An example of a dialectical contradiction is the one that exists between the bosses and workers within capitalism. The boss and the workers are united in producing the material

goods. But the boss needs to exploit the worker to profit, whereas the workers needs more money to afford their needs.

No rational person would equate the first law of dialectics with allowing contradictory statements to be true at same time. But Popper’s insistence that it does is deliberate. It is to undermine and dismiss dialectical materialism as a scientific methodology used to study concrete conditions or processes. Popper wanted to make more people, particularly students, more receptive to capitalism as the “scientific system” under which the rest of humanity must be governed.

In response to this intensified anti-communist propaganda, we communists (ICWP) must intensify our work, the mobilization of masses for communism. We should be clearly visible, aggressive in our approach especially where there is an opportunity to do so, like here in South Africa.

We should combat capitalism, refute its proponents and apologists, intensify our recruitment among students, soldiers and the industrial working class. Use dialectics to explain capitalism, its problems and how it is doomed and horrible to the masses. Use dialectical materialism to understand our own internal struggles, which in turn help us to grow.

It is a pleasure that in Cape Town we have a group of four students from two different universities who are forming a collective, learning about dialectics and mobilizing the masses for communism.

Student comrade



South Africa: comrades and friends planning for May Day

Brexit: Bosses' Crisis Is Workers' Opportunity

April 3 – Great Britain is scheduled to leave the European Union (EU) on April 12, with or without an agreement on how that will work. Prime Minister Theresa May is planning to meet with opposition leaders in a last try for an orderly “Brexit.”

Why should workers care?

1. Many white workers are suffering economically and disgusted with ruling-class politicians. Cynical “Leave” politicians mobilized many of these disgruntled workers around xenophobia and patriotism.

Now things are getting worse. The cost of living will rise while wages stagnate and social benefits are cut. Inequality and poverty are expected

to rise. Already in Britain, black and south Asian workers and youth are hit the hardest.

Let’s understand that all forms of racism are attacks on the whole working class.

2. Brexit will make it harder for workers to come to Britain from other EU countries. The British government plans to replace them with non-EU workers through “temporary migration programs.”

These workers would be highly vulnerable to abuse and super-exploitation. They would get no social welfare benefits. England’s “bracero” programs would drive down wages and working conditions for all workers.

3. Brexit signals the fraying of the post-World War II order. The EU developed in a 50-year process of greater economic and political integration. It was meant, among other things, to deter further European wars.

Like anything else, European unity contained contradictions. Some – like the Cold War opposition of eastern and western Europe – were resolved in ways that strengthened European unity. Brexit might, too. Or it could turn out to be the first step in a new fragmentation of Europe.

Britain itself could unravel. Its only land border is with Ireland, an EU member. Northern Ireland (part of Great Britain) strongly opposed Brexit. It could well secede to rejoin Ireland. Voters in Scotland also opposed Brexit. It could also secede

after 300 years as part of Britain.

4. Instability in Europe means sharpening inter-imperialist rivalry and increasing possibilities for war.

After the EU, Britain’s largest trading partners are the US and China. Both will try to cash in on Brexit.

Meanwhile, Russia-UK trade continues to grow, despite sharp diplomatic conflicts. Russia has been accused of trying to influence the Brexit referendum in favor of “Leave.”

Looming in the background is China’s increasing involvement in Europe. Italy just became the first European country to sign on to China’s “One Belt, One Road” program. Will this isolate Italy further from Germany and France, the core of the EU? Or will Europe follow?

* * * *

Capitalists have their nations, but we the masses form one global working class. We, but not they, can truly integrate production and distribution of goods globally. We, but not they, can provide meaningful work and necessary goods to our entire working-class family.

The only way we can do this is by mobilizing for communist revolution and a total transformation of society.

Sometimes this seems impossible. The international order of class society seems rock-solid and unchangeable. Brexit is just one indication that nothing could be more untrue.

When instability shakes up capitalist institutions, it’s our opportunity to topple them. Workers have nothing to lose but our chains. We have the world to win.



Climate Change Requires a Communist Solution

Disaster in East Africa Caused by Capitalism and Imperialism

**Mass deaths from Cyclone Idai expose racism, imperialism, class oppression*

**Capitalism causes climate change – it must be ended*

**Urgency expressed in Youth Climate Strike must translate into mass mobilization for communism.*

On March 14 and 15, Cyclone Idai swept through Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe in eastern Africa, killing hundreds of our working-class family. It wiped out 90% of the infrastructure of the Mozambique city of Beira. It displaced up to a million people.

On the same day that Idai made landfall, the One Planet Summit, called by French president Macron, started in Nairobi, Kenya. Kicking off “Africa Climate Week,” the rulers of African countries met in comfortable air-conditioned rooms. They discussed planting more trees. This deliberately covers up the growing imperialist investment in coal and oil extraction and coal-fired power plants in the continent.

Also at the same time, hundreds of thousands of students from primary schools to university in 123 countries staged a stay-away strike. They demanded urgent action on climate change.

Storms such as Cyclone Idai, Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico in 2017, and Hurricane Katrina in the US in 2005 lay bare the nature of racism, imperialism, and class oppression. The poorest and most oppressed people are those who die in these events. They are murdered by a capitalist system which turns a natural phenomenon into a human disaster.

But storms such as these expose the larger problem of climate change caused by capitalism.

Ordinary people are not the root cause of cli-

mate change. Campaigns like South African President Cyril Ramaphosa’s Good Green Deed, which encourages people to do one good green action per day, cover up the real problem. Just 100 companies produce 71% of all greenhouse gas emissions.

Mozambique is a prime example of the inequalities of global warming. The United Nations ranks this country 180 out of 189 countries on a measure of education, economic prosperity and life expectancy. It contributes a measly 0.14% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

At least half of the population of Mozambique lives in poverty. The divide between rich and poor is quickly becoming more extreme. The legacy of colonialism and civil war has made the masses vulnerable to extreme weather and rising ocean levels.

The UN’s August 2018 Climate Change report warned that drastic action to reverse climate change is necessary in the next decade. This underlines the urgency of mobilizing the masses for communism now, as we explained in *Red Flag* Vol. 9 #14.

This is what has galvanized young people around the world. They know that this is an unprecedented disaster. They are demanding that the rulers take action.

That’s like demanding that mosquitos stop sucking the blood of their hosts. Profit is the life blood of capitalism. And capitalist competition requires maximum profit—the survival of the masses on this planet be damned! We can’t expect that politicians who have always been in the capitalists’ pockets will suddenly fight for the well-being of exploited masses.

What the young people around the world—and

all of us—must do is get rid of the capitalist blood-suckers and their system. Capitalism can’t be reformed—it must be replaced. We need communism, where we’ll fight for safe renewable energy and infrastructure because the motive will be workers’ lives instead of profit.

The urgency that the young people feel about the planet’s survival must translate into urgent action to mobilize the masses for communist revolution.

As the mass murder of our working-class family in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe teaches us—there’s no time to waste.



Morocco: Masses in Motion Need Communist Goal

April 1 – Tens of thousands of young teachers in Morocco are entering the fifth week of a strike that began on the anniversary of the 2011 Arab Spring uprising.

These “forcibly contracted” (temporary) teachers don’t have the same job security and pensions as teachers with permanent government jobs. They have faced water-cannons, police beatings, and now threats of firing.

But this strike – like the huge protests that continue in neighboring Algeria – reflects deeper discontent. In 2016-17, anger boiled over in the Hirak Rif protests in northern Morocco, especially among the youth. Morocco averages 48 protests daily.

Despite the king’s promises to help the poor, there has been little change in the conditions that sparked the Arab Spring.

“I thought that we were going out to protest and by doing that alone things would change,” said a young woman leader.

This failure of a mass militant reform movement should open some eyes to the need for communist revolution.

Capitalist investors love Morocco’s “free markets” and privatization schemes. This includes EU imperialists (led by the French) who domi-



Striking Teachers in Rabat, Morocco, March 24, 2019

nate Morocco’s trade. It also includes their US, Chinese and Arab competitors.

But this is exactly the root of mass unemployment and growing misery among the masses, especially the youth. Only communist revolution can dig it out.

In February, Morocco reinstated compulsory

military service for all youth ages 18-25. These young soldiers must organize in the barracks to win others to turn the guns around for communism.

Teachers, textile workers, miners, unemployed youth and many others must join them!

LETTERS

LETTERS

LETTERS

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

Celebrate Holiday by Mobilizing for Communism

On a recent public holiday, I decided to go and mobilize because I felt that I could not sit back and enjoy the holiday. I decided to go to a nearby town. People are so interested about the idea of communism! But they ask how we will smash capitalism because it’s been centuries that we’ve been exploited by the capitalist system.

They even complained about the load-shedding (or “brown-outs”). They are struggling without their electricity.

They have voted to live a better life, but it’s the African National Congress leaders and their families who are getting a better life. Things are getting worse instead of getting better. We are working hard for them so they can enjoy a better life while we are being oppressed by the capitalist system.

I tried to convince them that we must mobilize the masses for communism. Then we will be able to smash capitalism.

They say that will take years to happen, while we are struggling now. So, comrades, I will still need some literature to convince them because they are still so interested. They were listening to me, giving me time to explain everything. I need some literature so I could explain exactly how the system works, how it will happen and things like that.

Aluta Comrades!

—South African comrade

Should College Teachers Strike?

On the 13th of February the staff of TVEK (Technical and Vocational Education Training) Colleges struck. They are the lecturers, cleaners and Security. That meant the whole school was striking, excluding students.

Some students couldn’t understand what was going on. Then some lecturers explained the whole thing. The students started to understand what the strike was for: increased wages.

The staff was complaining that the wages they receive are not enough for them. They have so many problems to solve, but the

wages they receive are not solving anything.

That was understandable. But in my mind, after five years they are going to start another strike again for the wages too.

To me the more you receive money the more problems you get and the taxation will increase too. That’s how our government works nowadays.

The strike affected too many students, especially the ones who are doing NATED (technical courses) because for them a year ends in June. Even the NCV (vocational) students were affected too. So that strike was affecting the whole people who were closer to it.

Even the lecturers were affected because the strike was for the staff who have joined NEHAWU (National Education, Health and Allied Workers’ Union).

Some lecturers did not join NEHAWU. So they had to stay home until the strike ends. But don’t forget that the work of the majority of the lecturers was behind too much. Also they knew as soon as things were back to normal and school re-opened, they were going to rush forward.

But then unfortunately the strike lasted almost two weeks. Then on the 27th of February many students got messages that school is back to normal. Now things are a little bit in a rush because lecturers want to cover those two weeks especially to the NATED students who start a new semester in July.

This is unlike NCV (vocational) students. They were a little bit safer because they finished a semester on December like others. A strike can affect the whole people so badly.

That is why we decided as a collective to go and mobilize those teachers who

were striking and recruit them to our movement. Tomorrow we’ll go to them with the message that even though wage increases work for a while, they are not a solution.

The only solution to the problem is a communist revolution that will destroy the need for money establish a communist society.

—students in South Africa

Red Flag responds:

Dear Comrades, thank you for your letter. It is true that fighting for higher wages never solves the problem because the capitalists have state power and use it to exploit the working class. That includes attacking any temporary gains workers get. But we disagree with the idea that the staff’s strike for higher wages was against the interests of the students. Students should have joined the strike, bringing communist ideas to it.

Both staff and students are part of the working class. In capitalism they are destined to be wage slaves. Both groups, like all workers, need to fight to abolish wage slavery.

We need to build a communist world where education and production will be organized to meet the needs of the masses. Our needs will be met without wages or money. That is the message we need to take to the teachers, staff, students, and all workers, especially in the midst of their struggles.



Students in Christchurch, New Zealand, perform a Haka, a traditional Maori war dance, in honor of the people murdered in the attack on the mosques on March 15, 2019.

Boeing Workers Reject “Replacement Theory”:

FIGHT TO REPLACE CAPITALISM WITH COMMUNISM

SEATTLE (USA) — After the New Zealand Islamophobic massacre, a friend bemoaned widespread hate and division.

“I think it’s more than hate and division,” replied a comrade. “It’s racism, sexism and xenophobia, which capitalism always nurtures. But as fascism becomes more necessary for the capitalists, they raise the level.”

“Exactly!” she said. “It’s a textbook case.”

The next day we discussed the New Zealand terrorist’s racist rant. He entitled it “The Great Replacement” after a 2012 book by the French demagogue Renaud Camus. Camus argues that white European women must have more babies. Otherwise, Europe will be overrun by Muslim immigrants from North and sub-Saharan Africa. This “replacement theory” holds sway in European anti-immigrant, right-wing parties.

Fascist demonstrators in Charlottesville (USA) echoed this line. Neo-Nazis chanted, “The Jews will not replace us! The blacks will not replace us! Immigrants will not replace us!” Then one ran over a counter-demonstrator, killing her.

“It’s a perfect storm!” our friend declared. “Racism, sexism and xenophobia rolled into one!”

Racist Eugenics: From the US to Nazi Germany

We then talked about the German Nazi state-sponsored *Lebensborn* (fountain of life) program that produced 20,000 “racially pure” children.

Lebensborn recruited some “pure Aryan” Nazi women to produce babies with SS officers, sometimes in one-night stands, and give them up for adoption. Some may have been raped by the SS. It also offered some “pure Aryan” single pregnant women an alternative to abortion. Eventually *Lebensborn* turned to kidnapping children. All 20,000 were sent to “proper Aryan” families.

Is Renaud Camus trying to bring this back?

By the third day, our friend had talked to more workers. Her closest friend was surprised she hadn’t heard about the Nazi program before. Actually, few people know about this.

Even more revealing, many workers who are usually savvy about racism, sexism and xenophobia, hadn’t heard about the role the U.S. “eugenics” movement played in this history. Big capitalists like Rockefeller and Carnegie funded it. Key leaders, like Harvard professor Charles B. Davenport, used elite universities as their plat-

form.

Eugenics helped to justify the 1924 Immigration Act. This implemented quotas favoring immigrants from northern and western Europe. It drastically reduced arrivals from Africa and southern and eastern Europe, including Jews and Italians. It stopped immigration from Asia.

These policies were developed to counter what President Theodore Roosevelt had called “race suicide” and the dwindling of the Anglo-American “stock.” They complemented attacks on immigrant workers, many of them socialists or communists, who were leading class struggle.

The US eugenics movement faded during World War II, when its Nazi connections became a liability. However, racist capitalism soon regenerated a new eugenics movement. Again, its leading mouthpieces came from elite universities. This time, there was more push-back from students and teachers inspired by mass anti-racist rebellions of black workers.

The Battle in The Working Class

Replacement theory reflects a time like that of the Nazis. Capitalism is again in crisis. Many rulers in Europe, the US and elsewhere want masses of white and/or citizen workers to blame immigrants (particularly of different “races”) for sharpening attacks on the working class.

Replacement ideology serves to turn people’s fears into this fascist movement. As the manifesto shows, it contributed to the New Zealand massacre. But it also provoked a global mass anti-racist response.

This time the struggle will be centered in the working class. The battle must be to mobilize for communism.

Before last week, political conversations with



Soviet Poster: DEATH TO THE FASCIST BEAST! (1941)

this Boeing friend were limited to general criticisms of Trump and the bosses’ oppression of us. The New Zealand massacre and the ideology behind it is more serious to her.

She’s already begun to fight against this fascist ideology with many of her co-workers. She took an extra copy of the new ICWP migration pamphlet for her friend. This booklet was the first piece of party literature she’s read. It will help link this anti-fascist struggle more clearly to mobilizing for communism. With her and more like her, we can build a communist movement.

Racist, sexist, xenophobic ideologies are nurtured under this system and bloom into fascism as capitalism goes into crisis. Communism is the only way to end the emergence and re-emergence of these fascist ideas.



Students at Middlebury College, USA, turn their backs on racist professor Charles Murray, March 2017

The Flip Side of Replacement Theory

The repercussions of eugenic movements around the world go beyond breeding of the white race. They have resulted in millions of deaths.

The U.S. eugenics movement resulted in the sterilization of 64,000 people (for disabilities) in the twentieth century. Their disability was that they were poor, often black or latino/a.

California’s sterilization program was so robust that the Nazis turned to California for advice. Hitler proudly admitted following the laws of several U.S. states. Each allowed for the prevention of the reproduction of the “unfit.”

Then there was the murder of 8 million in the concentration camps.

But it didn’t end there. The Nazis used the ideology of *lebensraum* (living room) along with *lebensborn*. *Lebensraum* justified German imperialism in World War II. It said the Aryan race needed room to expand. Any other “lesser” races or nationalities had to be subjugated or eliminated throughout Europe.

The battle for the hearts and minds of the working class is truly a life and death struggle.