

# RED FLAG



NEWSPAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY \* WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG



## SAME ENEMY, SAME FIGHT, WORKERS OF THE WORLD, UNITE!

### SHUTTING DOWN THE PORTS SHOWS OPPORTUNITY TO SHUT DOWN CAPITALISM

Dec. 12—Today, demonstrations along the West Coast of the US disrupted and closed ports in solidarity with the longshore workers in Longview, Washington, and the port truck drivers and all dock workers. Longview workers bravely fought cops and goons to shut down the ports in the face of the bosses' plans to replace them with lower-paid non-union workers.

As the ICWP leaflet distributed in Long Beach showed, we need a society where all workers are welcome everywhere to contribute our arms and brains to build a world that meets workers' needs.

In a communist society, longshore workers and drivers will be needed to bring goods to other workers around the world, not to make profits for the bosses. Workers in Longview load grain to be transported around the world. At the same time, millions of people die every year of malnutrition because the bosses use the grain to make a profit, not to nourish hungry workers. In a communist society, workers will ship that grain and drive it to those who need it to feed their families!

#### Whose Ports?

Demonstrators chanted "Whose ports? Our ports!" It's true that workers built the ports and make them run, but the capitalists own them as their private property defended by the armed power of their state. Making them our ports, as they should be, requires a communist revolution organized by a mass party of millions of active communist workers and their allies. If we want to control all that we produce, we have to destroy the state power of the bosses.

This becomes more urgent than ever as US and Chinese imperialist bosses are preparing to go to war over who will rule the world. The Chinese bosses, by superexploiting the workers in China, have been able to take a significant share of the market for manufactured goods away from the US bosses. The union leaders are doing the bosses' dirty work for them

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### COMMUNIST CADRE SCHOOL DEVELOPS YOUNG LEADERS OF ICWP IN THE AMERICAS

A good number of comrades who came from several countries of the Americas, the majority youth, carried out an important and militant school of communist ideological training over two days, in which the political line of ICWP was explained, discussed and solidified.

The main topic was how to Mobilize the Masses for Communism, and once again it was made clear that communist revolution is the only road to defeat and destroy capitalism, which should be the only goal of the revolutionary process. The participation of each one of the comrades was interesting, from their favorable perceptions about the Party's line, to discussing the ideological-political work in their communities and factories.

Interesting topics were discussed, like the revolutionary struggle in the Paris Commune, the Russian revolution, the Chinese revolution and the Chinese Cultural Revolution. The errors of the comrades in these revolutions were highlighted, they made concessions to the bourgeoisie and they didn't understand that the masses could have carried out the direct battle for communism.

The analysis and discussion about the Party's work in the bosses' armed forces was very interesting. It concluded with the need to prepare comrades to enlist in these armies. We need to win soldiers to the Party, because to take power, armed struggle under the leadership of the Red Army will be essential.

We analyzed the role of our paper, *Red Flag*, which must always make the Party's line known, focusing every topic with a revolutionary perspective and the need for the Party to grow. We talked about the need to achieve, in the short term, an increase in the paper's circulation among those who sympathize with communist ideas.

Being more active in spreading communist ideas with the line of the Party to bring more comrades to the Party has been the commitment of every participant.

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## MTA, Boeing: Coal in Our Christmas Stockings:

### **BREAK OUT OF THE CORNER BY BUILDING THE COMMUNIST MOVEMENT**

“Workers think they’re in a corner,” said a friendly driver at an ICWP leadership meeting. He was commenting on how traitors in union leadership were able to railroad through two “holiday” contracts at MTA in Los Angeles and Boeing in Seattle, Portland and St. Louis.

He shared some ideas he had on how to overcome this problem and wanted to know what other comrades thought. Was the answer good lawyers and more militant trade unionism, or do we break out of the corner by building a broader political movement for communist revolution?

#### **Trade Unionism Enemy of Workers**

It’s become clear that industrial unions can’t function in the old way during this capitalist crisis. Trade unionism has always supported capitalism, but unions used to pretend to fight for workers. Now they are signing contracts that openly support class collaboration.

For instance at Boeing, Seattle area District president Wroblewski said he met with union members every day since the proposal was unveiled a week before the December 7th vote “trying to convince them to trust their employer.”

“It’s a big shift that we both [union and company] need to embrace,” he vowed in an email announcing the contract passage. “We’re committing ourselves to working together.”

Both these workplaces have a long history of workplace militancy. The MTA workers just recently rejected this contract at a raucous union meeting. This time the bosses added a \$1000 holiday bonus and union leaders refused to allow meetings.

Boeing workers are known for banging every hour (called rolling thunder by the rank-and-file) and marches through the plants. They have over-riden contracts endorsed by union leaders before. Our Party has exposed the traitors’ attempts to negotiate deals for 12-year contracts the last two summers. This time they negotiated in secret,

springing the contract on us in the middle of December with a \$5,000 bribe.

#### **Our Party exposes treacherous union officials’ dirty work**

At LA MTA our Party distributed hundreds of *Red Flags* and leaflets exposing the union officials’ treachery. We called on workers to reject the contract and organize a political strike against capitalism.

Although this didn’t succeed, many more workers are reading and distributing *Red Flag*, and giving us more donations. This is a big victory, one that sets the stage for future class struggle at a much higher level.

At Boeing, usually there are over a dozen union meetings during the contract process involving various different sections of the union. This time there was only one meeting of one section. They kept the rebellious meeting out of the papers until the weekend so the fight-back wouldn’t be publicized in the plants.

Our Party and its friends in the plants did, however, publicize a communist response with 450 flyers and nearly a hundred *Red Flags* over the course of two days. “Take Back What Should Be Ours” flyers were debated throughout the plants we were able to reach in such a short time.

A few friends helped us for the first time. One worker noticed that this was “not just any contract flyer. It was all about communism.” We discussed the potential for communism with him for an hour and a half. He wasn’t sure “human nature” would allow communism to succeed. He was, however, convinced enough to circulate our “communist leaflets” in a building we hadn’t reached before.

#### **Whose factory is this anyway?**

Many agreed with us that the union was lying about job guarantees. Within a few days, IAM national aerospace negotiator Mark Blondin was forced to admit that “we can’t stop Boeing from

placing the work wherever they want.”

We asked, “Why not?” Whose factory is this anyway? Our labor paid for all the plants and machinery, the fancy corporate offices and outsized executive bonuses. Only capitalist logic would hand over the fruits of our collective labor to the capitalists.

At their best, trade unions say we have the power at the point of production. They limit political activity to supporting the bosses’ electoral parties and demonstrations demanding reforms of the system. In times like these the unions try to make us feel impotent, at the mercy of bleak economic times.

#### **Workers’ power lies in mobilizing the masses for communism**

The world is awash with mass heroism as masses rebel against the attacks of Capital in crisis, like the rebellion at that one Boeing union meeting. The bosses press hides these stories of self-sacrifice and mass heroism. For example, where but in *Red Flag* did you read about the community defense committees organized by Greek electrical workers to make sure unemployed, pensioner and workers don’t get their electrical services cut off?

The truth is that our power goes beyond the point of production. We are not limited to narrowly defined economic strikes--strikes to improve our lot under capitalism. Power lies in mobilizing the broad masses of workers and allies for communism. We build our communist *Red Flag* networks in the plants to be able to move masses to revolution, smashing the bosses’ state.

Trade unionism always puts us in a corner, now more than ever. Mobilizing the masses for communism is how we’ll break out of the corner the bosses have put us in.

## **PORTS from page 1**

when they say that Chinese products coming to the US take jobs away from US workers.

This nationalist, reformist view blames other workers instead of capitalism. In the current crisis of overproduction and shrinking markets, the union leaders want workers to line up with the bosses to demand “US jobs for US workers,” with workers in other countries doing the same.

The capitalist wage system pits worker against worker: union vs. non-union, trucker vs. longshore, citizen vs. immigrant, US worker vs. Chinese worker. This sets us up to support one group of bosses or another in the coming global war for markets and empire. No reform demands can end this murderous competition for profit. Only communism will eliminate the wage system, profits and market. Led by ICWP, workers will unite to produce to meet the needs of the international working class.

In Long Beach over 500 people marched to the docks at 5 am. In addition to chanting “Whose ports?” many joined the chants of “Same enemy, same fight, workers of the world unite!”

and “The workers united will never be defeated.” Many demonstrators as well as oil and longshore workers eagerly took *Red Flag*, our communist leaflets, and *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*.

#### **Build ICWP**

Others admired our signs, “Tax the ruling class? Ax the ruling class!” Demonstrators tried to shut down the port, but the massive police presence in Long Beach and lack of organization on the part of the demonstrators meant that workers were sent to another entrance. Nevertheless, the protest successfully disrupted operations for several hours and many truckers refused to work.

Many demonstrators, angry at capitalism, successfully closed down ports in Oakland, Longview, Seattle and Portland, with the support of longshore workers, truckers and their families. Many of these thousands of workers and students are open to mobilizing for a communist world that meets the needs of the international working class and to joining ICWP. It’s up to members of ICWP and *Red Flag* readers to make sure that they and thousands more become readers and distributors of *Red Flag* and mobilize to reach tens

of thousands with our manifesto, *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*.



Marching with slogans like “Whose Port? Our Port!” with the American Flag show the danger that the Occupy Movement can be used by the bosses to build patriotism and illusions. We have to be in these movements with *Red Flag* and communist ideas.



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## INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST CADRE SCHOOL STRENGTHENS ICWP

A Cadre School was held in Central America recently where comrades from different countries participated. This meeting was very helpful to new Party cadres and the youth in understanding the communist line.

These activities are very helpful and important in developing communist ideas among the youth, especially since it combined the experience of the veteran workers with those of the youth. The exchange of experiences and carrying out work with other comrades from other countries strengthens and inspires the youth.

Many important topics were discussed, including: Mobilizing the masses for communism, reports about our work from each country, and a report about the international situation, which I gave.

Before the meeting we decided on topics and assigned responsibilities. I was chosen to speak about our international work. From the time I was given this assignment, I started to look for information, and to organize it, especially with regard to growing tensions and preparations for World War III. After preparing the information and presentation we had a collective discussion about how to present it. We used the most appropriate means for a better, clearer presentation.

In the meeting, this report was the first topic we discussed after the introduction and welcome from a comrade leader of industrial work. I explained the presentation in a concrete way that we could all understand. It was based on how the imperialist powers are securing their allies and the arms race leading to a third World War. We also talked about the rebellions in the Middle East, the cause of the crisis in Europe and the mass student struggles in Latin America—all results of the capitalist crisis.

Understanding why World War III is getting closer and why these struggles are happening world-wide will help us take our communist line to the working class and to Mobilize the Masses for Communism.

After my report, a comrade continued with a report about the capitalist crisis and how the masses are open to accepting communist ideas. It was a report that helped each of us to continue carrying out the work in the places where we are.

Understanding the struggles of the working class will help us to counter the struggles between the capitalists, and to see how to take the line of ICWP through *Red Flag* to the workers throughout the world.

These activities strengthen the ideas and line and help the youth continue fighting to put an end to the capitalist system and to build the communist dictatorship of the working class.

--Young Communist Leader

### CADRE SCHOOL, from page 1

Another is to build greater ties between the members in different countries and to fight openly and with commitment to destroy the capitalists as the ruling class, their armed power, their state apparatus, culture and all the other evils of capitalism.

Finally, it's worth stating that in this event the majority of the comrades who participated were young men and women with a high level of revolutionary consciousness. They were clear about the steps they needed to take, with an immediate goal of building communist consciousness among the exploited and the other sectors oppressed by the class that today is dominant. They were clear that the principal goal is the conquest of power, that is the installation of a communist system worldwide.

--A Veteran Comrade in Honduras

*This article was written by a young comrade reflecting his concern about the need to create a column in the newspaper where we discuss what life will be like under Communism. He made his thoughts known at a recent cadre school for youth in Central America. This young comrade is part of a club that is vigorously carrying out the work in El Salvador.*

#### Communist Column

"Communism will bring progress and well-being to the working class."

"How will the working class be organized under a communist system?"

I want to share some ideas about how we would live under Communism in everyday life. After a worldwide communist revolution we should, as a Party, have a clear political line to organize the working class and its allies. While this won't be set in stone, we need to start developing it now!

We need to use our imaginations and at the same time materialize these ideas to develop a better world for the workers

#### Life under Communism

Communism is a system where everyone has the slogan: "Either we all have beds or we all sleep on the floor."—Share and share alike.

Homes under communism will be determined based on the needs and geographical location of each family. A family in desert conditions will have a home adapted to those conditions just as a family in tropical conditions will have one

adapted to their conditions. In communities where a family of 4 residents is in a home that fits 10 residents, the family will be transferred to a home that better corresponds to their needs. Every home will have electricity, safe drinking water, a sewer system, etc. When the means of production are in the hands of the working class, we will know how to distribute goods based on workers' needs.

From infancy children will have doctors who live within their community attending to them. Every community will have doctors that can respond, but if there is an acute illness, the person will be transferred to a community hospital where workers will rotate work. Communities will collectively eliminate problems of delinquency and drug trafficking common to capitalism. Once the workers take power, with the leadership of their Party, they will decide what is in their best interest.

It will be under communism that the cure for cancer will be found, where there will be prosthetics in hospitals, where there will be the needed medical equipment, because under communism money will not be the deciding factor, but rather the welfare of families worldwide.

It is today that we must begin to share our communist ideas with the masses so that they will not be derailed into reformist struggles, but instead directed towards a communist revolution.

Revolution or death! We will win!

--Young comrade



### YOUNG COMRADES STEP UP

My experience with the trip to the youth cadre school was very enriching. I was able to understand more deeply the concept of communism and how that system will achieve a more equitable society. I understood more thoroughly the concept. At the same time I understood why in the current society the real meaning of communism is misunderstood and also why the "great leaders" want to keep it that way.

The work that each one of us carries out in the different countries where ICWP has a presence is important and very valuable since, as was explained in the meeting, as members of the Party, we should always be struggling to bring new people to know our ideas. This is the way to come out victorious and achieve equality for the working class.

I hope that ICWP grows more each time as a Party and that our struggle is triumphant.

--A young comrade, El Salvador

A few weeks ago I participated in an International meeting of ICWP. On my part, I'm a new member and the experience helped me a lot, since I learned more about the Party's line and about how a communist world will be.

In analyzing the document *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*, I was able to see that to forge a secure victory, we should all unite and make a collective struggle so that our objectives as the working class are met. Also we reinforced the idea that we need to involve the soldiers since they are a fundamental group during wartime to win to the struggle for communism.

The reports from the comrades from the different countries showed how much we're working in each country to win more people to our line. I say "our line" with the commitment to help in every way I can. I feel that I'm among comrades and I feel like an integral part of the struggle of the working class.

The organization of the school was very good and we must congratulate all the comrades for the work that they're carrying out for ICWP. In this way, little by little we'll grow and win more young people to the Party.

--Another young comrade, El Salvador

**READ, WRITE,  
DISTRIBUTE,  
SUPPORT RED FLAG**

## INDUSTRIAL WORKERS DISCUSS MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

LOS ANGELES, CA — “What is one of the most important things that has happened in the 21st century?” asked the young garment worker who was leading a meeting of industrial workers. In response to her question, some workers mentioned the struggles for democracy in Egypt and other countries in the Middle East. Others talked about the Occupy Movement. One garment worker said, “For the international working class, the best thing that has happened is the birth of the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP).”

The theme of the discussion was the document *Mobilize the Masses for Communism (MMC)*. The initial presentation was made by several workers who gave small but important details about the history of the class struggle and Marxism. They started with the struggle of slaves led by Spartacus, then talked about the Communist Manifesto, the Paris Commune, the Russian Revolution, the Chinese Revolution and the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution. They concluded with *MMC*, saying that it isn’t something that has

fallen from the sky. It summarizes what has been learned from the advances and errors of the struggles of the past. We said that we have confidence that the working class can take communist ideas as their own and create a mass Party that will be the base of a new communist society.

There were workers, *Red Flag* readers, who spoke about other struggles such as that of Che Guevara and of the FMLN in El Salvador. One *Red Flag* reader, a veteran since the 1960s of the struggles in El Salvador, spoke with tears in his eyes about those struggles, and the jailings and tortures that he and other comrades, men and women, suffered.

Another *Red Flag* reader who had come to his first ICWP meeting said, “The struggle for communism isn’t just to wave the red flag in marches, but also to go to the factories and politicize the workers.” This same worker said, “I have a friend who has been looking around for something stronger to fight for. He says that he’s only found groups of softies. I’m going to take him *MMC* and *Red Flag*. We’ll see what he thinks about

this.”

There was also a criticism that the comrade who talked about the Paris Commune gave too much emphasis on the defeat and not enough on the triumph. Other comrades answered that *MMC* makes a communist analysis of these struggles which is necessarily partial, but that we shouldn’t fear being critical, not just to make trouble but in order to learn and to advance the struggle for communism.

To end the meeting, a comrade summed up the discussion, saying that it was obvious that our struggle is not for democracy nor for socialism, much less for following capitalist politicians like Obrador in Mexico, the FMLN in El Salvador, Daniel Ortega in Nicaragua nor Hugo Chavez in Venezuela. In contrast, our struggle is to fight directly for communism. He emphasized that we should all distribute *MMC* and *Red Flag* massively. Everyone took extra copies for their friends and fellow workers.



### YOUNG WORKERS BECOME COMMUNIST LEADERS

MEXICO—Hello, comrades. I’m writing about the get-together that we had last month. In truth, the experience that I had was something new for me. I had never traveled in my life and it was something really new. But even though it was the first time, I think it wasn’t so bad. I did what I could.

The truth is that in spite of having been physically present in many cadre schools, I never participated. Even less had I ever been interested in communist politics in the way that I’ve now become interested.

My visit with the comrades made me very emotional. I was very glad to see how many young comrades are joining the communist ranks. I took much advantage of the participation of all the comrades since I got nourishment from all of them. Their ideas stirred my emotions so much that it makes me want to continue in the struggle and helps me understand that what we do is not an absurd waste of time. On the contrary, I think that there is a lot of work ahead.

I know it is difficult because we cannot change the way people think overnight. I can serve as an example. After 16 years of listening to communist ideas I am only now interested in learning more. Now I know that the time I spent simply listening was my true waste of time because I wasn’t putting into practice the ideas. But now I know everything must change.

In the past I could not tolerate being seated in a meeting for many hours, but the many lively discussions we had held my interest. The discussions helped remove my prior negative judgments, apathy, and even shame that I had. I should confess, I fear public speaking, but after watching others in the discussion, I was motivated to participate.

I think the meeting was nearly perfect, and I say nearly perfect because from my point of view I think it could have gone longer than two days, maybe three or four days, with breaks, of course. We could have perhaps also done other activities so we would not only be sitting listening and discussing, keeping in mind that there are many youth and that we could

think of ways to make it more fun. I also would have preferred it if we did not only focus on one topic, but rather have an agenda so we could discuss 4 or 5 topics and that these meetings not only be held once a year, but at least 2 to 3 times per year.

The meeting energized me to continue my long term or short term projects of distributing the newspaper more frequently, talking more with others about my communist ideas, and convincing others that the best thing that could possibly happen to us is not the paradise in heaven, but rather the best thing is communism, so that everyone could live in a real paradise here on earth.

Now what is left is to struggle, today and to end this rotten capitalist system. Well, I don’t know what you think, but for me everything was truly a victory because each day I get stronger doing communist work.

--Young Comrade Worker in Mexico



THIS IS A THREE-WEEK  
ISSUE OF RED FLAG.  
WE WILL RESUME  
OUR REGULAR  
PUBLICATION  
SCHEDULE IN JANUARY.

### MY FIRST SEMESTER AS A COMMUNIST COLLEGE STUDENT

Coming into college I did not expect many people to be open to communist politics because of the “college mentality” that many develop. Although I came into college with this idea, to my surprise many people have been showing their interest in our paper and ideology.

Also something else that I found shocking was the political discussion that several teachers shared with us in classes. It almost seemed that every conversation we had somehow tied back in to capitalism or democracy and how it is failing. Some teachers have been taking and reading *Red Flag* with good reviews and generally agree with what we have to say. With the Occupy Movement struggling to stay around and the rise in college tuition in the Cal State system, many students came out in solidarity to protest these constant fee-hikes on the poor, along with occupiers.

When I first decided to give a paper to my professor it was because he showed great interest in politics and a firm understanding of class struggle. When I offered it to him he took it with an open mind. When I returned to ask what he thought of the paper he told me that he agreed with what we had to say about class struggle and that he had similar views.

As the year has progressed, my professor opened political discussions that offered the opportunity for me as well as other students to express our views. This led to many debates with students, some of whom I agreed with and others I totally disagreed with while still remaining respectful.

At the end of every session my professor would always express that democracy will never meet the needs of the working class. In the end, although my professor is not yet ready to join ICWP, I am glad that I had that experience with this teacher because he reminded me of a saying a comrade once told me: “there is a little communist in all of us.” I plan to keep bringing him the paper.

Overall this semester has shown me that many people, including college students, are dissatisfied with the status quo and are more than willing to protest against it for change. Distributing and reading *Red Flag* offers us the chance to show students as well as the general public a communist society worth fighting for.

--Red Student

## Workers Learn the Hard Way:

### **CAPITALIST GOVERNMENT ISN'T NEUTRAL**

“It’s a hard struggle with these workers to get them out of the trade union mentality,” said a bus driver. “It’s a hard struggle with me. It’s what we know.”

“It’s about seeing things like they really are,” said a comrade. “Like this afternoon, they’re counting the ballots for the contract vote. The appearance is that there are two equal sides, with representatives from both the union and management, and a neutral representative of the government making sure that everything is done right.”

“Exactly,” said the driver. “But you know which side the government is really on.”

“That’s the essence of the situation. The government is what Marx called the executive committee of the ruling class. The U.S. National Labor Relations Board was set up in 1935, during the Great Depression, when workers under communist leadership were fighting in the factories

and in the streets against the bosses, and masses could see that capitalism had failed. It established “labor peace” and confined the struggle to the legal collective bargaining process in a period when the ruling class had good reason to fear revolution. It was the weakness of the old Communist Party that they went along with it. We won’t make that mistake again.

#### **What will replace the capitalist state in a communist society?**

Mobilizing the masses for communism before and after the revolution means that the working class will govern through our Party. Through it we will make all the decisions about work and the distribution of goods to meet the needs of our class. We won’t have bosses who are trying to squeeze the last drop of blood out of us while we’re just struggling to survive. We won’t have lawyers who spend their time arguing the technicalities of the words written in law books or contracts.

Our struggle will be how to make sure, for example, that we get people and things where they need to be in the safest way possible. If perishable food needs to be harvested right now, transportation will be organized to get workers there. And the food will be taken to the people who need it. Transportation workers, organized and mobilized by their Party, will have a big role in that.

#### **Governments conceal class rule: ask the miners in West Virginia**

Capitalism is a class society, where the ruling class that owns and controls the banks and big corporations controls the government. In the US, they say that it’s a democracy, and that the government treats everybody equally. Ask West Virginia miners if they believe that.

Last week, when the final report came out about the industrial homicide that killed 29 miners in the 2009 Upper Big Branch explosion, it became clear that the federal government knew about the gas leaks that caused the explosion, never required that they be fixed, and that there will be no criminal prosecution of the mine owners. A \$200 million fine is a slap on the wrist to Massey Energy, and it shows that the Mine Health and Safety Administration is working in the interests of the company, while pretending to protect the workers. This isn’t new. Massey Energy also owns Blair Mountain, the site in 1921 of the largest mass insurrection since the US Civil War, where coal miners fought the coal bosses and the local government. US Army airplanes were sent in to bomb the miners from the air. So much for impartial arbitration of labor disputes.

It’s time for West Virginia miners, LA bus drivers, and the rest of us to lose our illusions in the impartiality of the government. We need workers’ power, where we rule society through our Party, mobilizing the masses to build a society where we organize production and distribution of goods and services for need, not for profit. But the only way we’ll get it is if we mobilize the masses for communism now, instead of being caught up in the dead-end trap of union contracts and law suits. Join us!



**The Battle of Blair Mountain, West Virginia**

## **MORE ON THE DEBATE OVER RULES AND LAWS**

### **HOW WILL THE MASSES RULE IN COMMUNIST SOCIETY?**

*The previous article discussed how capitalism created the “Rule of Law” as its form of class dictatorship.*

For tens of thousands of years, people lived as equals. Social norms (“dos and don’ts”) were expressed and enforced very differently from capitalism’s Rule of Law. Some such societies survived capitalism.

We communists don’t romanticize these societies or try to turn back the clock, as some anarchist “indigenistas” do. Still, we can learn from them.

For example, the Lakota people (North America) traditionally valued bravery, generosity, wisdom, respect, perseverance, humility, truth, and compassion. Unlike the competitive, acquisitive, selfish values of capitalism, Lakota values fostered collective survival. Cultural-ethical norms were not rules or laws specifying penalties for infractions. They were transmitted through proverbs, stories, and songs.

The !Kung people (southern Africa) maintained traditional ways into the 20th century. All men and women had equal status. They decided things by talking until the group agreed. They had a gift economy, without trading or money or markets.

European observers described !Kung naming and marriage practices as “rules” but !Kung people handled even serious norm violations (like homicide) through their collective decision-making process. Penalties ranged from ridicule to (in extreme cases) separation from the group. The group is very important to the !Kung, who spend most of their free time telling jokes and stories,

singing and dancing.

Sometimes pre-modern “taboos” are given as examples of laws. However, taboos are more closely connected with magic, which is related to science, not law.

#### **Communist Principles and Relationships**

Communist society will be like traditional communal societies but also different.

One common feature is that social norms will not be expressed or enforced by “the Rule of Law.” Whether we refer to the “do’s and don’ts” as rules or laws or not, The Law won’t exist. Communist social relations of production will let us understand social norms in ethical, not legal, terms.

Norms will be enforced mainly through social relationships. People will usually “do the right thing.” It will seem natural, and they will want the approval and affection of the group.

There will be near-universal participation in decision-making. Serious problems (“crime”) will be handled mainly through usual decision-making processes.

Scientific communism will be different because we are now better able to express norms of collectivity as general principles like the Golden Rule and the Onondaga injunction, “Think for yourself and act for others.” Earlier non-class societies practiced “From each according to ability and commitment, to each according to need.” Communism makes this principle intentional. Communist practice is based on our knowledge and hard-won understanding.

We have experienced other, far worse, social systems. Capitalism is systemically unethical. It

can’t encourage the masses to think for ourselves. Its Rule of Law protects bosses who exploit us in ways they wouldn’t want to experience.

But capitalism created a working class capable of leading the masses to communism. The consciously-communist masses will fight ferociously to prevent the re-emergence of class society.

In earlier societies, basic social relationships were small kinship and clan groups. In communism, relatively small groups based on work and daily life will be much more important in our lives than they are in today’s alienated capitalist world. Building deep ties with co-workers, fellow soldiers, and classmates is central to communist work. Such ties are based on open, principled struggle.

In communism, though, we will be interconnected worldwide through one International Communist Workers’ Party. That’s how the world’s masses will make decisions collectively about work and everything else. Building this Party is the core of communist work. We need many more of our regular *Red Flag* readers to help with this.

Communism will make our most deeply-held principles into the reality of our lives. That requires armed struggle to destroy every remnant of capitalism, and much more. More than customary practice, more than traditional norms. It requires the knowledgeable participation of millions, eventually billions. The principle “Mobilize the masses for communism” is more than a slogan. It’s a way of life.

**Loan Sharks and Empty Apartment Towers**

**CHINA'S CAPITALIST CRISIS DEMANDS COMMUNIST RESPONSE**

The gigantic Chinese working class is awakening. In July 2009, Jianlong Steel workers organized a general strike against privatization and massive lay-offs. An economics professor relates:

“When the general manager threatened to fire all the strikers, the enraged workers beat him to death. Although the provincial governor and thousands of police were at the scene, no one dared intervene. ... Jilin Province was forced to cancel privatization plans.”

Chinese capitalism has not escaped the global crisis. The US is so deep in debt, it will never repay its creditors. The Euro, currency of the world's second-largest economy, will only survive (if at all) with a radical restructuring. The world's leading manufacturer, China, is stuck in a crisis of overproduction.

Communism won't have debt or crises of currency or overproduction because it won't have money. The masses, through our communist party, will organize production. We'll struggle to build everyone's commitment to contribute our labor for the common good. We'll share according to need.

In communism, workers won't need to strike. We will be in charge! There won't be managers over us or cops to beat us into line. Masses of Chinese workers wanted communism in the 20th century but their hopes were dashed by party leaders who became the new capitalists in the name of “New Democracy” or “Socialism.”

Now we understand that the masses must be mobilized directly for communism. The current crisis presents the opportunity to win.

**Serious economic crises usually surface as financial crises.**

The image of tower after tower of empty, newly-built high-rise apartments in China has sent nervous jitters through the world stock exchanges. Beijing reacted to the US-European crisis by unleashing cheap credit to the state banks. This didn't help workers. Instead, it “has driven overinvestment and pushed up real estate prices to levels many families can't afford, adding to social tensions and possibly setting the country up for a bust.” (*Bloomberg News*, a US financial newsletter)

Then, as credit tightened by way of correction, a massive off-the-books lending market developed.

This underground market lent to small and medium-sized businesses and municipal governments, which are now threatened with bankruptcy.

Why would municipal governments risk taking money from loan sharks? The answer lies in part with their fear of the working class.

The Jianlong general strike set off a 2010 strike wave in coastal industrial areas, forcing wage increases and raising the ‘costs of production.’ This year a new strike wave broke out in the Pearl River Delta region.

This threatens China's role as the principal supplier of cheap labor to the world's economy. Instead, China is developing as an imperialist power. Already, some investments are being diverted to Vietnam and India. In coastal China the average industrial wage is \$117- \$174 per month. In Bangladesh it's \$64 per month.

**Working Class Grows, Unemployment Soars, World War Looms**

From 1980 to 2007, the number of wage workers grew from 1.9 billion to 3.1 billion. The world's working class is now bigger than ever.

By 2030, wage workers may become the majority of the world's population. However, about two-thirds of them are working part-time or not at all. Twenty-three million US workers were laid off because of the crisis, and more layoffs are likely in Europe as its



**Empty apartment towers and a deserted highway in Inner Mongolia**



**Workers on strike in Shanghai, August 2010**

crisis deepens.

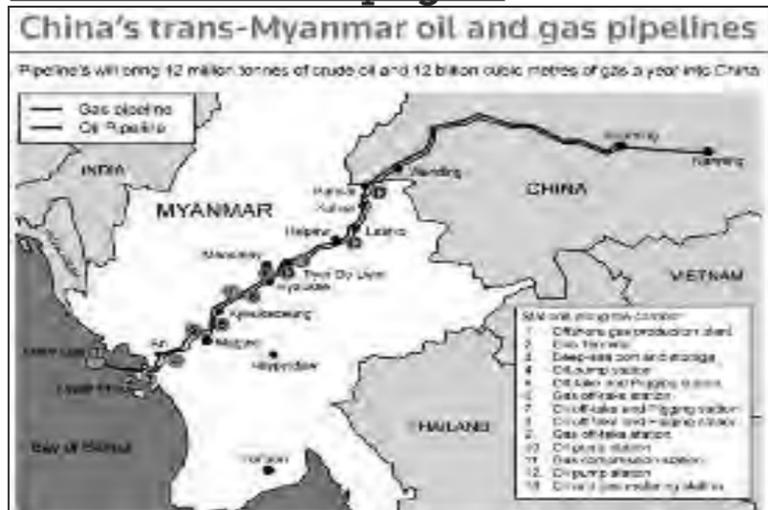
Developing capitalism drove billions of us into the money economy and wage slavery. Capitalists exploited the huge supply of unemployed labor to squelch the demands of the employed. In ‘mature’ markets they used the threat of the run-away shop. In ‘emerging’ markets such as China's industrial Pearl River Delta, 16-hour days and corporal punishment are regular features of workers' lives!

These fascist labor conditions, especially in poorer countries, super-exploit workers there while driving down working and living conditions for the whole working class.

The present crisis demands that capitalists destroy this dramatically increasing army of the unemployed, together with factories, machinery and other means of production. No matter how cheap this labor becomes, capitalism gripped in a worldwide crisis of overproduction can't employ these workers profitably.

The bosses destroy these “unusable” workers and factories through world wars. The immense scale of the present crisis means, at the very least, a sustained period of social instability. Most likely it signals the development of a third world war. Meanwhile, the awakening of billions of workers unable to live in the old way opens up the possibility of revolution for communism and the end of wage slavery. Then we'll use everyone's labor for the benefit of all!

**MYANMAR from page 8**



and adjacent waters to be able to play their China energy card. Chinese imperialists are working frantically to avoid this trap. Spurred by the severe economic crisis and China's unstoppable growth, war is more and more becoming the US bosses' only alternative.

**Our Only Alternative Is Communist Revolution**

The conditions for revolution are ripening. Capitalism is losing its ideological hold on the masses as millions worldwide question it. Millions are open to our communist

ideas and leadership.

Unable to live as before, millions are fighting furiously against capitalism, impeding the rulers from ruling as before.

Only communism can provide the world we masses thirst for. As hundreds of millions of workers and youth are mobilized for war production and combat, the door for revolution will open even wider.

*Red Flag* readers must lead in building networks to massively distribute the paper and our manifesto *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*. They must join ICWP and help build it into a mass Party capable of leading the masses to power and the building of a communist world.

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## LETTERS

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## CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

### Talking to MTA Drivers About Occupy LA

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 6—"I've seen the paper... there's some good stuff in there," said a black, female MTA operator who took *Red Flag* and a leaflet about a fellow operator who stood up to a racist manager. I thanked her, as I offered her more literature to take in and followed up with, "So, what do you think about what's going on over there?" I asked this, pointing to City Hall and the still-visible aftermath of the fascist LAPD crackdown on Occupy Los Angeles just a few blocks away, where four helicopters still hovered overhead.

"It's so terrible that they're attacking those non-violent people over there," she answered. I agreed and responded with, "The rulers' system is in crisis and, as it gets worse, their brutality against workers will intensify and it won't end until we smash it with communist revolution". As she nodded her agreement, I asked, "By the way, did you know the bosses commandeered more than fifty MTA buses to transport 1,400 cops into downtown for the raid?"

When the worker replied that she hadn't heard this, I asked, "Why do you think that parking lot is empty, when it's usually almost full by now?" She shook her head in disgust. I said that drivers urgently need to discuss resisting such assignments and that, as the attacks intensify, it wouldn't be long before they would be asked to do it again. "More than this though, if the bosses managed to get other drivers, mechanics must see that they have a role too, in making sure the buses are inoperable".

"That's really something to think about," she said, as she rushed into the yard to clock in. Conversations like these show that workers see the situation in which we find ourselves and understand it much better when put into a revolutionary communist perspective.

--Red Flag Distributor

### College Students Debate Revolution vs. Reform

"What kind of world have we inherited? What kind of world will you help to build? OCCUPY!"

Forty students responded to this call to a street meeting at an urban community college at the very



end of the semester. Sixteen students, men and women, black, latin and white, spoke on the mic. Most had never done that before, so this was a big step for them. They reached hundreds of their fellow students with their stories and opinions. Several teachers listened, too, and congratulated the students on speaking up.

"We should do this every week!" said one student. She and others signed up to join the activist club that sponsored the event.

Mainly students were mad and worried about the fee hikes, class cuts, and rule changes that threaten to keep them from completing their studies. But they were also inspired by the Occupy movement. They were furious about police violence against Occupiers especially on California campuses. And they were eager to talk about how they could make a difference and change things.

Several sharp disagreements emerged. Some speakers repeatedly urged students to register and vote, while others voiced bitter hatred of all politicians. Four students called for revolution. One of them described the world without money that we have to build.

Almost all attendees harbor the illusion that a college education will both advance them personally and enable them to help others. But several pointed out that our lives will be shaped by the global capitalist crisis and its growing wars, no matter how many degrees we get.

Several students shared *Red Flag* with others at the event. Our paper's circulation is growing slowly on this campus, but it's nowhere near what it can and should be. Regular readers need to be bolder in taking *Red Flag* and its ideas into their classrooms. Their fellow students include bus drivers, health care workers, veterans, plus future soldiers and industrial workers and many more who will mobilize for communism all over the city -- when we give them the chance!

— Campus Reds

### Industrial Workers: Key to Revolution

The demonstration at the Port of Long Beach revealed several contradictions in the Occupy movement. Young people in this movement don't like capitalism. But industrial workers and soldiers are key to revolution--the only way to put an end to capitalism. Many in the movement are unclear about this, and ambivalent about the working class. On the one hand, they reached out to the workers, in support of the Longview strikers. On the other hand, many participants were angry at the workers for going to work when the union had not sanctioned the picket line. And few joined us when we chanted "Same enemy, same fight, workers and students must unite!"

Several port workers put their fists in the air when they saw our sign "Abolish Borders and Wage Slavery with Communist Revolution." Other signs showed that occupiers are open to communist ideas. One said, "We don't need bosses or CEOs. We have each other." Another said, "We do the work, they take the money."

We made it a point to distribute *Red Flag* and *MMC* to the workers waiting to get in to work. One worker told us, "Good luck!" When we responded,



### Abolish Borders and Wage Slavery with Communist Revolution

"Good luck to you; we're all in this together," she agreed, and took *Red Flag*. A group of oil workers said that we should come back all week!

An early riser *Red Flag* distributor

### Greetings to all the comrades:

We're about to send *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* to the printer.

We want to congratulate you for your effort during this second year of ICWP. We are impressed because you have known how to carry on the struggle against wage slavery. The "3 o'clock in the morning" team has all our recognition and respect. Obviously, the others also, from the far north to the south. Never doubt that we see you as our leaders, who we will consciously and resolutely follow.

Our Party in other parts of the world has done an impressive job among the base that we all need to imitate. Nothing that we could write would adequately express the service that you are giving to the emancipation of our class.

Here things are advancing slowly; nevertheless we will soon begin to gather the fruits of our labor. We never stop learning, but we are sure that we are making the effort in the correct direction. Forward!

--Comrade in Mexico



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

### Questions for Red Flag Study/Action Groups

1. On page 3, a comrade says "In communities where a family of 4 residents is in a home that fits 10 residents, the family will be transferred to a home that better corresponds to their needs." Why not put two families in that home? More importantly, how will those decisions be made? And how will we decide what kind of new housing to build?

2. The report from the cadre school said that both young men and women participated. Why is it worth mentioning? How can we encourage more young (and older) women to take leadership? What are the obstacles we have to overcome?

# THIEVES ALWAYS FALL OUT:

## HOW CAN COMMUNIST PHILOSOPHY HELP US UNDERSTAND THE EUROPEAN FINANCIAL CRISIS?

### Appearance and Essence

The essence of a process, the reality under the surface, can be very different from how things look on the surface. In the mid-2000s, the Greek economy seemed healthy, but the government was spending heavily on armaments (against Turkey) and on a big public sector, running up debts. The European Union has rules that limit the amount a member state can be in debt, and Greece was over the limit. With the help of U. S. banks, especially Goldman Sachs, they were able to hide the debt with financial trickery—until the financial crisis hit. In 2010, the Greek government had to come clean, admit that they lied, and ask for a bailout.

### Contradictions Become Intense

Contradictions don't usually stay put. Their tendency is to become more intense and cause bigger problems. This certainly happened in Greece. There was a contradiction between what the Greek government owed and what its future resources were. Initially the European bosses' solution was simple: lend Greece some money and make workers pay with cutbacks and tax increases. The first deal, in April 2010, was to lend Greece \$61 billion. By May, worker protests and the downgrading of Greek government bonds to junk status made it clear that that would not be enough. The E. U. and the International Monetary

Fund agreed to lend Greece \$140 billion, with \$105 billion for Portugal and \$115 billion for Ireland, which were also in big debt trouble.

In July 2011, the Greek government asked for another \$37 billion to keep from defaulting on their debts, and workers' rejection of cutbacks grew. The big E. U. states, and especially Germany, demanded more cutbacks in Greece, but it became clear that Greece could never pay back the debt. So a new deal was made that meant that Greek debt holders would lose 50% of their investment, a so-called "haircut." This scared the big banks who hold the debt (especially German and French banks). They're scared, not just about Greece, but about other E. U. countries whose debts are big. It sent interest rates on government debt sky-high. The governments of Greece, Italy, and Spain were replaced, and it still is not clear whether the Greek government will get the deal it needs to avoid default.

### Necessary Development

Part of dialectical materialist analysis points out that there are objectively necessary developments that take place, results that are bound to occur whether anyone wants them to or not. The German bosses are getting a good lesson in this. Germany has been booming and the Euro currency is great for German exports. But the German (and French) banks have invested heavily in

the EU government debt that could turn out to be worthless. Some of these banks are already on the edge. If they fail the German government will have to bail them out. But it's doubtful that Germany and France can make the smaller countries do what they are told. Right now, they are trying to get the whole E. U. to agree to stricter rules so that the big states can commit the small ones to things they don't want to do. They also insist that there be no more "haircuts" for the banks.

### Limits of Capitalist Unity

Although it isn't a general principle of dialectics, it's a fact that the capitalists' capacity for unity is limited. Thieves always fall out. The contradictions among European capitalists, especially between the big countries and the weaker ones, are growing. There is a good chance that new rules to tighten E. U. unity won't work if they are adopted. Greece may default and the Euro currency may fail. If so, the crisis will spread across the world.

None of this could happen under communism. With no banks, no debt, and no money, and the working class's great capacity for unity, we won't have crises like this. Our challenges will be about how to best meet humanity's needs and take good care of our planet, not how to invest and exploit. Join the fight for communism, join ICWP.

## U.S.-Chinese Rivalry Sharpens

### MYANMAR: PARADISE, INFERNO, BATTLEFIELD

Myanmar (Burma) is a country rich in oil, natural gas, coal, and other natural resources. It is a paradise of forested mountains and fertile valleys irrigated by rivers with tremendous hydropower potential.

Yet, for its working class, Myanmar is a capitalist-imperialist created inferno. Ninety percent of its 60 million people subsist on \$1.25 a day or less. Thirty percent of its children under 5 are malnourished, while 10% die before that age, mostly from diarrhea.

Between 40% and 60% of Myanmar's population is infected with tuberculosis. Its health system ranks second worst worldwide.

Only capitalism-imperialism can create such destitution and death. Only communism, by destroying wage slavery, can liberate these workers from crushing poverty.

Now, US imperialists are fighting the Chinese imperialists over Myanmar's strategic geographic position and natural resources. US-style democ-

racy and Chinese authoritarianism are different faces of capitalism's brutal dictatorship. These butchers will further increase Burmese workers' misery, while bringing the world closer to World War Three.

### Hillary Clinton's Myanmar Visit Sharpens China-US Rivalry

In spite of the hype in the media, Clinton's December 1st visit did not win over the Burmese rulers, firmly allied with the Chinese imperialists. Her visit, however, did strengthen these bosses' resolve to stop US bosses' encroachment on "their backyard."

An editorial published in *People's Daily* and *Global Times*, mouthpieces of the Chinese Communist Party, views Clinton's visit as furthering US efforts to isolate and encircle China. It claims US bosses want to be able to bring China's economy and its military to a stand-still in a war scenario.

### Myanmar Crucial to China's Economic Growth

Myanmar, the editorial explains, is vital to China's future economic growth. It is the bridge connecting the country's southwestern provinces to India, the Middle East and Europe. This is the legendary "Southwest Silk Road" that the Chinese bosses want to revive.

They need to industrialize this region populated by 200 million people and export its products through Myanmar's ports

which "would shorten the distance between Western China and the Indian Ocean by 3,000 kilometers (1,900 Miles) ... not passing through the Strait of Malacca."

### Most Importantly, Myanmar Is Crucial To China's Military Survival

Underscoring the military importance of the Myanmar route, the editorial states, "In the worst scenario of crisis in China-US relations, a blockade of the Chinese coast and the Malacca Strait could be the cards the US is most likely to play." The bulk of China's export and 80% of its oil imports must pass through this strait.

This, the editorial admits, makes ever more urgent China's efforts to diversify its energy routes. It concludes: "China cannot afford to lose the Myanmar route."

A highway and pipelines from Myanmar's ports to China's western provinces are being built. These will transport China's exports and energy imports, bypassing Malacca, while shortening their exposure to US battle ships.

China is also expanding and modernizing its navy. The Chinese president recently called for "navy deputies to accelerate the transformation and modernization of the Navy, and make extended preparations for warfare." He camouflaged his bellicose plans, claiming it is "to make greater contributions to safeguarding national security and world peace."

### China-US "Cat and Mouse Game" Won't Last Forever

Obama's Asia-Pacific policy is not about opening markets and creating jobs. It is about regaining US primacy in Asia-Pacific by rolling back Chinese bosses' influence there. Without this, the US can't reclaim its position as the world's dominant power.

US bosses must control the South China Sea

**See MYANMAR, page 14**

