

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY * WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG

Guerrero protest
in Mexico City:
IT WAS THE
STATE!



Los Angeles Transit: **PLANTING & NURTURING THE SEEDS OF COMMUNISM**

Quantitative changes lead to qualitative changes in the development of our daily lives. We develop activities according to our professions and, based on the effort and time that we spend on a task, we accumulate changes in quantity whose sum gives the leap to a change in quality.

In my profession of being a communist, I dedicate time to distributing *Red Flag* (RF) to my colleagues. Also I have conversations about what communism will be like. Mainly I fight against capitalist ideas, reformism and other deviations. Over time, the seed begins to germinate and create a small plant that needs care so that it may grow stronger and develop communist thoughts, spreading pollen in other directions.

This work is slowly bearing fruit although at times it seems impossible, stuck and stagnant. But if we are consistent, tenacious and confident, eventually the seeds begin to germinate and we start reaching new, higher levels of struggle. Then other complications arise, but always one continues moving forward if we put more wood on the fire.

An example: A bus driver at MTA, let's call him C. For a long time I would invite him to ICWP activities. At first, he showed no political interest. However, we discussed on-the-job situations or social problems we faced. We connected those problems to our lives, and in the search for solutions I would lead him to a communist conclusion.

His contradictions were strong and he sought different solutions because he thought that communism

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COMMUNIST POWER WILL DESTROY RACISM

SEATTLE, WA —“Racism is not about bias and prejudice, it's about power in capitalism,” argued a long-time Boeing worker on Facebook. He struggled with his workmates about the failure to indict the racist cops who murdered Michael Brown in Ferguson and Eric Garner in Staten Island. The fight took on a new dimension when the focus shifted to mobilizing the masses for communism – now and after the revolution – and winning the power necessary to end racism forever.

The bosses' system can't survive without racist pay differentials and racist unemployment. Racist pay differentials provide essential profit in their own right. They also drive down the wages of all workers. Racist unemployment is another threat hanging over our heads.

The immiseration of the working class, spurred on by racism, marks the worldwide imperialist system. It fuels inter-imperialist rivalry and war. The bosses have no choice but to seek out (and occupy) sources of cheaper labor. Imperialism is the natural and inevitable outcome of capitalist production for profit.

Since 2007, the capitalist crisis of overproduction has forced the bosses to accelerate wage cuts— nowhere more so than in the

U.S. The productive capacity of the world has exploded, along with the industrial working class. The rise of new manufacturing powerhouses, like China, changed the landscape.

Racism attacks black, immigrant and indigenous workers first and foremost, but no worker escapes. Typical production jobs in U.S. manufacturing now pay less than the public sector. For decades, the reverse was true. U.S. auto parts workers, for example, now make an average of \$15.83/hour after a decade-long decline (www.nelp.org/manufacturinglowpay).

A black South African comrade recently described how he quit one auto parts plant after another in a vain search for a job he and his daughter could live on. This doesn't benefit Darrel Eberhardt, a 49-year-old white worker in Ohio, who is now forced to work for \$10.50/hour assembling seats for the Chevrolet Cruze.

White workers are not just “collateral damage” in this scheme. The intent of systematic racism is to divide, weaken and attack the whole working class.

“It always comes down to what's good for the haves and what's good for the have-nots,” is how another worker characterized the situation that led to recent anti-racist rebellions.

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**THIS IS A
THREE
WEEK
ISSUE**

US Torture Report:**COMMUNIST WORKERS' POWER WILL DEFEAT
THE CAPITALISTS' BLOODY "RULE OF LAW"**

"We tortured some folks," said Obama last August, "but it's not who we are."

WE? Speak for yourself, Mr. Obama, and for the capitalist-imperialist class you represent. And it IS who you capitalists are.

"This isn't the America I was brought up to believe in," said a shocked activist.

But it's the America that has existed since Columbus cut off the hands of indigenous people who didn't bring him gold. That was built on the backs of brutally enslaved Africans who were mutilated, beaten to death, or burned alive for even minor acts of rebellion.

It's the America that flogged its own soldiers and sailors during its War for Independence. That lynched black workers and tarred-and-feathered labor, anti-war, and anti-racist organizers into the 20th century. That dropped napalm and Agent Orange on Vietnam and trains Latin American torturers at Fort Benning, Georgia.

It's the America whose cops Taser unruly black schoolchildren and the mentally ill, and kill, on average, more than a person per day. Whose prisons torture thousands – including children – with long-term solitary confinement.

If US torturers are "patriots," as Obama's CIA director John Brennan says, this is the capitalist-imperialist America they defend.

US workers must reject this patriotism and join with workers internationally to destroy imperialism. And not just US imperialism: Every capitalist-imperialist power resorts to torture and terror when its rule is threatened. Every class dictatorship has done the same. The Roman Empire crucified thousands.

It's time to destroy class society itself by mobilizing the masses for communism.

The greedy butcher Columbus noted that when Arawak people were asked for something, "they never say no. They offer to share with anyone."

The priest Las Casas described the equality of the sexes in Arawak society. They placed little value on gold. They didn't buy or sell anything. This form of communism was practiced by most of humanity for tens of thousands of years. Many West African slaves came from such societies, like the Wolof.

21st century communism will learn from the past. We'll build on humanity's hard-won knowledge of nature and society. All will work and all will share without money or markets. It will take armed revolution, a violent struggle, to wrest power from the capitalists and start to build communism. This struggle will continue until the whole world is in the hands of the masses.

Class society relies on both ideology and state-sponsored terror so that the few can rule and exploit the many. The threat of starvation is a whip that keeps the masses in line.

Communist classless society will renounce that threat. We'll provide for everyone's needs. We'll rely on ideological struggle and social relationships to organize production and allow our human potential to flourish. That's who WE really are!

And WE know who THEY really are. So the partial release of the congressional report on US torture should surprise nobody and anger everyone. The Bush administration openly admitted to waterboarding and other forms of torture. The Obama administration refused to prosecute these war crimes.

Movies like "Zero Dark Thirty" and TV shows like "24" tried to justify torture to the masses. Unfortunately, the rulers gained some ground on this. Too many Americans were convinced that it's "okay" to torture "terrorists," especially if Muslim or dark-skinned.

But the torture revelations that leaked out have alienated masses around the world. It's hard for rulers of heavily-Muslim countries, like Indonesia and Malaysia, to openly ally with the US rulers. Even in the US, the Democrats have alienated their base by refusing to prosecute torturers, among other issues.

It seems that the release of a heavily-censored version of the torture report is an effort to undo some of that damage: "We tortured some folks, but it's not who we are."

So far, the only ones prosecuted have been the lowest-level torturers (at Abu Ghraib) and the CIA agent who blew the whistle. Some want Obama to name a special prosecutor to go after the torturers and their bosses all the way up to Bush and Cheney.

Others don't believe this will ever happen. Instead, they want the torturers exposed in a "truth and reconciliation" process that would pardon those who publicly admitted wrongdoing. This, they say, would at least establish that torture is wrong.

Both demands cover up the fundamental brutality of capitalism-imperialism and the fact that its "rule of law" is the capitalists' bloody dictatorship over the masses. Understanding this truth makes it more urgent to broaden the discussion of how we, the masses, can build the International Communist Workers' Party and prepare to rule the world.

Read our pamphlet:**BIGGER INDUSTRIAL
WORKING CLASS:
BIGGER COMMUNIST
POTENTIAL WORLDWIDE**

Available at: www.icwpredflag.org



MTA from page 1 would not be accepted by other workers. Over time and after analyzing stories of revolutions, reading *Red Flag*, the *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* pamphlet and other documents and after he himself observed how hundreds of other MTA workers had much sympathy for our party, he grew closer.

One day I asked him for a monthly contribution to continue the growth of our party. He agreed to give a certain amount and gave me his first monthly sustainer. The next time it was his turn, he walked over to my work area and handed it to me.

The third time, I hadn't seen him, but when he saw me he said, "Hey bro, here's the money," as he handed it to me.

I took the opportunity to ask him if he could help distribute the paper. I thought one, maybe two RF. Excitedly he said, "Sure, give me a dozen to pass out to people I know and the rest I will place on the tables in the cafeteria so other drivers can read them."

After a week went by, I went looking for him and asked how he had fared. He answered that it had gone very well, that the newspaper had been well received and that he would continue doing it. To add more wood to the fire, I asked if he would like to be a member of our party. Smiling, he said, "Bring me my membership card, because here they are already calling me *Red Flag*."

There are a lot of processes like this at MTA among mechanics, service attendance, bus drivers and others. The party collective has been very

valuable in the development of these comrades. This development of communist consciousness may not be as exciting as carrying a gun. But I can assure you that without this daily work, the only thing that we would be building would be a sand castle and not a strong party of workers, soldiers, and students who are politically conscious and convinced that communism is the only solution and that in order to win, many sacrifices will be necessary.

As quantitative changes lead to qualitative changes in the lives of an individual comrade, the quantitative increase in the number of members of the party at MTA will lead to a qualitative change in the party and in the class relations at MTA. A stronger ICWP at MTA can give leadership to the whole working class.



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Los Angeles High School Students

LEARNING TO BE COMMUNISTS: PART II

After the march we had to support the students in Iguala, Guerrero, we had several meetings to talk about what happened in a self-critical way. We agreed that communist ideas were missing.

“People should learn to be communists, but to do that they need to be acquainted with communism. This last few months people are getting involved with communism because of the crimes governments are committing,” said a student comrade, “but we need a better understanding of communist ideas.”

We had written a letter of communist solidarity with the students in Guerrero and had started to circulate it a few days before the march. We got many signatures of students who agreed that we have to put an end to capitalism to end these criminal acts.

Although we got more than 50 signatures, many refused to sign it because it was communist. We concluded that anti-communist propaganda and a lack of understanding of communist ideas were the problems.

We decided to write and selectively distribute a leaflet with the images below. It said, in part:

Capitalism since birth has been a violent racist destructive and murderous system. We need to replace it with communism. To do that we need to mobilize students, workers and soldiers, all of us fighting for a communist world where there are no social classes.

With communism all means of production will be managed, controlled and worked by free men and women. All will be involved in finding and deciding what to do and how to do it. In this way no one will lack what is needed to live a fulfilling and satisfying life.

Communism will benefit everyone because everyone will learn to share and help out. There will be no police, government, law or any

other authority. We will live collectively with human principles where the life of every human being will be valued.

Read, write and distribute Red Flag. Organize study-action groups. Take communist ideas to industrial workers and soldiers. Join the ranks of the International Communist Workers' Party.

Dialectical materialism teaches us that contradictions are resolved when one side eliminates the other. In our minds there's a contradiction between capitalist and communist ideas. It's as if we had two big dogs fighting inside our head. For the communist dog to win, he has to be fed communist ideas. Another young comrade concluded, “Many people believe what the government says, that communism is bad. They think of the false communist empires of Russia and Cuba. Those countries always had just one leader; we will all be leaders fighting to mobilize the masses based on communist principles. We need to start now to recruit more people to expand our movement. Our sons and daughters should be communists. Maybe we won't win communism in our generation, but we're laying the base for future generations.”

Another added, “The marches and protests in Mexico and the U.S. are examples of how people can unite around the same ideal. With the same anger we can put an end to capitalism and together start to build a communist system, but these marches won't achieve this unless they are led by communist ideas.”

Another student concluded the discussion: “I'm learning every day from these situations and also from the mistakes we're making. We don't improve unless we make, and learn from our mistakes. We are making the dog stronger and stronger, feeding it with communist ideas.”



**Rebellion in Iguala,
Guerrero, Mexico**



**Rebellion in Ferguson,
Missouri, USA**

RACISM from page 1

Smashing Racism Requires Communist Production

We cannot end racism—including racist cop murders—without ending production for profit. Nothing is more basic to capitalism than this production model.

A communist society, in contrast, is built on the production-for-need model. It eliminates wages: hence, no racist wage differentials.

Everyone works according to their commitment, and gets according to their need. Racist unemployment will no longer sentence workers to misery or worse. Those who are not yet working will no longer be a threat to those employed. They will become potential helping hands.

Most importantly, communism derives its power from a united working class, the very opposite of the racist divisions that buttress the

bosses' power. We can win the mass ideological struggle necessary to end institutional racism if we build this fight on a foundation of communist production.

Crisis Intensifies Racist Terror and Mass Rebellion

At the start of the 2007 capitalist economic crisis, workers were mere victims. Soon rebellions shook the world.

Racism is the cutting edge of the bosses' attacks. It is also their most vulnerable point. Some of the most militant fightbacks ever have been against racism.

The bosses are pouring million\$ into corralling the latest rebellions against racist terror. Their agents advocate dead-end legislation, law and police reform, and pacifism while promoting one or another form of nationalism.

Still, these anti-racist fights will continue. Dur-

El Salvador:

COMRADES FROM PAST STRUGGLES JOIN ICWP

“We are grateful that you all are here. We will again read *Red Flag* so that we can organize in the ICWP and know what is happening in the struggle for worldwide revolution,” Comrade Marcial said very excitedly the minute he began to speak to the participants in a communist reunion.

“Returning to a historic community, and seeing old comrades is really a special moment,” commented a comrade.

In this rural community, an end-of-the-year celebration was carried out with a group of youth and some who are less young and have great experience in working class struggles. Many of the youth with whom we shared the reunion have known the comrades of the International Communist Workers' Party since their childhood. One of them mentioned, “When I was little I went to a May Day March and I hope to continue going with the people in the Party.”

Inspiring and rousing speeches were given by comrade organizers of ICWP, and also by the new comrades who expressed their happiness for this reunion. This is the beginning of a new effort to build and organize the struggle for a communist system through organizing in the International Communist Workers' Party.

This reunion with the comrades marks an important moment in this community. An older adult said, “We at least need socialism, since so much time has passed and this fmln government doesn't do anything for us veterans; it does nothing.”

A comrade answered, “We don't need socialism. We need communism.”

An ex-militia fighter of the fmln present at the gathering asked, “What does ICWP mean?”

A comrade responded, “We are a party of a new type in which we need people willing to fight for the working class to organize so that we make the battle directly for communism. The previous efforts fell very short and ICWP is a group of men and women willing to confront the challenges and carry forward communist revolution.”

One of the community leaders was very sharp and stated, “A Party cannot be built if the leadership is distanced from the base, and this was one of the problems we had with the previous effort. You have always been close to us and we expect to work well together again.”

At the end of the activity, young athletes gave their thanks for the return to the community. They also provided equipment to play soccer. “Youth not infected with capitalist vices is what we need. Youth focused on the revolutionary struggles of ICWP,” concluded a Party comrade.

ing this period of crisis, rebellions have lasted longer than they used to. We can expect more of the same. It's hard to put the blinders back on the masses once their eyes have opened.

We should guarantee the continued growth of the International Communist Workers' Party in the midst of this struggle. *Red Flag* networks must expand and grow into organizing collectives providing revolutionary solutions. More *Red Flag* readers must join and help build ICWP into a mass communist party.

In Seattle, we discussed communism's potential to end racist terror with with some relatively new young workers at our ICWP meeting last weekend. “Does the party have a book on how communism works?” asked one of these workers as we rushed him to his second job after the meeting. “That's the main thing I have to explain to my co-workers.” Don't we all!

TO END RACISM, DESTROY CAPITALISM WITH COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

Racism is as old as capitalism. It is deeply embedded in our social, political, and emotional lives. It will take a revolution to uproot it.

Putting cameras on cops or creating civilian review boards won't do it. We will have to build a radical new society where co-operation, not exploitation, becomes the hallmark of human interactions. We will have to build a communist society, the likes of which the world has yet to see. That's the historical task we can't escape.

The rise of industrial capitalism in the 19th century could not have happened without the racism that justified slavery and genocide. Without slavery, the cost of growing cotton would have been prohibitive. Without razing the villages and burning the crops of indigenous farming families, slave owners would have had no land to plant cotton on. And the cotton industry drove the rise of British imperialism.

Racist ideology and capitalist expansion joined forces in the British looting of India. They pushed opium into China to break into the then-richest market in the world. Other European powers rushed in, too, to occupy Africa. The holocausts in the Congo and Namibia filled the coffers of rising banks like Barclays.

Racism developed to justify the astronomical profits for the bankers and industrialists created by these bloody campaigns.

Ideas grow out of social practice. Racism first emerged to justify the thuggery of capitalist production, but it quickly found other uses.

Capitalism, built on the exploitation of the masses, needs racism to maintain its social class system. Racism, with its counterpart nationalism, has us seeing differences when we should be seeing likeness. It has us fighting oppression but not exploitation.

And exploitation, where bankers and industrialists steal the value our world-wide labor creates, is the core of capitalism. By crippling the

growth of class consciousness, racism weakens the ability of the whole working class to gather its overwhelming numbers and act with decisive revolutionary force to smash capitalism. Racism, like nationalism too, sabotages our ability to build the communist future we need.

To take a stand against racism, then, is to take a stand against 400 years of capitalist development. We can't fight racism but leave capitalism untouched. Raising demands to integrate police forces won't defeat racism. A black female sergeant stood by as cop Pantaleo choked Eric Garner to death!



The fight against racism is far more challenging. History tells us that, US history in particular.

Legal US slavery (at one time the main form of racism) was destroyed in the Civil War. But capitalism remained and produced Jim Crow and segregation. Legal segregation (then the dominant aspect of racism) was defeated by the Civil Rights Movement.

But the reforms ending legal segregation left capitalism intact. Schools, churches, and neighborhoods are still highly segregated. Capitalism's mass racist unemployment and police terror are now, if anything, worse.

In the 1960's, black workers and youth led massive rebellions in every major US city against this racist police terror and unemployment. Black soldiers and sailors gave leadership to many white and latino soldiers and sailors in multi-racial rebellions against the racist military brass and their genocidal war in Vietnam.

These mass rebellions showed the revolutionary potential of all workers and soldiers, especially black. They helped force US imperialism to leave Vietnam. However, capitalism-imperialism and all its horrors remained intact.

In response, the US bosses produced the "new Jim Crow" and mass incarceration (the main aspect of racism today in the USA).

The lesson of the great fights against racism worldwide is clear: we can't fight racism without fighting capitalism. And that raises the question: What do we fight for? We say communism.

We are not talking about the socialism of the former Soviet Union or China. Those revolutionaries thought socialism would lead to communism. They were wrong. Socialism kept the wage system. It mirrored the old capitalism: at the top were political heads, managers and bankers; at the bottom wage workers who struggled to pay the bills!

The communism we are talking about will build a society where social needs (not money and profits) motivate all production. Organized together in a mass communist party, we will argue over, iron out and share the decisions, difficulties and successes of society.

This movement won't be built overnight but it is the only way to defeat racism. History tells us that.

The masses now are in motion. Let's seize the chance to build the International Communist Workers' Party!

Note: This article is an early step in the development of our forthcoming pamphlet on racism. We welcome criticisms and suggestions.

Working-Class History: 1928 Banana Massacre in Colombia

ORGANIZE TO END WAGE SLAVERY

It was unusually hot on December 6th, 1928 in Santa Marta, Colombia. The Boston-based United Fruit Company (now Chiquita) had set up massive banana plantations there. The business was hugely profitable as tens of thousands of workers labored in swamps for over 14 hours a day, every day of the week. Malaria, cholera and other deadly diseases were widespread.

But for the United Fruit Company, only profit mattered. It would replace the dead with starving workers to keep the banana plantations flourishing. The workers were not paid in cash, but in company-issued vouchers to be used in company stores to buy the necessities. Most of the company stores had nothing but empty shelves.

The banana workers struck in November, 1928. They demanded cash payment and a 6-day work week. They found the railroad workers, who transported the bananas to be shipped to US and Europe, to be on their side. The United Fruit Company was panicking. The Colombian soldiers who came from poor village were unwilling to fight.

The company asked the conservative government of Miguel Méndez to organize to rein the strikers in. A US naval flotilla was steaming at full speed towards Cartagena, Colombia, to rescue the United Fruit Company in case of a full-blown 'Sovietizing' of Colombia, as a desperate cable from a US diplomat described the situation.

On December 8, 1928, after a crippling strike of over a month, the United Fruit Company de-

cidated to negotiate. It was only a ploy, as it sent a liberal representative of the government to talk to the workers. Thousands of workers and their families poured into the plaza of Ciénaga hoping for a favorable outcome of the strike.

General Carlos Vargas and his heavily armed, hand-picked troops on the hilltops started firing their guns into the plaza. Workers and family members were massacred in the uncounted thousands. Even today, in the swamps of Santa Marta, dead bodies surface from the massacre that is known as the Banana Massacre.

The strike by the workers in Santa Marta was an outcome of successful May Day demonstrations in major cities of Colombia in 1928. In spite of severe repression, the workers came out in large numbers on May Day. They were inspired by the success of the workers, led by the Bolsheviks, in seizing state power in Russia under similar conditions.

However, the weaknesses of the Bolshevik revolution haunted the banana workers. The Bolsheviks did not create communist society, but in-



This painting of the Banana Massacre shows the murderous consequences of trusting the bosses.

stead kept wage slavery. This outlook created illusions among the international working class that they could negotiate better terms and conditions for wage slavery.

As the banana workers' experience shows, negotiations with the bosses for better wage slavery lead to massacres. The fight against apartheid in South Africa has further exposed the bankruptcy of negotiating with the bosses.

From the swamps of Santa Marta in Colombia to the deep platinum mines of Marikana in South Africa, the international working class must be organized to end wage slavery. ICWP is leading the international working class to end the rule of capitalist bosses. The international working class united under the banners of ICWP will avenge the massacres of Santa Marta and Marikana, and of the normalistas of Ayotzinapa.

Ex-Guerrillera from El Salvador Writes:

SURVIVAL AND SUCCESS DEPEND ON ORGANIZING SOLDIERS FOR COMMUNISM

My experiences during the pseudo-revolutionary war in El Salvador taught me how valuable it is to have soldier friends inside the army. Now, as a member of ICWP, I have learned about the great revolutions and the important, vital, role that revolutionary soldiers have played in the relationship of forces.

Therefore, I am convinced and certain that a communist revolution of the magnitude and importance that ICWP is organizing could not triumph and maintain its strength and forward march if today we do not struggle sharply to organize communist consciousness inside the bosses' army.



El Salvador, 1980s

One of my experiences took place in the village where I lived with my family. Since the invasions by the army were frequent and savage, we had set up posts with guards who warned the residents when an invasion was coming. There were two guard posts. One was close to the village; the other farther away.

In August, 1980, it happened that the guards farther away fell asleep and when the closer ones

gave the warning, the army was already at the entrance to the village. Our house was one of the first, so they took us by surprise.

I left, running the best I could, zigzagging through some small bushes, but the soldiers were already coming behind me. I could see and hear them. Worse still, I was dressed in bright orange and I heard an official or commander ordering the soldiers to kill me.

A soldier answered, "It's just a cow that's moving."

The angry commander yelled, "How could it be a cow, you stupid idiot? It's a guerrilla."

Finally the soldiers shot but they shot in the air.

This gave me time to run and escape and hide in a lake full of aquatic flowers.

Another time, in February, 1981, I was in the house recuperating from an illness when I was surprised by a military contingent. The interrogation was intense. They asked questions like "Why is a guerrilla here?" "Where are the weapons?"

I thought that I was going to get out of danger until a soldier I knew very well came into the house. He had participated in meetings and political

activities carried out in our house. When I saw him, I thought that he was going to denounce me and that this would be our end. However, he looked at me and then left the house without saying a word. I am still very grateful to this soldier because he saved my life and that of other members of my family.

This soldier reacted out of class consciousness. He knew he had more in common with me and

my family than with the bosses. Incidents and situations like these were common. It was also common for soldiers to desert the army with their weapons to join the guerrillas. When others were captured, they often decided to stay to fight along with the rebels.

Why do some soldiers fight to defend the government which is the enemy of the working class to which they themselves belong? In some countries they are volunteers motivated by the illusion that in the army they will learn a skill or that the army will help them financially with their studies.

In other countries they are recruited by force. From the day they join they are threatened that any act of rebellion will be paid by being whipped or killed. There are other corporal (physical) punishments to keep them terrorized.

In times of war the bosses resort to drugs to keep soldiers fighting. However, in spite of all this, there are internal rebellions of soldiers discontented with the lousy food, mistreatment, and the horrible poverty wages they receive.

When soldiers are sent into combat, the majority would avoid it if they could. Or if there are alternatives, they would be to desert as an individual or as a group, or political alternatives in which the soldiers have been won to side with the rest of the working class to fight against the bosses' system and for communism.

Fellow Party members, let us not be afraid to send our youth to organize in the army. There are infinite possibilities. But if we do not do it, we are losing or underestimating the victory of communism.

As a communist Party we have the historic and military responsibility to secure communist political work that will lead to recruiting soldiers to our Party in the USA, Mexico, El Salvador, Honduras, South Africa, Spain and all countries.

U.S. Imperialists Debate War Strategy

LET'S DESTROY CAPITALISM-IMPERIALISM WITH COMMUNISM

"My uncle, a Colonel in the US Army, said that China, not Russia, is the US' main rival, and in 10 years we'll be at war with China because there can't be two superpowers," commented a *Red Flag* reader.

"When there are two contenders for imperialist top-dog, it leads inevitably to war. Our historic task is to end this deadly dogfight forever by destroying capitalism-imperialism and building a communist world," responded an ICWP comrade.

US Rulers' Strategic Dilemma: Where to Fight?

This colonel expresses the position of some US rulers who see China as their main long-term challenger. That was the view of the powerful Hart-Rudman Commission Report (1999-2001). It's the analysis behind the "Pivot to Asia-Pacific" strategy of the dominant wing of the US imperialist class.

Other US rulers consider Russia a more immediate threat. Ariel Cohen of the Heritage Foundation wrote in 2013 that Putin's policy was "a strategic break from the West and establishment of a Russian 'pole' in a multipolar world order." Russian aggression in Ukraine this year has broadened support for a "get tough on Moscow" policy.

Leslie Gelb of the Council on Foreign Relations argued in May that "there is nothing that can be done to stop the growing control of Russia and Russian-backed militias in eastern Ukraine." He

called for a longer-term strategy of sanctions. Obama announced on December 16 that he would sign legislation imposing new sanctions on Russia to "deepen the pain" of Moscow's currency crisis.

Some US rulers think that reasserting US domination over the Middle East is the way to contain both China and Russia. Others think that China can better be contained in Asia-Pacific, and Russia in the Black Sea-Eastern Europe region.

The first group argues that by toppling the Syrian regime, Iraq could be pacified and an isolated Iran could be forced to capitulate peacefully or be easily conquered militarily. US imperialism would again dominate this strategic oil-rich region.

ISIS serves their purposes by justifying military intervention. Vice President Biden exposed this when he accused Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE of sending "hundreds of millions of dollars and thousands of tons of weapons" to supply extremist jihadis. But the CIA itself armed and trained hundreds of Syrian rebels, many of whom joined groups that coalesced into ISIS.

This imperialist gang and its allies want a no-fly zone along the Turkish-Syrian border. They would use US air power to destroy Syrian air defenses and air force, and protect Syrian rebels and US troops who would topple Assad.

The dominant faction of US imperialism doesn't want a no-fly zone. They fear that bombing Assad's military might trigger a major clash with



China-Russia- Iran. They think rebel forces, with Turkish soldiers' aid, can pressure Iran into acceding to their demands, without large numbers of US soldiers.

Their main demand is that Iran agree not to provide oil and gas by land to China, especially in a war. Then, they figure, the energy resources needed by China's industry and military could be cut off by the US Navy, which controls the sea lanes and chokepoints in Asia-Pacific through which this energy must pass.

Neither strategy is a sure winner. Key regional powers (Turkey, Saudi Arabia) have their own interests that we'll write more about later. Iran has a large standing military and potential to expand

Greater Israel in the Fast Lane to Apartheid (Part I):

MOBILIZE FOR COMMUNISM TO UNITE ARABS, JEWS, ALL WORKERS

The recent political crisis in Israel centers around two interconnected issues. One is rising economic inequality. The other is a proposed “Jewish Nation-State” law, another attack on Palestinians.

This law is similar to European anti-Jewish nation-state laws in the 1930s. It would resolve the sharpening contradiction in Israel’s claim to be “Jewish and democratic” by shredding whatever appearance of “democracy” that Israel ever had.

This is a contradiction of capitalism. Nationalism and democracy belong to class society. Neither helps workers.

Nationalism tells us to unite with “our” bosses against other workers. It sabotages class struggle and sets us up for fratricidal wars.

Democracy is how the bosses manage their disagreements (when possible) without killing each other. It builds the illusion that workers have a say-so. In reality we live under a class dictatorship where the capitalists-imperialists run everything.

The international working class must dump this system and build communism. We, collectively, will make all decisions about production and everything else in the interests of the masses – our own interest.

That’s what Jews and Palestinians in Israel, and workers everywhere, really need.

Without capitalism there will be no nationalism and no democracy.

Apartheid: From Johannesburg to Jerusalem

Israeli rulers increasingly refer to a “Greater



Arab and Jewish Israelis protest cost of living, Jaffa, 2011

Israel” stretching from the Mediterranean to the Jordan River. This is becoming more and more like the South African Apartheid system that Israel once supported.

In the West Bank, Palestinians are under Israeli military rule. However, over half a million Israeli Jewish “settlers” are governed by Israeli civil authorities. Most “settlers” live in heavily fortified urban areas, protected by the Israeli military.

These “settlements” and the Israeli wall of separation have driven Palestinians off the land. Growing numbers are forced to work for Israeli companies. Many can’t get official work permits. They are subject to abuse and super-exploitation. All are banned from using Israeli-run public transportation and are constantly harassed at checkpoints.

Even a Palestinian government minister was recently murdered at a checkpoint.

In besieged Gaza, says the International Labor Organization, “four-fifths of people have to count on humanitarian aid, economic activity has been paralysed, and achieving decent work is an increasingly distant dream.”

Within Israel’s 1948-1967 boundaries, Arab Israeli citizens are 20% of the population. They face legal segregation and other racist attacks. Over half live in poverty. Salaried urban Arab Israeli workers earn much less than Mizrahi Jews (Asian and African descent), who earn

less than European Jews.

This racism drives down living standards for all Israeli workers.

One third of Israeli households are in poverty. At least half have trouble affording food, medical care, prescription drugs, and other necessities.

Who benefits? The capitalists! Eighteen Israeli families control 60% of all Israeli corporate wealth, mainly in Israel’s largest industries: banking and insurance, chemicals, high tech, and military.

Communism Will End Poverty and Wealth, Racism and Nationalism

Capitalism forces workers into wage slavery under the threat of starvation. A government monopoly on legal violence enables capitalists to take the fruits of our labor and throw us a few scraps.

Communism will end all that! We’ll produce and share everything we need.

The International Communist Workers’ Party includes workers, soldiers and youth on four continents. Once our mass party takes power, we’ll erase borders and, with them, the material basis of nationalism.

The long-term political struggle will continue to resolve ideological contradictions within ourselves and the masses. For example, we’ll fight the nationalist ideas we were trained to believe and promote the communist ideas that represent our real needs and our future.

The same with racism. Racism is not “in our genes” or “human nature.” Capitalism created racism to prevent a united working class from rising up and destroying the tiny ruling class that exploits us all. Racism attacks the whole working class. We all need to destroy it!

Capitalism-imperialism continually churns out new variations on racist ideology. It reaps extra-high profits from the lower-paid labor of black, latino/a, indigenous, and immigrant workers. Communism will destroy this material basis of racism and create the material basis for defeating it through sharp political struggle.

Mobilizing the masses for communism today can build enduring unity of Arab, Jewish, Druze, Bedouin, Christian, and all workers in the Middle East and everywhere.

Next: *Inter-imperialist rivalry and Israel/Palestine*

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it. Neither China nor Russia will accept submission without a fight.

What’s really at stake in the US rulers’ policy debate is where they should plan to fight World War III.

Our Historic Task:

Bury Capitalism-imperialism With Communism

This racist profit system has no other option but to resort to war and mass destruction of workers’ lives and the planet.

We, on the other hand, have the option of joining the International Communist Workers’ Party to fight for a world that will cherish human lives above everything. This communist world will tear down all borders and the nations they define.

Once we win the class war against the imperialists, war will become a thing of the past.

Through collectivity and sharing we will flourish fully as productive creative human beings.

LETTERS

No More Rich and Poor: Equality for All

The capitalist system has prevailed for many years, so it has brought serious problems for society. Of course, the working class is the most affected, since wages are barely enough for food and clothing, while the millionaires are surrounded with luxuries and comforts.

Worse, there are places where people die of hunger while people who have everything go to the best restaurants, ask for the most expensive food and wine, and still waste them.

Another very relevant aspect is the lack of clothing. In some parts of the world people wear old rags or clothes they find in garbage cans. The millionaires go three or four times a week to buy the best brands in the stores

LETTERS

LETTERS

where clothes are very expensive, and throw everything they no longer want in the garbage.

Another aspect is the lack of roads in many places, where people have to walk for several hours while a few have private airplanes. Also, many people in the world die because of the bad health care they receive and for lack of money to go to a hospital or to be attended by a good doctor, while those who have money can even buy organs to be cured.

Due to these and other things that have been mentioned, there has been dissent. People go into the streets to demonstrate. But even so their rights are not respected. That is why I give my most sincere thanks and congratulations to the people who had the magnificent idea of forming the International Communist Workers’

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

Party (ICWP). And why not also thank those who have joined this party! And in the same spirit I invite all those people who have not joined the party to do so now.

We all know that carrying out this joyful task has not been at all easy, but if we join forces and ideas, surely everything will turn out well. And then, yes, we will be able to live in a world that we all dream of, a world of equality.

Let’s continue forward, ICWP, let’s go for the world of equality, no more rich and no more poor. We are all humans and deserve to be respected and treated without any distinction. ICWP lives and the struggle continues, let’s fight for a communist government.

--Comrade in Mexico

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CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

The Christmas Truce: 100 Years Ago, Soldiers Refused to Kill Each Other

My dad was almost 50 when I was born and I'm 70 now, so you can see how stories from my childhood stretch back many years. I grew up with one story that no-one talked about at the time but has since been made into a film.

Born in Liverpool, England, my dad had vol-



unteered to join the Army during World War 1. Among the many stories he told us about his experiences was one about playing for England versus Germany in no-man's land (the land separating the enemy trenches) on Christmas Day, 1914.

The troops were mad. They had been left in the trenches while the officers had traveled to a town behind the front for a Christmas party. Organized by communists, the soldiers in both trenches got together and played three football games. My dad, a goalkeeper, played for England's 3rd team. They lost 6 to 3.

"You lost! You let in 6 goals!" we would tease him.

"We all won," my dad replied, "No-one fired a shot at each other until January second."

By that time the brass, who were of course furious, were able to disperse and transfer the organizers away from the area.

My dad's story differs from the official "Christmas Truce" story in many ways, but it was told to us long before the present story surfaced in public. It suggests either that there were other incidents of fraternization or that my dad knew how to tell a story to make a political point, which he was never shy of doing.

One of the other conclusions he drew from his war experiences was an emphatic, "No son of mine is going to University!" His argument was clear. "Every officer who ordered us out of the trenches to charge enemy lines had either been to University or intended to go to University after the war. No son of mine," my dad argued, "is going to be that stupid!"

--History student

Diary of an ICWP Organizer in South Africa.

On Monday I was visited by my long-time friend who is a machine operator at General Motors (GM) who has been asking for his ICWP T-shirt for the past 2 weeks and finally I gave it to him.

I had to go far to get it because the T-shirts are at a comrade's house which is far from where I live. But I just had to fetch it because the comrade was asking for it almost everyday for the past 3 weeks and I was so happy he finally got it.

We had a long chat. After talking about communism and capitalism, this comrade is already mobilizing in his work place and totally agrees that communism is the only way for the working class and it's gonna be a hard job.

As usual the capitalist system is always exploiting the working class in every possible way. Just yesterday I had a long conversation with a veteran worker of Transnet who has been working for Transnet for almost 30 years. The comrade told me about the exploitation that is going on.

Their safety shoes are of the worst quality and very cheap so as to increase the capitalists' profits and are damaging their feet. You can't wear them for a long time because they will damage your feet. Capitalism doesn't care about the health and safety of the workers. They care about maximising profits at the expense of the working class.

As far as the case of manganese temporary workers who lost their jobs at Transnet because of the strike they were forced to participate in, the case is still on but looks favourable for the capitalists.

It is said the Transnet managers and officials do not attend the court dates and apparently

there are rumours that the Transnet bosses have bribed the CCMA (commission for conciliation, mediation, arbitration) to favour the case against the fired workers. The comrade also commented that the union works hand in hand with Transnet bosses. It doesn't serve and fight for workers. Their union representatives drive expensive cars and live in big houses.

I got a new article from RF and met a general construction worker just two hours ago. He was mobilised by some one I mobilised. He wants to join and read all our material. I have organised material for him such as Mobilise the Masses for Communism and *Red Flag* as he is familiar with our paper. He said he wants to read it all the time before he goes to sleep because he finds the paper very interesting and he wants to join ICWP.

I told him he must just pop in at my place soon, as he knows where I live. So soon he will come and fetch the communism material that I will print for him. I will print all he needs and give him Red Flags.

We had a long chat about communist revolution and ICWP but since he was going to work I had to cut the chat short, as he was so into our discussion that he forgot the time. I didn't want him to be late.

--South African comrade



Reading *Red Flag* in South Africa

Class Warfare in the US

The US government's budget "fight" isn't much of a fight. Even liberal darling Elizabeth Warren's objection to a provision allowing more bank bailouts is basically a distraction.

To understand what goes on in Washington you have to see that it is class warfare. The few with the most financial resources control the government. They keep the many divided and ignorant that they are even in a war. The few take as much as they can. When they are confronted by an inchoate mass that is so furious they might take to the streets or otherwise act on their collective interests, the few make concessions sufficient to pacify the many.

The outrage over the bailout has subsided. The Occupy movement has been subdued. The left is focused on police violence. It is time for the rulers to take back the concessions. The fight between the demolicans and the republicrats is smoke and mirrors. To criticize the democrats for lacking spine is to misjudge the nature of the beast.

—California reader



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CAPITALIST CULTURE FROM A COMMUNIST PERSPECTIVE

Please send in drawings, photos, or written contributions
We are especially interested in submissions from outside the USA.



In the capitalist, commodity-driven, society we live in today, all music seems to be repetitive with overly sexualized themes. Sex and money are the key themes perpetuated in the music genre of Hip-Hop rap today, but it was not always that way. This genre has historically received criticism for violence-driven themes and messages. It was not always that way either. Hip Hop was a genre of music that emerged in New York among black youth in the 1970s after the mass anti-racist struggles. The genre grew in the 1980s and the 1990s, which is now considered by some to be the golden age of Hip-Hop.

Hip-Hop of the 1980s and 1990s had a message to it. Hip-Hop of that time described the struggles that blacks and all working class people faced: police brutality, racism, classism, and the drug epidemic which still afflicts working class communities today.

Rappers such as 2pac, MC Lyte, Common, Public Enemy, and A Tribe Called Quest rapped about social issues which uplifted people and made them think. Unfortunately, at the turn of the century the music industry and rap in general underwent a significant change. BET (Black Entertainment Television network) has banned and failed to show or rotate any of the artists mentioned or show any support to rap artists who now fall under the sub-genre of “conscious rap” or underground.

Most of this also comes down to capitalist politics in the music industry. Where there were numerous sources to release music from in the 80s and 90s, now all of the major music distribution is handled by Universal Music group, Warner Music group, and EMI, which control almost all of the music that we listen to today.

In today’s Hip-Hop, songs such as “Life Style” and a number of other songs which teach people to chase the dreams of millionaire status and ignorance to the real working class conditions flood the air waves. This doesn’t help youth to be involved in discussions or struggles against the status quo, which is exactly what the bosses fear.

Although Hip-Hop has gone through a change in what is considered popular subjects for distribution today, there are still artists who stay true to their craft. One of the most interesting political Hip-Hop artists today, Boots Riley, is openly anti-capitalist—his “Pockets Full of Slavemasters” is worth listening to—but its hits on YouTube number in the hundreds, because he doesn’t have corporate backers.

Underground artist like Rebels to the Grain distribute their music through underground channels where they are freely able to rap about what they wish without the filter of capitalist agenda.

In a communist world, music will be created and distributed for peoples’ enjoyment. There will no longer be a need for commodity glorification because all needs will be met collectively by the masses. Also we in ICWP understand that certain ideas won’t be changed overnight. This will create further struggle to weed out capitalist ideology that is so heavily prevalent in music today regardless of genre.

Mockingjay 1: Fighting the Power or Pushing Anti-Communism

The Hunger Games movies, and similar films such as the Divergent series and The Giver, have a huge fan base. Even though the real action in Mockingjay will come in part 2, fans will see this movie anyway.

Mockingjay 1 is full of love, action, and violence. Katniss, the heroine, is a lot braver and stronger in the movie than in the book, but she still has issues, which makes her easy to identify with.

And teens, especially girls, are watching it, which makes it crucial to understand the political message. These movies are all about teenagers in a future dystopia, “fighting the power.” People have made a new society, which has some features of a communist society, but is clearly as bad or worse as the society that it replaced. The lesson the movie pushes is that if we fight for communism it will turn out bad: life in the good old USA is as good as it gets.

In Mockingjay 1, District 13 stands in for a “communist” society fighting against the power of the Capital, which cold-bloodedly bombs a hospital where workers who have survived a previous attack have taken refuge. If the Capital represents the system, District 13 represents rebels and radicals. It leads a working-class fight against a murderous, dehumanizing system.



However, it also represents all the worst anti-communist stereotypes. Everyone wears the same clothes and eats the same food. They have a daily schedule written on their arms. There’s one leader who is kind of like a dictator, who gives speeches to the crowd who respond with fists in the air, like communists are supposed to.

The Capital uses TV to control the whole country, just like the bosses use the media to control us. The leader of District 13 and her advisor use the media to manipulate the workers in all the districts into fighting against the Capital. They are every bit as cynical as the Capital, using Katniss as the “Mockingjay”—the symbol of the “revolution”—staging her in battle, using her to stir people up, to catch the fire, so they’ll fight.

Real communists don’t need a “symbol.” In fact, following a leader like Nelson Mandela, César Chávez, Martin Luther King, Mao or Ché Guevara has always kept people from thinking critically about how we can really build communism. It allowed these misleaders to sell out the struggle.

A lot of people these days know that capitalism is the problem. The bosses are afraid that young people who want to fight against it will fight for the only real solution: communism. So all these movies are to convince us that capitalism may be bad, but communism would be worse.

In fact, communism is a society without money, bosses, cops or borders, where we will cooperate and work together to meet the needs of our class. We’ll share what we have with no bosses telling us what to do. Keep reading Red Flag and our pamphlet Mobilize the Masses for Communism to learn more about communism and join us!

This is the first strip of a comic series that we will continue in subsequent issues:

A BOY NAMED JAKE, WHO WANTS TO BE A SOLDIER

