

# RED FLAG

**MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM**



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



Germany

From Europe to the US, many workers and youth are responding to the bosses' racist fear campaign by demonstrating solidarity with their Muslim brothers and sisters.

Only communism can end these fascist bosses and their capitalist system.

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Southern California

## LOS ANGELES TRANSIT WORKERS LEARN FROM SOUTH AFRICAN COMRADES

“Long live Communism!” That was the cry of hope and struggle that came from the throats of the workers, students and others, men, women, black, white, and brown. They came from different countries to participate in the International Communist Workers' Party conference in Africa.

After participating in this historic event, I returned to my job with new and vigorous plans to discuss with my political base and with members of ICWP. I was greatly surprised at how many workers awaited news of my trip. Drivers, service attendants and mechanics have come to ask what happened at the conference, how the workers there live and many other questions.

This situation has given me the opportunity and confidence to increase the number of *Red Flag* distributors, to ask other workers to join ICWP, and to ask those who are already members to be more active.

Inside MTA (Metropolitan Transit Authority) we have had several meetings in which we have discussed why the workers in South

Africa are more open to communist ideas. Some said that it was because they have lived under brutal racist repression.

“I don't think it is only that,” said a driver, “because racism here has been the same and anti-communism is still strong.”

“What happened,” said another MTA worker, “is that they, the workers of South Africa, already hit bottom, not only in the economic aspect, but also politically, because they had fought under the banner of a nebulous reformist communism by stages. With the electoral victory of Mandela, they thought that everything would be different, but they have realized that they were betrayed. That's why they see that fighting directly for communism is possible and that it makes a lot of sense.”

A member of ICWP at work said he regretted not having attended the conference.

In another informal meeting we discussed the events in San Bernardino, and how the ruling class

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## RED INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OPEN NEW FRONT FOR ICWP IN SOUTH AFRICA

This weekend a group of comrades went to another city to mobilize there for the first time in the history of the party here in South Africa.

Inspired by ICWP conference in November, we four comrades went to this nearby industrial city to organize our party. One comrade went a few days earlier to make arrangements for other comrades.

Our experience showed that the workers here are very eager to build communism and they were very impressed with our meetings, literature and the video of dialectical materialism we shared with them. We are very excited about the growth of the party.

It is only a matter of time that we spread out to other cities as well. It was very heartening to receive a phone call from the female comrade we met there the day after we arrived back home. She wanted to organize ICWP and asked us for help.

When we arrived the comrade who was already waiting for us there had already organized those comrades in one place so we

simply went straight to the purpose of our visit.

So the first comrade fired the first question, “What is communism?” She was a female which is good because we need female comrades. Another comrade asked how communism is going to free the working class from capitalism.

Then we explained to them that by mobilizing the masses for a communist society that is the only way that we can destroy capitalism. But what impressed me the most about the trip was how quickly those comrades understood our political line. We didn't even spend time talking about capitalism and how bad it was because they were experiencing it.

One comrade said, “Although it's the holidays, communists don't have resting days. We took the trip to this city to mobilize for communism. On the first day when I arrived, I met 8 workers. They told me they don't have a union and they asked me for assistance, if ICWP can represent them as their union. I explained to them that we don't endorse unions

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**THIS IS A  
3-WEEK  
ISSUE**

## U.S. Rulers Build Anti-Muslim Racism to Win Youth to Fight for Them

### COMMUNISM WILL END CAPITALIST BOSSES' TERROR

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA USA —“It's true: they never say that it was a 'radical Christian terrorist' when a white person massacres people, like at the Planned Parenthood clinic in Colorado,” said a 10-year Marine veteran after a classroom discussion. “I never thought of that.”

Since the terrorist attack that killed fourteen people at a social-service center in San Bernardino on December 2, local capitalist media have ramped up a campaign to build anti-Muslim racism and xenophobia. This is on top of presidential candidate Donald Trump's call to keep Muslims out of the US.

On the same day as the massacre in San Bernardino, San Francisco police murdered Mario Woods in cold blood. Woods was one of over 1100 people killed by US police this year — a massive terrorist attack on black and latino workers, but it has not been called that. And what about the US bombs that killed 42 people at a Doctors Without Borders hospital in Afghanistan? More terrorism!

“I was stuck watching Fox news one day, after the massacre in San Bernardino. I haven't seen that level of fear, racism and patriotic fervor since the 9-11 attacks,” said a comrade.

This hysteria has led to the fire-bombing of a mosque near San Bernardino and racist graffiti at two other local mosques. Nationwide there have been increasing numbers of racist insults and physical attacks on Muslims, especially women.

Then on December 15 all the Los Angeles public schools were closed because of what officials called a “credible” threat that they linked to San Bernardino.

“If the whole world were communist, we wouldn't fight each other. Then none of these things would happen,” said a mother of young children.

She's right! Many workers and youth are responding to the bosses' racist fear campaign by demonstrating anti-racist solidarity with their Muslim brothers and sisters. We need to show them that the only way to end the racist terrorism of capitalism is to fight for a communist world. A world where we collectively produce to satisfy

all workers' needs will also be able to collectively guarantee our safety.

#### Women in the US Military: Step toward the Draft

US imperialist leaders criticized then-President George Bush for not taking full advantage of the patriotic fear they built up after 9-11-2001. They complained that he should have reinstated a military draft. They're not planning to make the same mistake again!

As the San Bernardino story was breaking, US capitalist media celebrated the announcement that women will be allowed to do every single job in the US military. The rulers are preparing to require women as well as men to sign up for Selective Service (the draft). This would double the number of youth eligible for compulsory military service when it is re-instated for coming wider war and world war.

The open racism of Trump and other Republican candidates serves the imperialists even as their mouthpiece *The New York Times* editorializes against it. By fomenting racist fear of Muslims, the US bosses hope to win the allegiance of a generation of youth angry at capitalist racism and exploitation. They need young workers committed to voting, working for reforms and fighting to defend murderous US imperialism.

Trump makes the Democrats, especially Hillary Clinton, look more “reasonable” even as they plan to put working class women as well as men in danger to attack women and men workers in other countries for the bosses' profits and empire.

#### Build a mass Red Army to fight for communism

ICWP urges our young comrades and other youth to go into the bosses' military to win their fellow soldiers, sailors and marines to refuse to attack other workers. We must organize them instead to turn their guns on the bosses.

They need to help build the International Communist Workers' Party and our Red Army to mobilize the masses for communism. Women and men will fight side by



side against the bosses' terror, with guns in their hands and communism showing the way. Together we will build a communist society, fighting to destroy all vestiges of racism and sexism.

The imperialists have a contradiction. On one hand they need to build up racism and nationalism to mobilize for war. On the other hand, they need to say that there are good and bad Muslims because they want to ally with the capitalist governments of Indonesia and other majority-Muslim countries against Chinese imperialism.

That's *their* problem. Ours is how to win increasing numbers of workers, soldiers and youth to join the fight for international communism. Now, and in the future, workers everywhere must learn from each other how to better mobilize the masses for communism. We can gain confidence and inspiration from the rapid growth of our party in South Africa.

The rulers in the US, France, and elsewhere, are stepping up their efforts to build a fascist mass movement. The only way to end fascism is with communist revolution. We have no time to lose! Help spread *Red Flag* and mobilize communist action against xenophobia and racism.



Read our pamphlet:

### Soldiers, Sailors, Marines: Crucial to a Communist Workers' Revolution

Available at :  
[icwpredflag.org/MIL/mpe.html](http://icwpredflag.org/MIL/mpe.html)



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## COMMUNISM SPICES UP THE SEASON

SEATTLE, WA —Soon after a comrade returned from the successful ICWP conference in South Africa, we hosted a festive gathering at our home. It was a good way to get together with an integrated group of friends, neighbors and co-workers who have been curious about the struggle in Africa, and about communism and what it means.

For some of our guests this was the first social event they have attended that so prominently discussed communism. Not only did they not freak out, but they invited us to their homes to continue the conversation with more of their friends, family and their co-workers. Some people took our paper, *Red Flag*, for the first time. Others called the next day to say how much they liked the conversation and how inspiring the struggle was.

First the comrade showed some great pictures of the workers and their families who participated in the conference. He talked about the history of the movement generally, and about the specific experiences of many new ICWP members.

Some are seasoned fighters who were once in the ANC and the South African Communist Party. Some are their children who cannot support their families because of itinerant work with abysmal wages. And some are young students who are angry because they cannot afford the increase in university fees. The promises of the post-apartheid government are not coming true.

We realize that now is a moment in history... when workers want to know how an alternate communist world would work. Capitalism clearly does not work for us, no matter who is elected. In the past, we made a big mistake by not talking about how communism would work, causing some good people to drift away from the party.

Suddenly the conversation in our living room took off! One young man asked if it was possible for workers to manufacture a plane that could be as good as what Boeing builds now. More people joined in, wondering how people's way of thinking and attitudes could change.

"Some people get gratification from what they can buy, others from what helps the most people. How could communism deal with these competing perspectives?" asked a high school student.

Capitalism organizes society to support production for profit. The profit system requires the bosses to super-exploit sections of the working class: even more so in this era of economic crisis. Racism, sexism, and imperialism are all a byproduct of the wage system, the material basis of our society.

Under communism, we would produce for the common good. The material basis will change. "So you say we could change the whole morality of the society," concluded our high school friend.

"Yes, by changing the material basis with a revolution and then a big prolonged struggle against old capitalist ways of thinking, culture and organization," answered a comrade.

"These communist ideas did not just spring out of our heads," he continued. "Many before us have lived in a society without wages."

We talked about the Chinese Red Army. Later we talked about aspects of war communism immediately after the Russian revolution, and experiments during the Cultural Revolution. These attempts were eventually sabotaged by the old communist movement's strategy of "socialism first" but there is a treasure trove of experience there we can build on.

After a short break to grab some coffee, a teacher told us about a struggle at Sealth H.S.

Some students in the Black Student Union wanted

to start a campaign against the increasing racist violence against Muslim youth. But when they put up posters, the Principal had them torn down (more next issue). Once again the question is raised: How would communism deal with racist attacks?

Lastly, someone asked how we managed to organize this conference. After all, we didn't have any well-heeled sponsors like a non-profit or a church. This brought up the role of the party and the potential of masses mobilizing for communism--now and after the revolution.

... And the immediate need for workers to help in every way, including financially. In the next few months, we'll need help printing the paper in South Africa and raising the money to send a contingent to the Los Angeles May Day march.

"I haven't figured all this out," admitted the young man who asked all the questions, referring to the afternoon's discussion. He was, however, ready to tackle the problem. He took a book about the experiences of young comrades immediately after the Russian revolution.

"OK, I'll read this and write a letter to *Red Flag* on how I think communism could succeed." Communism really spiced up the holiday season for all of us this year.



### LOS ANGELES TRANSIT from page 1

tries to take political advantage of events to build and extend fascism. Many workers feel strongly that these acts were orchestrated by the FBI to divert attention from what is happening in the



country.

What a coincidence that the same day the police killed a young man in San Francisco, which did not receive much publicity. Perhaps many young terrorists have relatives who have been killed by the US government and so they are easy victims of recruitment by these terrorist groups.

I wonder about the hypocrisy of the US government wanting to fix other countries when there is a disaster here. We must build a new society, without bosses, without wars, without money. That's the only way the new generations can live in peace.

All these political discussions, collective and individual, about the communist future give me the certainty that if we are bold and consistent in spreading communist ideas, the masses will become interested

and, little by little, get closer to our party.

There is no magic, nor are there preconceived formulas, to win workers to understand and want to discuss communist ideas. Let's distribute *Red Flag*, organize study groups, visit workers' homes, make plans, and the results will be positive.

Finally I want to thank the comrades and their families who lavished us with attention and affection in South Africa as well as the comrades of MTA who helped to make this conference possible with their contributions.

Now we will organize for the meeting in January that will plan the campaign for next May Day, to make it a success so that workers of the world realize that true communism is alive and well.



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## South Africa:

# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ADVANCES COMMUNISM

Revolutionary greetings comrades!!!

Today I am reminded of the International Communist Workers' Party conference in El Salvador in August 2014 which made the proposal to hold the next conference in South Africa. Indeed, the conference did take place in November 2015.

Looking back: In 2012 we began to have a serious conversation with ICWP that became the embryo and the organic link between comrades abroad and the birth of our party ICWP locally. Literally, one thing led to the other.

The recent conference highlighted the importance of working as a collective. No individual would have achieved such a huge success working alone.

The conference left an indelible mark in the history of communism. The incredible work done in preparation of the conference, crisscrossing the far-flung industrial areas and universities distributing reading material, the *Red Flag* newspapers finally paid off.

In the conference itself, there was no elitism. Things were made simpler, even discussions that took place accommodated everyone in attendance. There was participation amongst everyone. Questions and clarities sought were responded to adequately. I could not help but notice that female comrades were in majority which was overwhelming.

The dream that our 83-year-old veteran of the African National Congress who joined ICWP shared with us must be realized. He told of his dream of masses of people in ICWP shirts from all over the world in a huge field. We dare not fail the old man. Roar, young lions, roar!!!!

The reaction is overwhelmingly positive.

The conference has given us great opportunities to spread communist ideas to where it matters most, the industrial working class, women, men and youth.

Yesterday as I was writing a letter, I had to pause because three young men came to my house, interested to know more about who we are. I briefly explained to them about our party. They got even more excited. Today we will play the video on dialectics, read the *Red Flag* and talk more about mobilizing the masses for communism. The conference has had more impact than we can ever imagine because these young men did not form part of the activities. They just heard and decided to come and see me.

At work, we always have discussions and communist ideas are spread amongst the workers. Our task is to continue to patiently build and strengthen the structures that we have on a sustainable basis.

The dream that our old veteran shared with us must be realized. We dare not fail. Roar, young and old lions, roar!!!!

—Comrade in South Africa

## SOUTH AFRICA INDUSTRY from page 1

because they are sleeping in one blanket with the bosses. We spent 2 hours talking, exchanging ideas that need to be put in practice, especially next year. At the end they were very happy to meet ICWP comrades and we promised them to come back next year with advanced strategy.

“Then we had a meeting in my aunt’s place. We met 6 young comrades who are students. We talked about ICWP and we explained the dangers of capitalism in our society. We also talked about dialectics. Then comrade M gave them DVDs of dialectical materialism, our guiding principle *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*, and *Red Flag*. They were happy to meet us, especially my aunt. She said when we come back, the house will be full with the masses. We were happy to hear those words from her. Then we went back home happier than before.”



## Chinese Renminbi-Yuan Becoming Global Reserve Currency

# COMMUNIST SOCIETY WILL RUN ON COMRADELY RELATIONSHIPS, NOT MONEY

“All the illusions of the Monetary System,” wrote Marx in 1859, “arise from the failure to perceive that money, though a physical object with distinct properties, represents a social relation of production.”

Money – in its form as a physical object, a dollar or a yuan or a euro – is often in the news in ways that most of us find difficult to understand. What does it mean for workers that the International Monetary Fund has decided to include the Chinese yuan in its “basket of currencies” along with dollar, euro, yen and pound?

We’ll try to explain this. We’ll also try to explain how money represents capitalist social relations of production in China and everywhere. In this article and a second one, we’ll talk about how workers will manage a communist world without money.

### Currency Wars and Imperialist Domination

The Yuan Renminbi (“People’s Currency”) was first issued by the People’s Bank of China in zones liberated by the Communist Party of China in 1949. This was a cornerstone of China’s capitalist development.

For brief periods Chinese communists experimented with minimizing the role of a money economy (during the 1958-59 People’s Commune movement) or replacing currency with “work-points” (during the Cultural Revolution of the 1960s.) But the Monetary System always predominated.

Soviet “technical assistance” to China in the 1950s created debt obligations. These were repaid mainly with agricultural exports. After the

Sino-Soviet split at the end of the decade, China engaged in little foreign trade until the 1970s. Thus its currency was mainly for limited domestic use.

The Chinese rulers openly embraced market capitalism in 1982-83 and, with it, international trade. They joined organizations like GATT and WTO that are dominated by US imperialism. Workers were increasingly subjected to capitalist management methods and super-exploited in “special economic zones.”

Within a decade, Chinese capitalists were taking steps toward making its currency “convertible.” When a currency is “convertible” it can be freely exchanged (bought or sold) for other currencies without government regulation. Last spring, the head of the People’s Bank of China argued that the Renminbi traded freely enough to include in the IMF’s “Special Drawing Right” (SDR) basket. The IMF has now agreed.

The technical details of SDR are not as important as the fact that the IMF has endorsed the yuan as a reserve currency (a safe means for other governments to park their wealth). It’s also meant to encourage Chinese rulers to let the yuan “float” against the dollar and other currencies.

In the short run, that could devalue the yuan and strengthen the dollar. In the long run, however, it means greater global presence of the yuan and, with it, the rise of China’s economic dominance. China is already a net capital exporter. That’s the classic definition of an imperialist power.

The Chinese rulers have already suggested that

the SDR basket could replace the dollar as the world’s dominant reserve currency. It’s hard to imagine the US rulers going along with this – unless they’re defeated in World War III.

### Communist Society Will Run on Comradely Relationships, Not Money

#### Communism: No Money of Any Kind

The rise of the Renminbi illustrates the double role of money in capitalism: it is a physical object (a commodity) and also a social relation of production.

“Only the conventions of our everyday life make it appear commonplace and ordinary that social relations of production should assume the shape of things,” Marx wrote.

In communism, money will have no role at all. “In the case of socialized production,” said Marx, “the money-capital is eliminated. Society distributes labour-power and the means of production to the different branches of production.”

By “money” we mean currency but also all forms of credit, “work-points,” “labor-banks,” Bitcoins or whatever. We won’t exchange stuff. We’ll share it with whoever needs it, anywhere.

“Communism... is voluntary unpaid work for the common good that does not depend on individual differences, that wipes out all memories of everyday prejudices, wipes out stagnation, tradition, differences between branches of work, etc.,” wrote Lenin in 1919.

*The second part of this article will explore this further.*

“The blood of uniformed and non-uniformed workers flowed in one current...”

## THE 1946 BOMBAY NAVAL MUTINY



tween March 1942 and April 1946 there were mass uprisings, general strikes and 15 mutinies in the Indian Armed forces. The most significant one was the Bombay Mutiny of 1946.

Watered-down curry, racist abuse from British officers and the arrest of sailor B.C. Dutt (a Hindu) for writing anti-British slogans sparked the mutiny. At a mass meeting the sailors elected Leading Signalman M.S. Khan (a Muslim) and Petty Officer Telegraphist Madan Singh (a Sikh) to lead the strike. In one decisive moment

rest of India and eventually the leadership was forced to surrender.

### “FIGHT AND LOSE UNTIL WE WIN”

It did so, however, with a call to continue the struggle. “Our uprising was an important historical event in the lives of our people. For the first time the blood of uniformed and non-uniformed workers flowed in one current for the same collective cause. The coming generations shall accomplish what we have not been able to achieve. Long live the working masses. Long live the revolution.”

The imperialists had won this battle, but they had lost India. Later that year, 1,700 soldiers in the British-led Indian Army mutinied. Then British airmen mutinied. They wanted to be sent home, not deployed to keep India in the Empire. The London government realized they had neither the troops nor the money to hold on to India.

This mutiny shows us the importance and power of mobilizing masses of soldiers and sailors in the bosses’ armed forces, and of winning youth to join the military, especially during imperialist war.

Power was rapidly handed over to the Congress Party and the Muslim League. The sun had finally begun to set on the British Empire.

But why didn’t a new sun rise on a brave new communist-led India? The flaw was in the general line of the old communist movement. It mistakenly fought for “national liberation,” which only changed the capitalist exploiters. We won’t ally with supposedly “lesser evil” bosses, like officers in the Indian Army or wave the Muslim or Hindu Flag. Workers of the world need only the **Red Flag**.

ICWP is mobilizing the masses, especially industrial workers, soldiers and sailors, directly for communist revolution so that, united together, we “the coming generation shall accomplish what (Dutt’s generation) was unable to achieve” - a new communist world where we collectively produce and fight only for our international working class.

“I hate Indians,” Winston Churchill, Britain’s World War II leader, would boast. And in 1942 he refused to divert food to halt the Bengal famine. “The starvation of anyhow underfed Bengalis is less serious than...of sturdy Greeks,” he argued. Five million Bengalis died as a result, a crime of fascist proportions. This, at the same time as two and a half million Indians were voluntarily fighting for the British against the Nazis. Talk about racist contempt!

Yet that was just the start. It’s an explosive story because in it the masses are the agents of change while the “Great Men” of India, Gandhi and Nehru, only react to events. It’s a story that our schools and popular media still hide from us.

### WORLD WAR ARMS THE WORKING CLASS

World War puts dangerous demands on the capitalist state. It forces the rulers to enlist, arm and train millions of working class youth for combat. Then the stress of war and battles teach the soldiers they are more alike (and need each other) than different—Black or white, Muslim, Hindu or Sikh. In this way, the material basis is laid for a youthful, armed and anti-racist working class to become agents of revolutionary change rather than victims of imperialist violence.

The Bengal Famine was the turning point. Be-

they wiped out the sectarian division British Imperialism had been fostering in India ever since the Sepoy rebellion of 1857.

### THE POWER OF THE ARMED MASSES

“The first thing we did was free B.C. Dutt,” recalls Madan Singh. “Then we took possession of Bucher Island (where the entire ammunition for Bombay was stocked).” Next, they took the transmitters at Kirki, the channel of communication between the Indian and British governments.”

Then, they drew up demands. Immediate withdrawal of Indian troops from Egypt and Indonesia, independence for all Asian colonies, release of all political prisoners, better food and equal status with British officers. With its control of communications, the mutiny spread. Within days 78 ships, 20 shore establishments and 20,000 sailors had joined in. The ships replaced the British flag with the Muslim flag, the Hindu flag and the **Red Flag**.

Mass support came from Bombay’s working class. Within two days the Communist Party organized a general strike. 300,000 workers walked out. They set up barricades and had armed clashes with the police. But the Congress Party and Muslim League leaders (invited into the mutiny because the sailors had raised their flags) worked overtime to isolate the uprising from the

### LETTERS

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### CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

#### Bangladesh: Need Communism, Not Trade Unions

Thanks, comrade, for keeping in touch with me. I need some true guidelines to keep pace with the present open-market financial system, which is no longer a system, as we feel.

I think that here in our continental area there are many falsehoods about the basic theme of dialectics. Here in our country there are those who think of themselves as soldiers of the proletarian revolution. Yet their practices don’t strike a response in the proletariat at all.

They are trying to mobilize for the ‘trade union’ but it’s time to expose the term ‘trade union,’ which is no longer helpful to the Communist revolution at all. On the contrary it helps the bosses grind us down. Actually ‘freedom of labor’ is nothing but a disguise, to choose by whom and how we want to be ground down!

But here I can find no group among so-called left-wingers to present such a vision as clearly as I have found in ICWP’s publications.

I have some friends who are good at English and also willing to be with such a campaign as we work for. We could make a group to translate the writings, to spread out the true philosophy and to remove the filth in the realm of our battlefield.

At every step we have to face such kinds of falsehoods about the exact weapons or way to

fight against capitalism, but already ICWP has done the good job to grab the communist philosophy as the perfect weapon to abolish capitalism.

The more I read and think about that, the more I feel self-motivated and encouraged to fight against the present system and organize for ICWP. Thanks all. These are just my views, they may be lacking, but you won’t mind correcting me.

—A Comrade in Bangladesh

#### Los Angeles Metro: On the Communist Road

“What’s happening at Metro that **Red Flag** should write about?” a comrade asked a bus operator at Division 3 who had just taken the paper.

“The supervisors,” he answered right away. “They show up at a stop and want to see your rule book and your watch. They waste time when you’re trying to keep on schedule. There is nothing useful about what they are doing.”

“Seems like harassment to terrorize workers into submission,” said the comrade. “And maybe to get workers with seniority to quit so they can be replaced with lower-paid workers.”

“Probably so,” said the worker.

Another operator came along complaining about having to pick up 20 or 25 passengers at

a single stop.

“Just wait until they cut back the runs in a few weeks,” said the first operator. “They are cutting local runs and adding express buses. Then, in six months, they’ll change them back. The managers just need to look like they are doing something.”

“How would bus service be different if workers ran everything?” the comrade asked.

The operator looked thoughtful and said he didn’t know. Capitalist schooling and on-the-job training are designed to keep workers from thinking about such things.

Workers need to think about how we’ll do things better after we dump their bosses, their petty supervisors and their whole capitalist system. Communism means getting everybody possible involved in deciding how best to serve the masses—and then doing it.

What that means right now is more **Red Flag** readers thinking and writing about aspects of work and life they are familiar with, and how communism will change them. And it means joining a collective of the International Communist Workers’ Party to help discuss, improve and carry out our work.

—LA comrade

## LETTERS FROM HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

### California High School Student finds ICWP

What follows are excerpts from a letter from a high school student. We regret that for reasons of space, we are not able to print the full letter. It is on the website.

As a kid I was inundated with rants on how wonderful capitalism was by my school, my parents and the media; I bought into it.

Inconsistencies became too hard to ignore. If it was so great then why were people forced into prison labor and the concentration camps known as ghettos based on the color of their skin? Why is my country at war against innocent civilians all the time? ...The US ruling class is one of the most despotic empires to have ever existed.

It was clear that Communists weren't power-hungry monsters wanting to enslave everyone for their own opulence as I was taught. It was the capitalists who were doing that. ... The world

wars, the millions of Africans dying on slave ships then thrown into the ocean, over a hundred million Native Americans killed in a genocide that continues to this day (they are killed by US police more than any others) ...

I read Marx, Lenin, Mao, and Stalin and fell in love with Marxism-Leninism. I joined several internet communist discussion groups to develop my line, and argued with liberals, attempting to show them the flaws of putting their faith in shills like Obama and Bernie Sanders.

A friend in one discussion group referred me to an ICWP member. After some reflecting on their line, I decided that it was true: socialism is a form of capitalism....as Stalin says, socialism is unfortunately not to each according to their need but to each according to their contribution. Although that is not entirely what makes it capitalism, currency and commodity production is.

I deeply admire the idea of flipping the pyramid: of giving the most oppressed sectors of society collective direct leadership instead of a representative bureaucracy. The proletariat is the most revolutionary class; they are the gravediggers of capitalism.

What better way to consolidate a dictatorship of the proletariat than to have direct democracy for the proletariat?

Today we have the worldwide web and training the entire proletariat to be politically active is possible. There is no need for a cadre party dictatorship, we can upgrade to a mass-party dictatorship. Having power invested in a relatively small number of people is too risky because as soon as revisionist social democrats take over, capitalism in its standard form is fully restored.

It is time for the proletariat to seize the world from the grasp of the bourgeoisie and destroy classes, currency, nationalism, and institute a society where goods are produced according to one's ability and distributed according to need.

—Red Youth



### "Fascinated by Communism"

I am a 17-year-old sophomore in high school on the East Coast of United States. I have been fascinated with communism, communist movements and the Soviet Red Army for many years. It is my desire to see communist revolution happening worldwide by organizing those who stand against capitalism and fascism.

I found out about the *Red Flag* and International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) from the social media page. It was very interesting to hear about people wanting communist order in place. I was very happy to see workers and students organizing in other countries for the same goal.

We need communism for us all to fulfill our needs. Communism can become a reality but we have to organize seriously and convince masses of workers and students. I asked the comrade in ICWP how to join and after he explained, I am willing to join and organize. I'm not that good at writing. But I'm good at persuading people with my voice. I am spreading the ideas of the *Red Flag* to others.

—New Comrade

### Los Angeles High School Students: How Communism Can Change the World

I know that the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) is established in different places around the world. However, we need to be working and advocating for the establishment of ICWP worldwide. We have to think more about how to make this happen. In this way we can mobilize the masses for communism around the globe and struggle to explain and inform others that together we can make a change for a better life, community and world not just for ourselves but for generations to come.

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Reading *Red Flag* informs me that we in the US are not the only ones who are involved in the communist struggle. The working class is exploited all over the world.

Reading it also makes me think that there are a lot of people and organizations that tell you one thing and do the opposite. It frustrates me that these organizations take advantage of people and convince them that they can make a difference to help society.

I see that the International Communist Workers' Party rejects the social pyramid of the rich, the middle, and lower class. In communism there is not only one leader. We are all leaders and we all work and learn from each other.

In communism each person has his or her needs met. No one is treated differently for his or her nationality, race, sex, religion or sexuality. All of us, if we mobilize the masses for communism, however we can and wherever we are, we can change the world so there will be no exploitation for anyone in the world.

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After reading the articles in *Red Flag* about South Africa, it makes me wish I could've gone and met fellow comrades over there. It's a beautiful thing to see people all over the world join the masses in their struggle for a better world.

Capitalism is making life impossible for the masses. And even though education is free, we are still getting a capitalist education. Communist education will be totally different because we'll eliminate paychecks and money altogether. We will destroy the wage system and production for profit, and we will abolish borders, racism, sexism, and imperialist war. Communist education will be set up to move forward, expand and defend our communist revolution.

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I find it real interesting reading the articles in *Red Flag*, especially the part about South Africa. When I read them, they give me a good idea on how communism can really change life here on earth, as well as the people.

One message that I have for my fellow comrades in South Africa is that it's a good thing that they are mobilizing the masses for communism; we are trying to do the same thing. We should meet up more often and build up our understanding based on the relationship that we have towards building communism. We are planning a video conference call with students from the US and students from South Africa.

Another thing I'd like to say about the articles is that they show how communism will work. They explain the idea that if we get rid of money, in all its forms, this world wouldn't be how it is now, all corrupted. They also help explain to the masses of how we can get together as one and fight those who dare to interfere or think that communism is bad.

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After reading *Red Flag*, I was astonished of how comrade Tata entered the struggle to fight for a better world at a very young age, and surprised at how long he has maintained his fighting spirit. Tata has waited too long. The revolution is on its way. Judging on how the world is doing now we must wait a little longer but not too much longer. This why we have to redouble our efforts in distributing *Red Flag* as widely as possible and set up more and more Party clubs wherever we can and whenever we can. When the time is right then we will strike.

It must have been a good speech that comrade Tata gave at the ICWP international conference in South Africa. We promise you, comrade Tata, that you will still be with us when the revolution happens.



## LETTERS FROM THE UNIVERSITIES

## From South Africa:

## “I Only Live for Communism”

I'm a young college student in South Africa. I joined the International Communist Workers' Party before its recent conference here. My friend and I were invited by a comrade who lives near my house to go to a meeting.

When we went to his place we found him with other comrades from outside the country. At first we were intimidated by them. But we simply realized they were just like us, especially the young comrade who made us feel at ease.

They explained to us what it really means to be a communist. You have to walk the talk. And these comrades were living and breathing communism. That's what made me decide that I want to join the Party. They opened my eyes to the disease which is capitalism. That is why it is also my duty to do the same: to educate my peers about who the bosses are destroying, the working class.

From now on, I only live for communism. We are studying the recent articles “On Contradiction” in the *Red Flag*, which we find helpful.

—A New Comrade

## From Mexico:

## Students Learn Why We Need Communism, Not Socialism

“Then we should opt for socialism,” wrote two students in their examinations, while two others said this to their classmates as we were ending a course at the university where I teach.

I replied that socialism was state capitalism and briefly mentioned the lessons of the Russian and Chinese revolutions. Later, I talked with them privately and gave them the *Red Flag* newspaper. I told them that it would interest them, that the paper reflects the feelings of our working class around the world. That it shows workers who do not agree with this system that every day sinks us deeper into poverty and exploits our labor power. That we need to organize to have a more just world, that is a Communist system, in which each one gives according to their capability and commitment and receives according to their needs.

They asked if it was the Communism of the past. I told them that no, it is advanced Com-



munist, scientific Communism. I told them that we should learn from the errors committed before. These included keeping money and the wrong belief that we could fight in stages (first socialism, or democracy) to achieve communism.

They raised more questions to which I responded. One commented that even though he hadn't yet read the paper fully, so far he saw that Communism was repeated a lot. I commented that we workers produce the paper, from the maquilas to the barracks, unemployed, housewives, students, etc. If he agreed I would write about our discussion, since it serves as an inspiration to many workers. He said yes.

I mentioned to another student to whom I gave the paper that I had the confidence to talk to him about it. Being his teacher for almost five months had allowed me to observe his “critical” analysis but that something was lacking: class consciousness. He asked me what that was. I told him that it was the understanding that you belong to only one class, the international working class, which the bosses take advantage of by exploiting to increase their wealth.

I mentioned a time when he asked me if a career was worthwhile or if it were better to keep trying for the army. I was going to answer that he should go to the army, but I thought at that moment that it wouldn't be useful if he didn't have political understanding. So I told him that the career was good and that if for now he had no other plans he should continue here while he tried to enter next year.

And then I told him about the importance of the army for revolution, that soldiers are the ones who have the weapons. And in a revolution they are capable of turning their weapons against the bosses. That's why it is necessary to win the soldiers, to do political work among them. I talked to him about my few experiences and conversations with soldiers. He responded that he had friends and relatives who are soldiers. He talked briefly about a soldier who some time ago disagreed with what was happening and sent a letter to the President of Mexico showing these disagreements and the feelings of other soldiers. But some time later he died from “unknown” causes.

These experiences are part of a short process in the school where I work, even though I don't know if they will rehire me. However, I guided students to become involved or interested in social questions, from showing a documentary about racism prepared by the comrades in South Africa and some strategies in class like asking them every week for news which were shared and which led to discussions. Also we had debates in groups which allowed me to get close to the students and to give the paper to some in particular and to talk about the Party with some students. Now there comes another great challenge, to follow up with them, as with the other friends to whom we give the paper. Great challenges for great changes! Join the Communist Revolution!

—A Young Comrade.



## Does the recent Paris agreement mean that capitalism will solve the climate crisis after all? Don't bet the planet on it.

Two hundred capitalist leaders set goals to limit temperature increases. They agreed to hold governments accountable for reaching those targets. But pledges to curb emissions by individual countries, and the climate finance elements, are not legally binding. Hundreds of millions of people living in low-lying coastal areas and small islands will be flooded out with no legal claim to assistance. Market forces will probably drive more capital away from carbon-based energy and into renewable resources, but to what extent remains to be seen.

Capitalism can't make and carry out rational plans because it's driven by competition – driven to war, regardless of treaties. The Paris agreement doesn't account for the huge environmental destruction of war, on top of the massive destruction of workers' lives.

“We are at a decisive point in time,” said French president Hollande. That's true – but the international working class is the decisive force. Communist workers' power will quickly replace fossil fuels with renewable energy resources. With the profit motive and competition gone, we'll plan production to meet human needs sustainably. The sooner the better!

## ENDING RACISM, from page 8

our labor power to survive. Together we'll figure out what needs to be done and how to do it.

Organized by the party, we'll plan what to produce to meet the masses' needs. We'll cooperate

to build housing, grow food, create new transportation systems, and produce the clothes, furniture, tools and toys that human beings need.

Eliminating the labor market and competition will eliminate the material basis for racism.

Racism will stand in the way of getting done what we need to do for human survival. Fighting against racism will be an essential part of everyday life. It won't be automatic, but it will be obvious that it's the only way we can work together to build a communist world.

# COMMUNISM WILL MAKE PRIVATE PROPERTY A THING OF THE PAST

“Get off MTA’s property!” barked the undercover Sheriff’s deputy as he drove up to Division 18.

“The sidewalk is public property,” answered the *Red Flag* distributor.

“Yes, but MTA’s private property starts where the grass begins. Your left foot is past that line,” shot back the cop. Addressing another *Red Flag* distributor, he screamed, “Get your stuff off the grass!”

“Wow,” said this *Red Flag* distributor. “You guys are fighting over inches.”

“Yes, they don’t want you on their property. If I see you again, I’ll arrest you!”

## Property: a curse on humanity

For tens of thousands of years humanity lived in pre-class communism. There were no borders, no nations, no private property, not even the concept of property. There was no money, no market, and no exploitation. Humans produced and shared to satisfy their collective and individual needs.

The division of society into classes brought this period to an end. This happened with the development of agriculture and the domestication of animals. Humans could, on a consistent basis, produce a surplus. Now some could be exploited and their surplus value stolen to enrich a small class of exploiters: slave masters, feudal lords and now capitalists.

Production shifted from satisfying the needs of humanity to satisfying the needs of these exploiters. This required expropriating not only the surplus value but also all the natural resources and means or instruments of production, including the laborer him/herself.

Under slavery the slaves were bought and sold on the market. Under feudalism, the serfs were tied to the land and sold with it. Under capitalism, workers are forced to sell themselves to the capitalists for a certain number of hours a day for a wage; thus the term wage-slaves.

## Capitalism coined the terms: Private, public and personal property.

Capitalist economists defined three main kinds of properties: private property (the capitalists’ ownership of the means of production); public property (owned by their governments); and personal property (owned by someone for personal use and consumption).

Public and personal properties hide the fact that almost everything in the world is owned by the capitalists-imperialists who represent less than 1% of the population.

Public property, although paid for by the working masses through taxes, belongs to the capitalists. Their government has the power to grant or deny access to any public institution, land or street. It safeguards their property, private and public.

Adam Smith, an early capitalist philosopher and economist, said it clearly: “Civil government could not exist without property, as its main function is to safeguard property ownership.”

The working masses have “personal property,” possessions that are not used for business. The most common ones may be homes or cars. But we all know that the banker who holds the mortgages to “our” homes and cars actually own them.

Even when paid in full, the house still doesn’t belong to us. If we don’t pay the property taxes,

the capitalists’ government will expropriate it and auction it for the taxes owed. If we don’t pay the car’s registration, it will be denied access to the “public streets.”

Communism will eliminate private property and also the concepts of property and ownership.

Today we fight for scientific communism to eliminate ownership so that the masses again share everything for the good of all. In a communist world, the value produced by the masses of workers will be used exclusively for human needs

In communism, nothing will be sold or bought. This will eliminate the notion that “this is mine because I paid for it.” Producing everything collectively will eliminate the concept “this is mine because I worked for it.”

## US, MTA bosses and all capitalists fear communist ideas

When the Sheriffs show up at MTA, it is not because the bosses fear that *Red Flag* distributors will damage MTA’s property. What they fear is MTA workers grasping revolutionary communism and helping to organize the communist revolution that will end wage slavery. The Sheriffs are “protecting” the bosses’ human property from these ideas.

However, the bosses’ cop terror will not stop the working class from mobilizing for communism! Many MTA workers are giving the bosses nightmares by reading and distributing *Red Flag*. We’ll make their worst nightmare a reality when these workers join an ICWP collective to better plan the downfall of the bosses’ ownership of us and the fruits of our labor!

## Want to end racism?

### END THE WAGE SYSTEM!

Decades ago, I worked at a factory in Chula Vista, California, between San Diego and Tijuana, where we made men’s suits. I worked in the cutting room, where the workforce was split between white American women and Mexican women who crossed the border daily to work. The foremen were bilingual Mexican Americans, but most of the women got along with a few words in each other’s languages. We took our breaks at separate tables.

One day, the foreman came over to where I sat with the other English-speakers. “I’m so proud of you American girls,” he said. “It’s embarrassing to me as a Mexican, but the Mexican girls are just lazy. It’s only you American girls that keep up the pace and help me get the work out.”

“You liar!” shouted Magdalena, the only Mexican-American young woman at the table. “When you come over to where the Mexicans eat, it’s always ‘How proud I am to be a Mexican’ and ‘Those gabachas are so lazy. It’s you, my countrywomen, who get out the work.’”

She said, “I eat with everybody. I hear how you talk. And the truth is that no matter how hard we work, we make \$1.80 an hour. You’re the one who gets the bonus and the promotion!”

I thought about this while talking with a young African American comrade about the struggle we’ll face to eliminate the vestiges of racism in communist society. He warns that it’s not going to be a slam dunk. Eliminating capitalist exploitation will not automatically eliminate the racist and nationalist attitudes and behaviors the capitalists built over generations to keep us separated.

Obviously that garment foreman was pushing racism and nationalism to separate us. (We’ll talk about the sexism—women workers being addressed as girls by male supervisors—another time.) What he left unsaid is the implicit threat: Keep up the pace or you’ll be out of a job and we’ll hire one of “the others.”

That competition is an important aspect of what we mean by saying that the wage system itself is the material basis of racism. You’ve got to sell your labor power to survive. You’re forced to compete with other workers to get a job. This means that capitalists constantly use everything they can to divide us, to lower our pay, to speed us up and intensify our exploitation.

They compete with every other capitalist. Our labor is the only thing they don’t have to pay full value for, and the source of their profits. So they have to go all-out to lower our pay, to enhance their competitive edge, or they go under.

As capitalism developed, they invented the idea of “race” to divide us. The labor market and capitalist competition required them to pay some workers less, treat them worse, extract super-profits from them and keep a downward pressure on everybody’s wage.

Racist ideas justify this race to the bottom: the lie that some people are inferior to others and deserve lower pay and worse treatment.

Because racism is tied to the wage system, socialism couldn’t end it. In the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, for example, workers still had jobs, collected pay checks, bought groceries and paid rent. Factory managers still had to compete



with other factory managers to make a profit. The same need for competition and super-exploitation continued.

The only difference was that the profits were supposed to go to the society, not to some bosses’ lavish life style.

But there was still a labor market. Workers still had to compete for jobs. There were still unemployed workers; some jobs still paid more than others.

When we take power, we’ll eliminate “jobs.” No more labor market, getting hired and fired, collecting pay checks, and paying rent! No more pressure to speed up to avoid being laid off! We won’t have to compete to get or keep a job. There won’t be bosses competing to see who can screw over the workers most profitably.

Collective and cooperative work will replace selling

**ENDING RACISM, see page 7**