

# RED FLAG

## MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY \* [WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG](http://WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG)

**INDIA:  
TRANSFORM  
HATRED  
AGAINST  
SEXISM INTO  
HATRED OF  
CAPITALISM!  
FIGHT FOR  
COMMUNISM!  
SEE PAGE 2**



## TURN MASS ANGER INTO COMMUNIST MOBILIZATION!

### MORE QUESTIONS; MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNIST ANSWERS

SEATTLE, WA—"You're the man to ask this question," declared a young Boeing worker. "What is industrial capitalism?"

Many explanations of the world float around the shop, so to avoid confusion I tried to answer his question as thoroughly as I could.

I started by saying that the popular media sometimes confuse the question by contrasting industrial capitalism to finance capitalism. Capitalism is by definition a commodity system that produces products for sale. It invented industry, like the factory we work in.

Capitalism needed "free" labor to build industry. We workers had to be stripped of the means of production and forced to sell our labor power to the bosses who owned the means of production.

For example, the British bosses burnt, taxed and murdered the Scots to force them off their farms and

into the newly industrialized cities. That's how they got their "free" labor to build the first industrial capitalist society. The Chinese bosses repeated this process to fuel their rise this century.

At that point, I thought we needed a brief history of class society. I outlined how human history went from primitive communism to slavery to feudalism to capitalism. Now we had the chance to leave exploitative societies behind with communism.

#### From Girls and Sports To Politics

I described the exploiters and the exploited in each case. When I got to feudalism, I identified the kings and nobles as the exploiters and the serfs as those exploited. "You might have heard about serfs in high school?" I suggested.

"No!" he answered. "I was only interested in girls and sports in high school."

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### YOUTH BUILD THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS PARTY

EL SALVADOR—"I've been in the fmln because I hadn't seen or known another alternative to the struggle of the working class, but in this party—ICWP—I see the alternative that will solve the problems of our class," said a youth at the club meeting.

As the youth club of ICWP, we met for our last meeting of the year, with the difference that in this meeting, a new youth participated. Two comrades in this club were close to this youth, first as a friend in the fmln.

One doubted whether he should invite him to participate in the club meetings and asked another comrade whether or not to invite him. He encouraged him to invite him to the discussions. We talked with him about ICWP and *Red Flag*. This showed us once again that the collective pushes you to continue making the struggle when you have

doubts or you hold yourself back.

When we talked to him, we learned how he thought and his dislike of the capitalist system. He was a reader of our newspaper, *Red Flag*, and made criticisms and suggestions about how to improve it in discussions that lasted hours and with a lot of coffee. We invited him to the end-of-the-year meeting of the youth club.

All of those who are convinced of the struggle for communism must work with and be in contact with the working class to advance toward this future that the workers deserve: a communist society.

In the meeting we talked about *Red Flag* and how each article must reflect the line of the party. We began a discussion about how to reach the workers with *Red Flag* and the deal with the fear of communism that the bosses have instilled in men and women workers.

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**India: Masses Fight Cops, Sexist Attacks****COMMUNISM WILL DESTROY THE MATERIAL BASIS OF SEXISM**

A 23 year old student was brutally raped by six men in New Delhi, India. The news of this heinous, sexist violence against the young woman spread like wildfire. First university students and then workers, men and women, poured into the streets seething with outrage. The students abandoned their capitalist education. The workers contemptuously left their jobs of wage slavery.

When the victim died, the demonstrations spread rapidly to big cities and small towns across India. Bosses and their newspapers expressed shock and surprise at the ferocity of the demonstrations. Tens of thousands of police with batons, tear gas, water cannons and barbed wire were mobilized while the bosses' newspapers meekly reported 'hundreds' of demonstrations and soon censored photos of street battles.

In New Delhi, over 100,000 gathered near the presidential palace. The bosses shut down mass transit to prevent workers from gathering. They came anyway; some walked over 20 miles on a chilly winter morning. They were greeted with a volley of acrid, blinding tear gas. Undeterred, they surged and overran the first police line. Some fell under heavy blows from police batons. Instead of retreating under attack, the crowd surged forward, bringing down barbed wire barricades and overturning police vehicles.

The cops ran as the masses threw everything that would move. When the last police line was about to be overrun, the cops fired cannons of thousands of gallons of ice-cold water on the masses of workers and students. The crowd retreated and dispersed in disarray. The police thought they finally had the upper hand. They were wrong.

Within moments the crowd regrouped and formed an impenetrable huddle, men and women, old and young, arms linked, ready to surge again as the ferocious water cannons proved inadequate to stop them. Under successive police attacks, the masses of workers and students, many of whom were demonstrating for the first time in their lives, collectively learned military tactics of fighting the class enemy.

Now the heroic masses must learn an even more important lesson: the need to direct their militancy and passion against the capitalist system itself. Instead of demanding reforms from the Indian rulers, they must mobilize for communist revolution.

**Capitalist Sexism Rooted in Wage Slavery**

Oppression and violence against women have prevailed in all class societies. However, sexism, like racism, is specific to capitalism and its wage slavery. Capitalism stripped masses of men of the means of production and forced them to work for capitalist bosses by selling their ability to work. In early stages of capitalism, women did the household work of raising future generations of workers and replenishing workers' ability to labor. While factory workers, often including young women, received wages from the value they created for the bosses, women's household work was unpaid. This formed the material foundation for the sexist ideology that women are dependent and inferior. As capitalism forced more women workers to be wage slaves as well as homemakers, it created sexist ideology to divide male and female workers. Art, literature, music, movies, TV and the fashion industry objectified women and justified sexism while bosses made super-profits from the lower wages they paid female workers.

**The heroic masses must learn an important lesson: the need to direct their militancy and passion against the capitalist system itself.**

Communism will abolish wage slavery and, with it, the material basis of sexism. The Party will lead the working class in waging ideological and practical struggle to smash sexism in all its forms. That struggle must begin now in order to take advantage of women's leadership potential and build the unity of our class.

Throughout history, women workers have played heroic roles in fighting oppression. For example, in the early years of WWII Nazis had destroyed much of the Soviet air force. The Red Army called on women for air combat. Girls as young as 14 lined up along with other women to form the combat force of the Soviet air force. They quickly learned to fly and were fearless when facing Hitler's Luftwaffe. Soon they ruled the sky and the terrified sexist Nazis called them "Night Witches."

Events in India show that workers around the world are on the move. They are unwilling to be ruled in the same old way. From the streets of New Delhi, to Cairo and Athens, to the mines in South Africa, workers are gathering strength and losing their fears of fighting back. We are saddened by the horrific death of the young woman in India and the similar fate capitalism has for thousands more. But we are outraged and

more determined than ever to mobilize the masses for communism.

**SEXIST VIOLENCE WORLD-WIDE DEMANDS COMMUNIST RESPONSE**

Massive protests against government tolerance of rape in India have exposed the widespread violence against women there. But sexist violence, usually with a racist edge, is worldwide. It's one of the ugliest aspects of a rotting capitalist system that urgently needs to be destroyed. We could fill volumes with reports of horrible sexual violence against women worldwide.

In Guatemala, the US-supported genocidal counterinsurgency campaign (1960-1996) resulted in 667 massacres and the complete destruction of 443 villages. This scorched-earth policy targeted Mayan women with rape, mutilation, sexual slavery, forced abortion, and sterilizations to crush men as well as women into submission through fear and shame.

In 2010, 685 women were assassinated in Guatemala. Forty thousand complaints of violence against women were filed (just a fraction of actual incidents) but only 1% of those resulted in sentencing.

Thirty-four thousand women were murdered in Mexico between 1985 and 2009. Over 2,400 were killed in 2010 alone! Many were raped and sexually tortured. The government is part of the problem. In 2006, for example, at least 26 peasant women were sexually assaulted while detained by police for protesting government policies.

Rape is used as a weapon in war from Pakistani troops raping Bangladeshi women during the Bangladeshi independence struggle in 1971, to Serbian troops raping Bosnian women in the 1990's. Today, in Colombia, Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, among many other places, government troops and rebel militias routinely use mass rape to terrorize and fragment whole communities.

UK Foreign Secretary William Hague recently urged major industrial countries to support UN and NGO initia-

tives to end sexual violence as a weapon of war. They won't succeed because the logic of capitalism drives the capitalists into ever-larger wars, with no holds barred in the pursuit of profits and empire.

US rulers crow about more female elected officials and executives, but sexist violence is widespread in civilian life and more so in the military. One in three military women reports being sexually assaulted, one in six civilian women. Over 3,000 military sexual assaults were reported in 2011 alone, but the Service Women's Action Network estimates the actual number as closer to 20,000.

One survey found that 90% of US service women have been sexually harassed (or worse). Most victims are young enlisted women, whose attackers are mainly older higher-ranking men. In the US as a whole, black women are at least three times as likely to be raped as white women.

Sexism and racism are woven into the fabric of capitalism. The particulars differ, but we'd be mistaken to focus mainly on cultural or religious factors, whether Bollywood movies, the pornography industry, tribalism, or feudal versions of Islam.

We must fight these ideological weapons of the bosses, as we must fight racist ideas and practices. Sexist violence, like racist violence, is the consequence of capitalism. It exists mainly because a tiny handful of capitalist-imperialists depend on violence and divide-and-conquer tactics to maintain their bloody rule over the masses of the world.

Only communist revolution can destroy the material basis of sexism and racism. Only by mobilizing the masses for communism can we overcome their cultural and ideological forms. Sharp struggle against the influences of racism and sexism among workers and youth is a critical to this work.

**1941: Soviet female pilots helped defeat the Nazis**



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## “GOOD RIDDANCE TO NEIL SILVER”

LOS ANGELES--“Hi. How are you? Listen, I’m a communist worker and here is the article that I told you I’d write about the conversation you had with a co-worker about whether or not we’re middle class.”

The young worker took *Red Flag* and promised to read it. The next day I asked him, “Did you read the article?” He answered very enthusiastically, “Yes, and I showed it to my mother and also my grandmother and they liked it a lot. Here at work I showed it to two other workers and they liked it. One of them, a painter, told me that he didn’t know that this paper had such good ideas and that he would keep reading it in the future.”

This answer and the reactions of other workers to *Red Flag* show that there are thousands and thousands of workers who are open to revolutionary communist ideas when they are presented.

In the framework of the sad reality that millions of workers’ families now live, there is an urgent need to massively build a communist party that promotes working-class ideas to put an end to capitalism. Historically this system has committed all kinds of humiliations, abuses, tortures, jailing, robberies, and individual and collective murders against workers of all “races,” nationalities, religions and beliefs.

Those who ignore our history of struggle or try to disguise or hide the horrible poverty in which millions of human beings live, those who go along with, sell out, or confuse the workers with reformist ideas, commit cowardly acts and a vile crime against our class.

Those who promote these lies or diversions can only be considered enemies of the working class. Consciously or unconsciously, they keep the workers tied to the tail of liberal politicians like Villaraigosa and Obama, whose only goal is to guarantee that the capitalist parasites continue sucking the blood of the working class.

That’s why we in ICWP declare that the union

leaders who aren’t organizing the Party to achieve a communist revolution are enemies of the revolutionary movement. They are agents of capitalism.

Two examples will show what we mean.

A few years ago, we mechanics went on strike, together with the service attendants and drivers. There were two unions: the ATU and the UTU. Neil Silver was then president of ATU Local 1237, the union of the mechanics and service attendants. He wanted to break the solidarity that had existed with the UTU, the drivers’ union, looking to win points with the liberal Democratic Party politicians. He negotiated, and promised to call on the mechanics and service attendants to break the strike and return to work the next day. He made his traitorous call on television.

The immediate answer of the communist workers at MTA and their base was one of repudiation and opposition to such a cowardly betrayal. We called on the mechanics and service attendants to come the next morning, not to work, but instead to stop any attempt to break the strike.

The answer was massive: the next morning mechanics, service attendants and drivers marched proudly, happily, and defiantly, as one fist, confident that united together with revolutionary communist ideas, we are invincible.

Another time, a communist union shop representative had invited a black driver to share with us the story of how his nephew was murdered by a cowardly LA County Sheriff in Compton. Neil Silver opposed the driver’s talking to us about the



case, alleging that in the ATU meeting, members of the UTU couldn’t participate.

However, a multi-racial group stood up and demanded that he be allowed to speak. Neil Silver had to accept, but not before hurling a racist and anti-worker insult, warning us to “hold on to your wallets.”

The driver came in and recounted that his nephew was a worker who had no gang affiliation, or any criminal record, that his only “crime” was to be black and live in Compton. Neil Silver advised him to go complain to the City Council.

This is the political essence of Neil Silver: an anti-working class sellout: “With friends like you, Neil, we don’t need enemies.”

Our criticism of ex-President Neil Silver is completely political. So that our class can break the chains that tie us down and can win a new society of justice and equality, it’s necessary and very important that we know who our real friends are. Join ICWP and distribute *Red Flag*.

## WOMEN HAVE PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN EVERY STRUGGLE IN INDIA, FROM THE GUERRILLA STRUGGLE TO THE CURRENT PROTESTS AGAINST RAPE.



**WOMEN ARE KEY TO BUILDING ICWP IN INDIA AND WORLDWIDE.**



## COMMUNIST YOUTH CLUBS from page 1

A comrade said, “The people ask for and know they need what communism gives, but they are apathetic about the word ‘communism.’ They complain about what capitalism offers, but the bosses have taught them to like the word ‘capitalism.’”

The fear of communism is imposed by the capitalist system daily. Every day they bombard us

with capitalist propaganda, but every day the workers, seeing and feeling the bosses’ exploitation, are losing their fear, as our comrades in the factories have done. These fears instilled by capitalism don’t disappear by themselves. It must be our struggle to talk about what communism is in reality, and *Red Flag* is our weapon in this battle.

In the study-action clubs, we should sharpen the contradictions and in that way forge the line

of our party and guarantee that it is reflected in our newspaper. To end the meeting, between pieces of sweet bread and soda, we asked this youth if he wanted to participate with us as a member of the International Communist Workers’ Party and he said, “To be a member of the party, you have to have the will and I have it.” As all the comrades present applauded, we welcomed him.



## BOEING BOSSES' SNOW JOB

SEATTLE—Just before the holiday break the bosses held crew meetings with 80,000 Puget Sound Boeing workers to announce their new snow day policy. It was more snow job than snow policy.

For years, the company would declare a snow day when the roads became impassable due to heavy snowfall and ice. Workers could take a day without pay during these snow days instead of it charging to what sick leave and vacation they had left. Even so, the company tried to trick you into using your benefits by not declaring official snow days until as much as a week after the event.

Last year there was a larger than normal three snow days so the company responded. "We never had a snow policy," the company lied, "so we're establishing one now. There will be no snow days."

When workers protested throughout the region, the bosses responded by cynically telling us to "manage our time [off of work]." To add insult to injury, a worker had to be rushed to the hospital when he slipped on black ice in the Auburn complex parking lot on the last day of work before the holiday shutdown. The company didn't even have the decency to put down "salt" to melt the ice.

Each locality can declare a snow day because of inclement weather, but they have to clear it with corporate. Not likely to happen!

One boss tried to soften us up by telling a story of how some firm was firing workers who didn't get a flu shot. "Yeah, but that must have been a non-union place. We have a union," some workers said. These workers changed their tune after they found out the union was going along with the "new" snow day policy.

This is a particularly harsh attack on the tens of thousands of new workers. The first year you work you can earn five days sick leave according to the new contract. You don't get any vacation time until

your second year. If hired in the fall it's entirely possible you won't have any time (to take off) when the snow hits: let alone three days.

The company is busy firing new hires, mostly for "failure to maintain acceptable attendance." Rather than fighting for the next generation, the union leaders are counseling new hires to "watch your attendance." They have given a veneer of legality to these attacks because "it's in the contract."

Trade union policies always said don't fight the hand that feeds you. The practical effect of their reformism is laid bare for all to see during this global economic crisis. The union leaders are trying to sell themselves as being more capable of disciplining and pacifying the new generation of workers. With friends like this who needs enemies!

The bosses live for profits. This is not only an economic question, but a political and military one as well. The Pentagon has demanded that Boeing produce increasingly complex weapons at a cheaper price. The cost of these weapons makes fielding an army to defend the empire harder--they claim even problematic.

The Pentagon's priority is the productivity and cost of the U.S. workforce. Like their capitalist masters, the generals never question the need for profit, but rather the needs of us workers.

Communist leadership, on the other hand, lives to serve the people. One of communism's priorities will be to mobilize the factories to take care of people during severe storms and natural catastrophes.

Factories instill a certain discipline among workers. Disciplined masses would be indispensable during hard times. With this vision, we have to overcome all obstacles to fight for our future and future generations, now and after the revolution.

If the questions of new hires are any indication (see "More Questions", page 1), we have reason to believe we can expand the reach of communist politics.

## QUESTIONS from page 1

Now, after a couple of years working at Boeing, political questions are much more interesting. Modern day factories are incubators of political thought, particularly during this global economic crisis of capitalism.

Karl Marx, the founder of communism, said capitalism creates its own gravediggers amongst the working class. The factories are primary sites where this can happen.

Under communism, factories could be centers of education: political, social and scientific. They could replace, in large part, sterile classroom activities. Discussions like this could be organized in a more mass way and become the norm.

About fifteen minutes into the talk he blurted out, "How did you learn all this stuff? Do you read all the time?"

"Not hardly," I answered. "But years of class struggle motivated me to find out how the world works." Just like the heroic anti-racist struggle of over a hundred thousand South African industrial workers, mostly miners, opens up opportunities for mass communist growth.

Then we got to talking about *Red Flag*. Now there's some reading that's tied to class struggle and communist solutions!

This is not the first time new, young workers have asked me these types of penetrating questions, but it doesn't happen nearly enough. We have to figure out how to make it happen more often.

In this regard, we have to get to know the new families that a number of these young workers are just starting. Communist solutions are even more important to young families and reflect other discussions we've had. Mobilizing the masses for communism may start on the shop floor, but then extends to every social relation we have.

### "Retirement Is for Sissies"

That's the tagline for the new Schwarzenegger movie. As Governor of California, Arnold worked with LA Mayor Villaraigosa in an effort to slash the pensions of public workers. Now Democratic Governor Jerry Brown, President Obama and Congress are preparing to go them one better. Better, that is, for a US capitalist class desperate to hoard every penny they can

## El Salvador

### GARMENT WORKERS JOIN ICWP

EL SALVADOR—We are reporting on the torment that we live daily as the working class in one of the largest maquila factories in El Salvador where thousands of shirts are made for the labels Soffle and AA. The minimum wage we get isn't even enough to drink a glass of milk, much less to cover the needs of our families.

We know very well that the profits of these capitalists are extremely high while they trick us, paying us with the crumbs that they have left over.

While they go around in the latest model car, we don't have enough for bus fare. While they have clothes with designer labels, we don't have enough for a plate of food because the miserable wage that they pay us isn't enough to buy it.

The only things that are rising are the production quota and, even more, the repression and discrimination by the bosses and supervisors. That's why it's a horrible nightmare to live under the domination of capitalism.

But we workers say ENOUGH NOW OF EXPLOITIVE CAPITALISM.

We are sure that organized in ICWP, we'll bring about the death of capitalism. After the international school we have become more enthusiastic and sure of our working-class identity. "We are on the road, all of us, to a better destination."

Long live ICWP! Long live the working class!

--Communist Workers



squeeze from us in order to prepare for wider wars. There's no such thing as a "secure retirement" for any worker. But there's plenty of work for people of all ages in helping the ICWP mobilize the masses for communism. In communist society, we'll welcome everyone's contributions, big or small, and we'll all take care of each other from cradle to grave.



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## Communist Heritage X:

### “MAKE THE EARTH A COMMON TREASURY”

“When Adam delved and Eve span, who was then the gentleman?” – John Ball, 1381

Ball pictured for Wat Tyler’s rebel peasant army an Eden of classless society. In the 17th century, Gerrard Winstanley and the Diggers fought to make it real.

Winstanley was part of the radical Anabaptist movement. A former merchant, turned wage-worker, he wrote in Biblical language and imagery. But his analysis was firmly grounded in the class struggles rocking England as rising capitalists confronted the feudal landowners and their monarchy.

When civil war broke out in 1642, General Cromwell knew that the capitalists needed to mobilize the masses, especially the Army, in order to take power. But these dispossessed masses would get no relief from their victory.

The capitalists’ Puritan ideology equated wealth with virtue and poverty with damnation. Increasing numbers responded by embracing the Anabaptist Christian message that all are spiritually equal. Many concluded that all should be equal on Earth too.

In 1645, there were armed uprisings against the war. Radical democrats (Levellers) gathered support within the Army. Soldiers mutinied in 1647: they had been forced into the war, weren’t getting paid, and their families were suffering. They were suppressed but soldiers still eagerly read radical pamphlets.

Levellers wanted broader political rights but defended private property. In contrast, Winstanley’s group called themselves “True Levellers” because they fought to abolish private property.

“Break in pieces quickly the Band of particular Propriety [private property],” Winstanley urged

in 1649. “Disown this oppressing Murder, Oppression and Thievery of Buying and Selling of Land, owning of landlords and paying of Rents and give thy Free Consent to make the Earth a Common Treasury...that all may enjoy the benefit of their Creation.”

Winstanley warned that private property “di-

“England is not a free people, till the poor that have no land, have a free allowance to dig and labour the commons...”  
Gerrard Winstanley, 1649



vides the people of a land and the whole world ...and is the cause of all wars and bloodshed and contention everywhere.”

“Money,” he declared, “must not any longer...be the great god...that hedges in some and hedges out others, for money is but part of the Earth; and ...we must make use of gold or silver as we do of other metals but not to buy or sell.”

Breaking from earlier peasant revolts, Winstanley attacked wage slavery. He called on “all Labourers, or such as are called Poor people, that they shall not dare to work for Hire, ...for by their labours, they have lifted up Tyrants and Tyranny; and by denying to labor for Hire, they shall pull

them down again.”

#### Occupy St. George’s Hill

Instead, Winstanley called on the masses to “dig up George-Hill and the waste Ground thereabouts, and to Sow Corn, and to eat our bread together by the sweat of our brows.” He and dozens more “Diggers” settled a Surrey commons in April, 1649, and began to do just that.

Their colony was harassed with lawsuits and attacked by mobs instigated by local authorities. After nearly a year, in March, 1650, this communist experiment was crushed.

The Diggers attracted substantial sympathy and support. They approached radical Levellers in the Army, but pamphlets alone couldn’t mobilize soldiers to fight for their cause. The working class was still too immature to lead the masses in communist revolution.

Winstanley’s Biblical mysticism soon gave way to an essentially materialist concept of “natural law,” though still using religious language. In the future “commonwealth,” he predicted, “none shall say, This is my Land, work for me and I’ll give you Wages. For,” he continued, “the Earth is the Lord’s, that is, Man’s, who is the Lord of Creation.”

Winstanley’s final pamphlet, “The Law of Freedom in a Platform” (1652) spelled out how he thought a communist “Eden” should be implemented on a large scale immediately. We, today, disagree with his rulebook. Still, we claim the Diggers among our ancestors in the struggle to end private property, the wage system, and money itself. We share their vision of working collectively to “make the earth a common treasury.”

## Django Unchained:

### MASSSES, NOT INDIVIDUALS, DEFEATED SLAVERY

The movie *Django Unchained* is about a love story between two slaves, Django and Broomhilda, against the background of the South’s brutal slave society. They are separated and sold as punishment for trying to escape. On Django’s way to the auction, shackled with five other slaves, a German bounty hunter finds him.

He wants Django because he can identify felons that were involved in stealing cattle and robbing banks. Their death offers a substantial reward. These felons are in hiding and have taken positions as overseers of plantations. “The slave masters are in the business of human flesh, I’m in the business of human corpses,” said the bounty hunter. The first bounty he receives is for killing a town sheriff who’s in hiding as a fugitive from the law.

Django and the bounty hunter team up and go on a killing spree where they make a lot of money. Soon they devise a secret plan to buy off Django’s wife from the “Candyland” plantation

owner.

The movie unfolds a few years before the Civil War. It depicts the horrendous violence and degradation imposed on the slaves. It also shows the racist “science” used by the masters to justify slavery. More importantly, the movie shows the necessary violence that is required to liberate oneself from such a tremendous oppression. At the end, Django takes up arms, kills the slave master, the overseers, and the slave who has betrayed the other slaves and liberates his wife. He blows up the slave master’s house.

#### Masses Unchained

U.S. slavery was brutal and violent and it took hundreds of individual and collective acts of violence, resistance and organization, including armed rebellions and mass mobilizations to end it. Here lies the greatest weakness of the movie: it glorifies the individual heroism of one single man rather than heroism of the masses, those that truly make history.

The enslavement of millions of Africans was an essential step in the development of capitalism and it represents one more bloody chapter in the history of capitalism. The invention of racism, the wiping-out of indigenous populations, the development of

destructive weapons, the mass incarcerations, the constant wars and now the coming World War III are also part of the violent and bloody history of capitalism.

Capitalism is an inherently violent racist system. The capitalists, the owners of the means of production, condemn millions of workers (those that work the means of productions) to be condemned as wage slaves. The capitalists maintain their power through the use of the law and they enforce it with their state apparatus; the police and the army—state-sanctioned violence.

Capitalist production is guided by the aim of capitalists generating profit; there is no coordination in satisfying human need. Millions go hungry and are homeless; many die because of lack of basic medical attention.

In contrast, communist production is guided by the principles of collectivity and satisfying human need. Here, production organized for profit will not exist. Production will be organized to produce for the needs of humanity with no money, no class difference and no privilege. We must organize and mobilize the masses to use revolutionary violence to put an end to capitalism and its system of wage slavery; we must organize and mobilize the masses for communism.



A group led by John Brown, including black ex-slaves and white abolitionists, raided the US armory at Harpers Ferry, Virginia on Oct. 16, 1859 to get guns for the mass struggle to abolish slavery. Though their raid failed and they were captured, it inspired hundreds of thousands to take up the violent struggle to abolish slavery. At his trial Brown said, “I am now quite certain that the crimes of this guilty land will never be purged away but with blood.” During the civil war which followed, over 200,000 black ex slaves took up arms along with white union troops to destroy slavery. Today masses must fight to destroy wage slavery.



The following two pieces open up a discussion about the crisis and inevitable world war and what this means for the working class and our political work. We ask all *Red Flag* readers to discuss these and upcoming articles and to write their own ideas about these important questions.

## US MILITARY: RUNNING ON EMPTY

As a result of the economic crisis, war spending, and tax cuts, the US government is running a huge budget deficit. At about \$1.2 trillion this year, the deficit means borrowing one-third of the budget. Borrowing this much every year is a policy that can't go on indefinitely, and the US national debt has already ballooned from 57% of Gross Domestic Product in 2000 to over 100% in 2012.

This huge debt threatens the dominance of the dollar as the world's "reserve currency," the currency the biggest capitalists want to do business in, which is a critical asset for the US empire. About half the money borrowed comes from other countries' bosses (including China), and gives them a lot of power over US capitalism. As the recession ends and interest rates go up, interest payments on the debt will become much larger, climbing from \$230 billion now to perhaps \$600 billion by 2017.

The US bosses recognize that an empire requires a sound base in its domestic economy. Their consensus is that spending has to come down. They intend to raise taxes and make serious cuts in Medicare and perhaps Social Security. They have also decided that they cannot afford the scale of military spending of the last decade

and large cuts are necessary. Here is a summary of the administration's proposed cuts:

1. Reduce the Army from 570,000 to 490,000 and the Marines from 202,000 to 182,000. These reductions mean that the US will "no longer size active forces to conduct large and protracted stability operations" like the Iraq and Afghanistan wars because it does not anticipate such wars in the "near- to mid-term" ("Defense Budget Priorities and Choices," DOD, Jan. 2012).

2. Give up the capability to fight two major wars at the same time, but impose "unacceptable costs" on any enemy that starts a second war. Presumably that means bombing, cyber war, nuclear weapons, etc, but not boots on the ground.

3. Retire Navy ships (seven cruisers) and delay new ones. Cut the budget for ships by \$13 billion during 2013-17. Dismantle six Air Force tactical fighter squadrons. Cut back the airlift force about 10% (130 large planes). Delay buying Joint Strike Fighters and cut the number.

The net effect of these plans will be that US military spending will fall from about four times what China spends to three times as much.

These cuts don't mean the US empire is getting out of the war business. Generally the US military is in a retrenchment period, cutting back now

but planning for future spending when they can afford it. Big-ticket items will be kept in the budget, including the bomber fleet and 11 aircraft carriers.

Construction continues on the "super-carrier" Gerald R. Ford, estimated to cost \$13 billion, to be commissioned in 2015. Several additional super-carriers are also planned. The administration has asked for \$300 million in 2013 for development of a new bomber for the Air Force, in addition to \$300 million last year. This new "stealth" bomber is designed to attack heavily defended targets in China. The large US nuclear arsenal is to be upgraded. The first of 2400 F-35 fighters is now scheduled for its overseas deployment, to Japan in 2017. All these weapons will be available by the mid 2020s, ready for war.

The US will not be in a position to start a major war soon, however, probably not for a decade or so. In the meantime, economic crises, big cuts in programs that workers rely on, and military spending that is still huge even after the cuts will impose a bigger burden on the working class. We must use this opportunity to win workers, students, and soldiers to reject the miserable future that capitalism has for us and join the communist movement.

## CHINA, US BOSSES BUILD INDUSTRIAL CAPACITY FOR WAR

Only workers create more value than what is paid to us as wages. This unpaid value converted into money is the profit bosses make to exploit workers even more. Competition among capitalists forces them to replace workers with machines. But since only workers produce value, with fewer workers, the rate of profit falls. Capitalist bosses try to counter this declining rate of profit by intensifying attacks on workers.

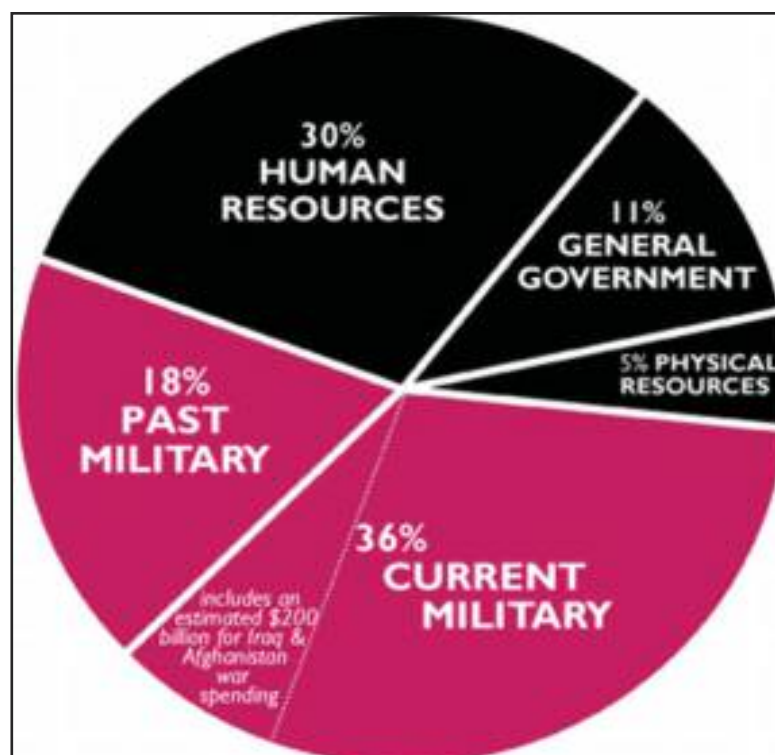
After WWII US imperialism emerged as a super-power, replacing Britain and occupying much of Europe and Japan. It opened up large markets for the US bosses and a massive manufacturing base was created in the US. However, building modern factories and infrastructure to support it required large amount of capital, reducing profits for the US bosses.

The recent debate about the 'fiscal cliff' is over how to respond to the steady decline of US imperialism since the 1970's. To secure US imperialist interests around the world the bosses have fought virtually constant wars since the war in Vietnam. The US military is spread over 130 countries with over 1000 bases worldwide.

While the military helps to maintain markets and vital oil and other natural resources under the control of US bosses, the massive amount of money to support weapons and military has reduced the funds available to make US industry more competitive against their imperialist rivals. Approximately 54% of the US budget is used on the military.

Social Security, Medicare and other pension programs were established by forcing the workers to save. The US government used these forced savings to establish Trust Funds. Now the US rulers want to convert these workers' forced savings into capital to challenge their capitalist rivals around the world.

US bosses are using the superficial debate about the need to curb debt and cut spending to attack workers. By reducing benefits and in-



US Federal Budget for 2009. The portion on "past military" includes veterans' benefits as well as interest on the national debt, mainly incurred for past wars.

creasing the age for pensions, the bosses are effectively reducing the life span of workers who are retired, disabled or need healthcare. Printing more dollars is another method of reducing workers' savings, transferring them into the bosses' hands.

According to recent figures, only 120 million people in the US are employed. On the other hand, China, US capitalism's biggest rival, employs about 970 million workers, or seven times as many. Since China opened to free-market capitalism in 1978, it has accumulated great amounts of capital. This unprecedented growth is challenging the US bosses world wide. From the oil fields of northern Iraq to staunch US allies like Colombia, from Africa to Australia and Latin America, Chinese commodities and capital are replacing US goods.

US imperialism is in a serious crisis. As it fumbles in one war after another, it must rebuild a massive industrial base and massive standing army to counter China both in the market and

militarily. Obama and his gang are deepening their attacks on the US working class to make US capitalism compete internationally. Inevitably, the US, China and other capitalists are on a collision course which will lead to world war to re-divide the world market.

US bosses have recognized China as their number-one threat and are shifting their military strategy by transferring 60% of their naval assets to Asia. China too, is aggressively building its military might.

Once the bosses decide to go to war, things can change very fast. When the WWII started in 1939, the US army consisted of 160,000 soldiers and had 22 heavy bombers. In 1944 alone, the US army had 14 million men and women in uniform and the US produced 96,000 military and naval aircraft. Britain, the top imperialist power at the time, and France were ill prepared for WWII, hoping Germany would destroy the Soviet Union. By 1944 Britain was spending 80% of its resources on war.

A year ago, then-President Hu Jintao of China told his military personnel, "Make extended preparations for war." Chinese state TV repeated this speech along with the news that China will build the world's tallest building in 90 days. The Chinese have built massive industrial capacity which can be quickly converted into a military machine.

The working class has an alternative: to strike at the very root of the profit system which makes world wars inevitable. The root of the profit system is private property in the hands of the bosses. To abolish private property requires a revolution to create communist society without money.

Millions of workers around the world are in motion, angry, questioning every aspect of capitalism and its ideology. This is the time to redouble our efforts to spread our newspaper *Red Flag*, the most powerful weapon in the hands of the international working class.



**THIS IS THE PAPER OF THE WORKING CLASS. WE GET NO FUNDING FROM THE CAPITALISTS, THEIR FOUNDATIONS OR NGOs. PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY TO HELP PAY FOR THE COSTS OF PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.**

## Christmas: Big Capitalist Holiday: The Biggest Profits at the Expense of the Working Class

The Christmas holiday probably originated in pagan celebrations of the winter solstice. It was the Catholic Church that gave a Christian face to the ritual of its celebration. Later, the rising capitalist system accommodated this event to its own economic and political interests.

The first celebrations of Christmas in the Americas are believed to have occurred in Mexico in the 16th Century. Then they spread to the rest of the continent, where there appeared foreign ritual symbols like the tree and St. Nicholas. It is the biggest ritual that occurs in the poor countries of Latin America.

In the modern history of the western world, this celebration has gone through a series of transformations, all an expanding commercial opportunity for the capitalists to generate a market for compulsive consumption by the society in general, as the huge European fairs had done initially. Thus the capitalists make their highest profits because in just ten days they can make sales comparable to those of the whole rest of the year. For this, they create the most exaggerated and irrational atmosphere of unnecessary spending, affecting the working class.

In the last few decades, consumerism, mainly at Christmas-time, has been established and fostered by capitalism through the media whipping up the population to spend the little money they get on vain unnecessary things, forcing them into boundless capitalist consumerism. Every place becomes a market, even in the depths of a worldwide crisis of the capitalist system which has no solution, and which every day is compounded, condemning the working class to the cruelest exploitation.

In Central America, the results of the Christmas celebration are nothing positive for society, especially for the working class. Consumption of alcohol and cigarettes shoots up ten times the normal rate. The number of accidental deaths, homicides and suicides increases considerably. The number of children burned by gunpowder is alarming.

The economic problems of the working class after Christmas become even worse, due to exaggerated consumption, resulting in more impoverishment and calamity for the working class.

Under these conditions, the working class has no other choice than to continue organizing to fight for a more just system that ends once and for all these calamities to which the oligarchy has subjected us. We must fight under the leadership of a communist party whose mission is to destroy the capitalist system, to build a communist society in which bourgeois consumerism has no place. Instead we will each have a fair, equitable, and necessary portion—to meet all the needs of the whole population. Forward, comrades of ICWP!

--Comrade in Honduras

## Capitalism Can't Unite "Head" and "Hand" But Communism Will

Capitalists have long insisted that designing things (engineering) had to be separated from manufacturing them (factory work). Engineers, they said, belonged in universities and research labs. That was part of the division between "mental" and "manual" labor that emerged with the earliest class societies. Of course "manual" labor involves thinking, but the ruling class ignores that.

Now we read in the *New York Times* business section (12/14/12) that "experts say that in industries that produce complex, high-technology products...companies that keep their research and manufacturing employees close together might be more innovative" than those where production is sent overseas. Designers should be able to visit the production facility regularly to "work out kinks" and "test prototypes." Duh!

The example given is General Electric and its "idea to knit together manufacturing, design, prototyping, and production." But don't imagine



that they've given up on "head vs. hand." They want to "keep makers and thinkers together" geographically, not to have the makers themselves be the thinkers the way it will be in communism.

The article explains that White House and industry analysts agree on using federal policy to "rebuild the country's manufacturing commons faster." That's not just to make US companies "more innovative" or "more competitive" as the article says. It's also to guarantee production at defense contractors like GE when regional wars mushroom into World War III.

Capitalism can't break the wall between "mental" and "manual" labor because it trains engineers to design ways to minimize costs and maximize profits. Above them are managers and executives who set the terms and conditions of production based on what they think they can sell. Safety, quality, even usefulness are secondary – or irrelevant – to these bosses.

In communist factories, workers will plan, design, produce and distribute everything. In that process all will teach, learn, and help discover and invent new things. Factories will include

labs and meeting rooms in which young and old will study the science and math needed in production, as well as languages, history, and much more.

Most importantly, as a recent *Red Flag* article said, the workers in communist factories will build and deepen communist social relationships. Many will spend time in other kinds of work like farming, or caring for the very young, the very old, and the ill, or fighting to win and build communism in other places. Together our hands and hearts, brains and brawn, will transform the world.

--LA Comrade

## Readers Help Develop the Party's Line

*This concludes a letter from comrades in Mexico about their very fruitful visits to friends and family during the week of the Day of the Dead, which included individual and group discussions about communism.*

In another discussion, a reader friend commented to us that after several attempts to read the whole paper, this time she found it very interesting. She mentioned that it was important to analyze the topics that get to the heart of things in capitalism, but that we needed to write more on everyday themes. She also mentioned that she liked the back page ("capitalist culture") of the last paper.

She still has much hope in capitalism; she believes in Lopez Obrador. She mentioned that the party's literature states categorically that there are only two sides, the bad one and the good one, but that in current society there are many intermediate ones and that we don't clearly show a strategy of winning that sector.

She said that the Party's position is very evangelical, where ICWP has the absolute truth about communism and that we are the ones to take communism to the masses. She says that we don't recognize that there is

a sector of workers who have extensive experience in the struggle against capitalism and that they can contribute in the stage of building communism.

We told her that her comments were very valuable, that we had to discuss more deeply the line of the party, and that she needed to write her ideas for *Red Flag*, to discuss them with more workers around the world. We commented that to the extent that the party grows, there will be greater understanding and better tactics in the struggle to build communism.

"I promise you that I'll write soon!" she said as we said goodbye.

We've taken a step forward with this friend. We are sure that her participation in the party will help create the quantitative and qualitative changes that ICWP needs. Similarly, we invite all readers worldwide to join the party. Only by doing this will we get closer to that glorious day when communism triumphs.

In these days of concentrated activity we distributed about 25 *Red Flags* among friends and family.

Comrades in Mexico



The previous issue of *Red Flag* discussed a key aspect of the proposed Comprehensive Immigration Reform--the Dream Act, a key provision of which is to recruit immigrant youth to the military as a way of "proving their patriotism" and allowing them to qualify for legal residence. The two articles below draw lessons from two different periods in US history where workers were told that to prove their patriotism and deserve the American Dream, they would have to fight for US imperialism, and the most oppressed workers showed their revolutionary potential.

## "Soul Train" & the US Army

### FROM OLD DREAMS TO NEW DREAMS

During the seventies, many African American people such as myself would plant ourselves in front of the t.v. to watch shows featuring black actors, such as "Good Times," "The Jeffersons" and so on because it was relatively new to see this on American television. One highlight of the week that occurred every Saturday morning that most of us rarely missed was "Soul Train"--the show that featured Black dancers and musicians. It was during this show when the U.S. Army would sell the American dream to its predominantly black audience. It always featured a black actor with him going on about how the army had changed his life. The actor was highly motivated about "his" army life and off to the army black people enlisted. "American Bandstand" aired in the afternoon and was geared primarily for an Anglo audience. Needless to say, Armed Forces commercials were rarely seen sponsoring that program.

Joining the army was supposed to mean veteran status for jobs, money for education and for

housing. What was not mentioned in these commercials was there would be NO JOBS waiting when these folks returned to their neighborhoods. In fact, during the eighties the C.I.A. brought in crack cocaine which brought in the war on



Black soldiers played a leading role in the GI rebellions that helped defeat US imperialism in Vietnam.

drugs and a marked increase in gang warfare. That's what many African Americans found waiting when they returned from their tour of duty.

Now U.S. bosses have repackaged the American dream in the form of the Dream Act to draw undocumented youth into combat that not only will not enhance their lives and community, but is fatal to themselves and the people they will be ordered to murder in the name of a country that has no use for them when it ends.

African Americans, though citizens, had very few rights in the United States and were thus exploited for our cheap labor. Undocumented workers have even less rights and becoming a killing machine for U.S. profits guarantees a future where the latest exploited group will no longer be a viable source of cheap labor. We are all disposable once the bosses have what they want. The American dream is a lure sold to the desperate, i.e. the poor, hungry and homeless with no future in a capitalist system.

--A comrade

## Irish Immigrants and the U.S.-Mexico War

### SOLDIERS MUST FIGHT FOR THE WORKING CLASS

The use of tricks like the Dream Act to recruit immigrants for war is nothing new. But the history of previous wars, and the rebellions, desertions and mutinies of immigrant and citizen soldiers give us confidence that in the next imperialist war, soldiers can turn the guns around and join the masses of workers this time to fight for communism.

During the 1830s and 1840s, it was Irish immigrants to the US who worked the worst jobs, including building the canals, roads and railroads that made capitalist commerce possible. Ireland was the first English colony, and Irish farmers, the poorest in Europe, were the brunt of racist and anti-Catholic laws. In 1845, a fungus attacked the potato crop--the mainstay of the Irish diet. The famine that followed killed hundreds of thousands, and resulted in a mass wave of Irish immigrants to the US, just as the US was about to embark on a war with Mexico.

US slave-owners in Texas had fought a war of independence from Mexico in 1836. At their request, in 1845, Congress voted to annex Texas. US troops were sent to Texas, and marched through Mexican towns and farms to the Rio Grande, provoking a Mexican attack. President Polk claimed that Mexico had "shed American blood on American soil" and declared war.

Immigrants, largely Irish and German, mostly Catholic, made up half of the US Army. After the crash and depression of 1837, and with increasing immigration, violent racist mobs, calling themselves "Native Americans," burned Catholic churches and homes in immigrant neighborhoods. "Know-nothing" politicians advocated a 25-year waiting period for immigrants to become citizens.

Democratic Party politicians knew they needed immigrants to fight their imperialist war. Recruiting agents combed immigrant neighborhoods. But when soldiers got to Texas, they found that they were the victims of vicious racist and anti-working class "discipline." Brutal practices such

as "bucking and gagging" were common-place; immigrant soldiers consistently received harsher punishment than citizens. Racist and anti-Catholic propaganda of "manifest destiny" used to justify the theft of half of Mexico was reflected in racist attacks on immigrant and Catholic soldiers.

Racism also affected relations among soldiers. Regiments were recruited locally; some regiments were almost entirely Irish or German, others had no immigrants, and harsh discipline and official racism led to fights between citizen and Irish units. The response of the Democrats was to defend the patriotism of the Irish soldiers. After one fight, the *Boston Pilot* praised them, quoting their commanding officer: "they came... as the free citizens of a country... they wanted to show their friends and fellow-citizens of native birth... that adopted citizens were not cowards in the hour of danger."

President Polk tried to calm the waters by sending two Catholic priests. One of these, Father John McElroy, was an Irish priest who had helped the bosses prevent strikes among Irish immigrants digging the Chesapeake and Ohio canals, and Polk hoped he would be able to win Irish soldiers to patriotic service in the military.

But immigrant and citizen soldiers mutinied, usually in their home states, and there were several small mutinies of US troops in Mexico. Many soldiers shot their own officers, and, in at least in one case, soldiers lit an artillery round and rolled it into Captain Braxton Bragg's tent. (Rebellious US soldiers in Vietnam called this "fragging.")

More than 9,000 immigrant and citizen soldiers deserted during the war, 13% of the army. Famous in Mexico as the San Patricios, the St. Patrick's battalion, made up of two to five hundred deserters from the US Army, fought for the Mexican bosses. Although they carried an Irish flag, the San Patricios included German, English and US citizens as well.

The Mexican bosses celebrate the San Patricios because they fought for them against US imperialism, but instead of fighting for any boss, working class soldiers can fight for their class. The US bosses again need immigrant soldiers, and are telling them, as they did Irish immigrants in the Mexican War, that to prove their patriotism they must fight for their new country. The US ruling class again will put guns in the hands of the most oppressed workers, who have no stake in capitalism. Imperialist soldiers, from the Mexican War to Vietnam to the Russian Revolution, can turn their guns on the war-makers and join their working-class sisters and brothers to make communist revolution.



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.

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