

COMMUNISM IS WORKING CLASS IDEOLOGY

In the last column, we discussed the capitalists' ideology, the lies that express their point of view. The working class also has an ideology that expresses its material interests, the ideas of communism. Although our means for spreading working class ideas are very modest at this point, those ideas have a material basis in the life of the working class.

Communist and Capitalist Ideology

Communist ideology is the opposite of capitalist ideology in many ways. For one thing, communist ideology is true or close to the truth, and communists always struggle to make our understanding better. ICWP knows that our winning weapon is the fullest possible understanding—by millions of workers—of the truth about capitalism and about communism.

Understanding capitalism leads the way to communism. Capitalism can no longer let us have what we need to live. Capitalism's imperialist wars and economic crises have already led to layoffs and firings, cutbacks, and lost savings, houses, and pensions. In the U. S. Congress, both Democrats and Republicans are determined to cut "entitlements" like Social Security and Medicare. State

governments are attacking public employees, cutting wages, benefits, and seniority. They are trying to destroy unions, even though the unions are already part of the bosses' state machinery. The world capitalist system has already created a planet of slums, and it is squeezing more out of the working class every day

Communism or Fascism

As U. S. capitalism loses its grip on key oil-rich areas, it must fight more wars—it now has one more in Libya. Rivalry between capitalist powers, especially between the U. S. and China, is bound to lead to larger wars. The capitalists' ultimate response to these severe crises is fascism, a combination of racism, patriotism and repression. Every day, workers' only choice is becoming clearer: communism or fascism.

Why Communism is Working Class Ideology

Communism is a society without privilege, ruled by the mass mobilization of the working class without bosses. So far, however, only a minority of workers are committed to this goal. How can we be confident that this will change? Or, speaking materialistically, what is the material basis for mass ac-

ceptance of communism? The answer has two main aspects: the miserable future that capitalism has to offer, and the collectivity of the working class.

Working Class Collectivity

Collectivity has been a key feature of human life ever since humans evolved. It was the way all humans lived until social classes were created. Competition and conflict—the opposite of collectivity—are built into capitalism (even in its socialist form), and their unity is limited except when they have no choice, like facing a major war.

The life of the working class, however, teaches collectivity. Capitalist organization of labor forces workers to learn to work together and disciplines us, especially industrial workers. The practical life of the working class also teaches collectivity. If your car breaks down and you can't afford to fix it to get to work, you have to organize other workers to help. At a higher level, struggling against the bosses can teach us how to use the power of collectivity in practice.

Capitalism also limits how much collectivity can exist, even in the working class.

"What's in it for me", as well as racism, nationalism, and sexism are types

of boss thinking that are pushed everywhere under capitalism and undermine collectivity. But the working class has a potential for unity and collective action that the bosses cannot equal. More importantly, communist organization of society with mass participation and without privilege, is the highest expression of human collectivity, the ultimate development of the collectivity that workers learn in life.

Learning to Win

The knowledge of how to win that ICWP has developed so far, based on a theoretical understanding of capitalism and the experience of past revolutions, is critical for communist victory. We must, however, improve that understanding by taking up the collective experience of the working class, and mobilizing the creativity and determination of millions of workers. Only the party can make possible both the correct analysis of our collective experience and the mobilization of the working class that will carry us through to victory, but it can do this only because communism is the true working class ideology.