

SOLDIERS DISCUSS COMMUNIST PHILOSOPHY OF CHANGE

While pulling guard duty one night with a few other soldiers we started a very good discussion regarding dialectics.

It started off as a conversation regarding different philosophical topics. We started off discussing Descartes and then moved on to Plato. Next we moved on to how many truths there are in the world. I was very into the conversation and when I got the opportunity I introduced dialectics into the conversation.

None of the soldiers knew what it was, but some had heard of it. I began by explaining to them the difference between idealism and materialism, the scientific way of looking at the world. This intrigued them very much, especially since most of them had heard of idealism and materialism but didn't know the real meaning of either. Most of them were using the media definitions—like idealists care about other people and materialists are all about the money. After a pretty long discussion about whether they themselves were idealists or materialist we had to end the conversation because our shift was over.

I really didn't know the impact I had made on them until the next morning. While standing in formation, the guys I had pulled guard duty with the night before all came up to me and even brought a few others with them and asked me to continue on discussing what I knew. This time I started off by explaining to them what dialectics is. Once I was done explaining dialectics I introduced them to dialectical materialism: the philosophy of change, which includes all processes, including how to change the world.

The way they hung on to every word I said was amazing. We continued the conversation every chance we got, each one bringing new questions every time. I was amazed at how much they enjoyed discussing dialectics. It just goes to show that we shouldn't fear discussing deep topics like this with soldiers or anyone else.

Later, one guy asked me how I knew so much about this stuff, and I told him about this paper I read, *Red Flag*. He got really interested in it, and we agreed that, since he's going home soon, I would send him the paper when he got home.



ICWP has published our manifesto *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*. It's available in English and Spanish. Order your copy or copies. Please send donations for the costs of printing and mailing. We also ask for your suggestions and criticisms.

Write to : PMB 362
3175 S. Hoover St.,
Los Angeles, CA 90007