

RED FLAG

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

"JASMINE REVOLUTION"

IS NO REVOLUTION TUNISIAN WORKERS AND YOUTH NEED COMMUNISM

A month of mass student protests in the north African country of Tunisia have led to the resignation of its president, Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali. Ben Ali, who ruled as a dictator for 23 years, was an ally of US imperialism in its so-called "war on terror."

Some are calling this a "Jasmine Revolution" that will bring in democracy. But this is no revolution, and democracy is not what workers or students need. In a real revolution, one class violently overthrows another. Workers and students in Tunisia and everywhere need to mobilize for communist revolution and workers' power.

The mass protests – totally illegal – began with a personal tragedy that symbolized the profound crisis of capitalism in Tunisia. On December 17, police confiscated fruit and vegetables that a young unemployed college graduate, Bouazizi Mohamed, was trying to sell, saying he lacked a permit. The despairing youth doused himself with gasoline and set himself on fire.

Half of the 75,000 Tunisian college students who graduate each year, like Bouazizi, remain unemployed a year and a half later. Tunisian capitalism's growth has been in low-skill, low-pay sectors, notably textiles and tourism. But riches for the rulers have come, as always, at the expense of the working class. Now it's clear that education provides no escape from the class struggle.

Over 5000 people attended Bouazizi's funeral, spilling into the streets. Defying the police, who shot and killed dozens of protesters, militant students and recent graduates continued to march. Young professionals joined them. By mid-January, the rebellion had spread throughout Tunisia, including its capital, Tunis. There, hundreds of working-class youths blocked roads with burning tires, stoned police, and attacked a local government building.

As violent repression failed to squash the angry masses, Ben Ali promised reforms, including lower

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Tunisian students and unemployed college graduates lead struggle against fascist conditions and economic crisis.

Thirty Years On The Job And The Boeing Bosses Are Still Penny-Pinching:

IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THIS WAY UNDER COMMUNISM

SEATTLE, WA — "I guess we wouldn't have a job if the bosses didn't make a little profit," said a Boeing Machinist half-heartedly. He had just finished complaining with his co-workers about how the bosses were constantly attacking us, trying to squeeze every penny while they socked away millions.

"That's not the way it has to work," answered a comrade. "Not if we produced for our needs; not if we had communism."

This exchange was sparked by the struggle around one worker's seniority celebration. For a while now, workers could avoid the torture of going out to dinner with managers to celebrate milestones like thirty years on the job. Instead they could have a company-paid dinner with their crew.

When this 30-year veteran asked to invite some other friends in the factory to his dinner, he was told he couldn't. Workers have always invited friends they have made in other crews. This year the company won't allow any extras.

Workers in the veteran's present crew objected, forcing the boss to agree to bring up the reversal of this

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Tucson Shootings:

OBAMA'S PATRIOTISM PAVES WAY FOR BOSSES' WARS

Fifty years ago, US president Kennedy famously said, "Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask instead what you can do for your country." It was a patriotic call for workers to sacrifice for the capitalist bosses' system as the inter-imperialist Cold War sharpened.

Today President Obama wants US workers to take the same message from the recent shootings in Tucson, Arizona.

Obama's call for national unity was, on one level, an effort to unite Democratic and Republican politicians to pass legislation needed by the US capitalist class. For example, the biggest bosses worry that Republicans will plunge the US into an international crisis by refusing to raise the ceiling on the national debt. They need "bipartisanship" to intensify fascism and to prepare for wider and bigger wars.

But Obama's main intent was to mobilize American workers around patriotism.

"Our family [is] an American family 300 million strong," he said. "We want to live up to the example of public servants [politicians] like John Roll and Gabby Giffords, who knew first and foremost that we are all Americans." Then Obama quoted nine-year-old Christina Taylor: "I hope you know all of the

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Obama/Hu Toasts and Hugs Can't Hide

INEVITABLE US/CHINA CLASH

“World Watches as Giants Meet,” screams the *Global Times*, official newspaper of China’s government. “Wary Powers Set to Square Off,” thunders the *Wall Street Journal*, a major mouthpiece of the US imperialists. Contrary to what Presidents Obama and Hu might proclaim at their summit amid toasts, embraces, joint declarations and platitudes about human rights – these headlines speak to the inevitable: The US, a rapidly declining imperial power, must eventually clash on the battle field with China, a rapidly rising military and economic giant. These bosses are pushing nationalism to win us to fight and die in their profit wars. We need to mobilize internationally for communism to destroy them and their war-based capitalist system.

Rhetoric can’t hide the many sharpening contradictions between these two vicious ruling classes. On every continent, China’s geopolitical interests are not only opposite of those of the US bosses, but can only be achieved at their expense. Burdened with the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression and mired in three money-gobbling, losing wars in the Middle East, the US bosses are finding it impossible to compete economically with China.

The *New York Times*, the main mouthpiece of US imperialism, chose to open another line of attack. Its headline on the Summit read, “US Shifts Focus To Press Chinese To Open Markets.” It continued, “The fight over China’s cheap currency... was shaping up to be the epic battle...but on Wednesday...much of the clash will be about a new battle field – inside China itself.”

It argued that “trade restrictions imposed by the Chinese government ... have angered many American manufactures and high tech companies, which are rapidly finding themselves cut out of the world’s fastest growing market.” The US bosses will demand, among other things, that China stop requiring sophisticated technology transfers as a condition for doing business there and stop favoring local businesses over foreign multinationals for lucrative government projects.

Negotiations Can't Resolve Contradictions

Even if met, these demands would only temporarily slow down the inevitable collision of these imperialist vultures. China’s strategy is to develop its

internal market and help other countries like Brazil develop theirs, to break its exporting dependency on the US market. As the US market shrinks and China’s grows exponentially, the world’s economic center inexorably shifts to China. This hastens the US bosses’ decline, forcing them to wage war sooner rather than later against China.

No “Peaceful Rise”

China’s rapid military modernization shows that the Chinese bosses don’t believe they can rise peacefully. A recent editorial in *Global Times* (1/18/11) stated, “China won’t be a fast-growing but fragile country. It has to develop its military strength in order to make any power think twice before trying to offend China’s key interests.” Many top Chinese military and civilian officials see the US as a fading imperialist power intent on encircling China. This has made them more brazen in flaunting their economic and military prowess. The People’s Liberation Army tested its J-20 “stealth” fighter in early January just prior to Defense Secretary Gates’ visit, heralding that China understands its rise as the dominant imperialist power won’t be peaceful. It underscored this by reporting on its “aircraft killer” missile and the deployment of its first aircraft carrier in 2014.

Furthermore, the *Financial Times* (1/7/11) reported that Major General Jiang Luming of China’s National Defense University wrote that Beijing must permanently double military spending to 2.8% of gross domestic product. Also, Colonel Liu Mingfu published a book last year calling on China to prepare “for a

fight with the US for global dominance in the 21st century.” The article stated that most of “Beijing’s ‘angry generals’ are the cream of those who teach the next generation of military officers.”

The Pentagon’s response was to deploy 15 F-22 stealth fighters to Japan for four months. While Gates was in Korea, after leaving China, the US nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson held joint naval exercises with South Korea in the Yellow Sea. This battle group had military exercises with Japan in the South China Sea, in China’s backyard, on January 17.

To counter China’s military advances, last December Congress passed the largest US military budget in history. The US workers are being forced to pay with drastic cuts in vital services for the defense of the US empire. Millions in the world are already paying with their blood and lives. Millions more, including Chinese workers, will do so.

Workers Need Communist Revolution

Wars for empire and profits only satisfy the needs of a system that serves a handful of parasites sacrificing billions of workers. Chinese and US workers can draw important lessons from their history of sharp class struggle, including Chinese workers’ revolutionary past, to mobilize for communism. Only by destroying capitalism, which makes wars and world war inevitable, can we end its interminable carnage. Let’s organize a massive ICWP of armed workers, soldiers and students to lead the communist revolution we need. Join us in this historic task.



Boeing from page 1

new policy at the next manager’s meeting. Usually, the manager fills up the crew meeting demanding we produce more for less. When he’s not demanding more, he focuses on petty rules and harassment. “Let’s see if he’ll do something for us for a change,” was the sentiment. Not likely!

“They spend millions moving machines around; they can afford to throw an extra piece of chicken in the oven for the workers they force to move along with them,” said one defiant operator at the crew meeting. Everyone had a story of how the company gave managers--big and small--way more for less important reasons.

Soon workers began to take matters into their own hands. Friends from past crews informed the boss that they were coming to the dinner despite the new policy. Others started yelling in the aisles so the bosses could hear, “Aren’t I going to be invited?!” Even workers from distant areas of this huge plant who didn’t

really know the veteran made the trip to his workstation to offer support.

International Capitalist Competition Drives Penny-Pinching Attacks

Boeing stands to lose between \$10 billion and \$18 billion on their new 787 airplane-production fiasco. They tried to cut corners by offloading production to cheap labor sites. The subcontractors weren’t able to deliver. These delays, combined with new-technology engineering problems, have driven the production schedule behind at least three years. Fines and extra costs are adding up to billions of dollars.

Of course, the bosses still get their multi-million-dollar bonuses and salaries.

The capitalist system forced the bosses to take these risks. At least four new imperialist competitors will soon be manufacturing 737 commercial jets, Boeing’s cash cow. China alone is throwing \$30 billion into the development of their new, more fuel-efficient, airplane.

Aerospace production is key not only for the bosses’ profit, but is a strategic military asset to advance the interests of a nation’s bosses. The attacks on us are even more sure and severe.

Communist Factory Life Worth Celebrating

But it doesn’t have to be this way. Under communism millions of workers will collectively mobilize to produce for the needs of the international working class, not for the profit of some boss or the imperialist empire of a nation’s ruling class.

There will be no bosses, no money, no privileges and no personal wealth or private property. Everyone will work for the common good, and share in the results of the collective labor.

Workers’ seniority will no longer mark decades of drudgery and exploitation, but a full life of diverse mental and manual contributions to the good of the international working class. Even this small mutiny around the dinner gives us a taste of the collectivity we need. Now these things are worth celebrating!



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Communist Workers, Friends Decide:

BUILD MATERIAL BASIS TO SMASH RACISM

SEATTLE, WA — “Can racism really be smashed?” asked a comrade at last week’s discussion of ICWP’s draft document “Mobilizing the Masses for Communism.” A high school student had just described racist comments she had to endure at her school. For instance, she was asked if she had a child because that’s what “you people do.” Party members and friends in this worker and student multi-racial study group set upon the task of answering this question—in the here and now and in the future.

The school had sent her out of state to a “diversity conference” to celebrate “our differences.” A school worker pointed out that the schools emphasize differences, but they never get around to fighting racism. In essence, capitalist education accepts racism as part of human nature.

A communist perspective, however, looks at the material basis of racism. Racist pay differentials give the capitalists a huge economic incentive to maintain racism. Bosses’ politics relies on racism’s divide-and-conquer strategy to maintain the power of the capitalist class. Actually, the capitalists invented racism as we know it.

Communism, on the other hand, can root out the material basis of racism. The abolition of money will itself be a powerful blow. No wages; no racist pay differentials. Every group will get what they need; physical segregation will be a thing of the past.

Communist mobilization of the masses is the antidote to capitalism segregation. We can smash racism when we eliminate the material basis and mobilize

millions to fight ideologically and practically.

Even before we wipe out capitalism’s material base for racism, we can give the working class a taste of how a communist society can succeed in smashing racism. We read the *Red Flag* front-page article about the struggle against a racist film at a UC campus. We discussed how workers mobilized at the Los Angeles MTA to root out racist ideas in the workforce.

Then we discussed ideas on how to organize communist inspired anti-racist struggle in the Seattle schools. One comrade used summer projects as a model for mobilizing youth: integrating study, practice and “fun.”

Naturally, this brought up the history of past revolutions and how they dealt with this question. Past communists who fought for socialism made great strides in this battle, but not lasting accomplishments.

The communist movement has hitherto thought socialism was a “half-way house” to communism. In reality, socialism is just another form of capitalism that undermines revolutionary progress.

Socialism keeps wages and commodity production guaranteeing the reemergence of racism. Our Party will not repeat this fatal error; we fight directly for communism.

Who then will make these decisions about what to struggle around and how under communism? Once again, we started by asking how decisions are made under the present system.

Initially, friends repeated what they learned in the bosses’ schools about voting, Congress and the pres-

ident, how a bill becomes a law. It was not long, however, before many realized that these mechanisms were set up to impose the will of the capitalist rulers.

Similarly, the mechanics of how communist centralism works was not the primary question, although we did discuss that. Rather, communist mobilizations play a central role in decision making in the society we want. Indeed, that is the reason for our Party: to mobilize the workers for communism. The Party leads; the working class rules.

Here again, we can get a taste of the future as we organize today. We can’t put up artificial barriers to the participation of the masses in this battle to secure a communist future. For instance, how have the masses been mobilized not only to read and write for our paper, but also in the production of *Red Flag* (see letter, p. 15)?

We ended the discussion with announcements about organizing our first-year anniversary/May Day dinners and building for our communist May Day contingents.

Self-critically, we should have started discussion of these practical matters earlier. The meeting had to break up too soon because two comrades had to get to work before the crack of dawn the next day.

Another couple offered to host our next discussion on the draft document. We aim to come into that meeting with concrete plans for the dinners and May Day contingent. These plans will focus, in part, on mobilizing larger numbers to advance the struggle to build a material basis for eliminating racism.

Workers need Communist Education:

Strike Against Capitalism that Divides Parents & Teachers

EL SALVADOR—“It seems to me like listening to the right-wing ministers who we’ve had for 20 years,” said an education worker. She referred to the declarations of the Ministry of Education and the Vice-President of the Republic, Sanchez Ceren, leader of the FMLN, who said, “We can’t include the teachers in the wage increase because this means not giving uniforms, shoes, and notebooks to the students.” This declaration is typical of the bourgeois politicians trying to pit parents and teachers against each other.

The teachers are demanding to be included in the wage increase that will be given to the public employees through decree 553. This law excludes the teachers, contrary to what is established in another law, the Law of the Teacher’s Career. During the presidential campaign, up to 600 educators applauded Sanchez Ceren in a celebration of the “Teachers’ Day,” for the promises he made for dignity for the teachers, when he was courting their votes to win the elections.

Teachers’ struggles have marked the beginning of the 2011 school year. Since January 3rd there have been concentrations of teachers in front of the President’s house, and press conferences. They are proposing the idea of a strike in stages, county by county, because since August of last year they have been demanding a 30% wage increase. In ICWP, we intend to organize political strikes to make the teachers, students and workers in general aware, with communist ideas, of the need to put an end to this miserable system that offers shoes to one family and takes away food from another, politically dividing all the workers.

The reformist leaders of the different unions and associations play by capitalism’s rules. They don’t want to smash this system, but instead accommodate to it. These unions are trying to satisfy their leaders’ own interests. For example, the “Teachers Rank and File” groups makes a fuss to gain prominence, to mislead the workers. They’re building the Movement for

Participatory Democracy, which promotes illusions in capitalism, while ANDES 21 of June, in complicity with the government, doesn’t want to do anything that will damage the image of the Ministry of Education. This negotiation does nothing more than bog the teachers down in something that under capitalism won’t change. In the teachers’ unions there are many honest people, who must be won to the line of organizing the working class to fight directly for communism, since capitalism can’t meet our needs.

The workers must understand and struggle against capitalist education. We must take advantage of these moments of struggle to show that education from kindergarten to the universities only serves the exploitation and misery of the whole working class. The bosses and their government tell us that education is the source of prosperity. These lies create illusions in the workers and keep us from advancing in the real struggle to smash reformism and build communism.

The teachers organized in ICWP must sharpen the ideological struggle in the classrooms and the mobilizations, distributing our newspaper *Red Flag*, organizing study action groups, and telling the teachers that even if we win a wage increase, we’ll still be slaves of exploitation. Let’s not fight for crumbs, let’s organize more workers, teachers and students to fight for communism with the line of *Red Flag* and the ICWP.

California students fight against budget cuts



Racist California Budget Cuts

Expose Capitalism’s Failure:

ONLY COMMUNISM CAN MEET WORKERS’ NEEDS!

LOS ANGELES--California’s budget crisis is a racist attack on all workers. The ax will fall more harshly on black and latino workers – the last hired, first fired. Many people voted for Jerry Brown against “budget-cutter” Meg Whitman. Brown was elected as the “lesser evil,” helped by unions like the California Teachers’ Association (CTA). Workers should shed all illusions in Brown and unions. Politicians and union officials will do whatever capitalism demands. And, capitalism in crisis demands that workers sacrifice “blood and treasure” for the capitalists’ lavish life style, profits, and wars.

The present crisis shows the absurdity of capitalism. The capitalists’ “problem” is that they have excess houses, food, medicine, etc., that they can’t sell profitably on the market – while millions here and worldwide are homeless, hungry or die of curable illness because capitalism denies them a job or decent wages to buy what they need.

In this capitalist crisis of overproduction, the bosses and their politicians are calling for us to “share the sacrifice” – meaning we sacrifice, they share the profits and wealth. In contrast, workers in a communist society will share scarcity and abundance according to need, without privileges for anyone. For this we need a communist world - with no bosses, money, profits, nor failed socialism (state capitalism).

Capitalism’s absurd crisis of overproduction leads to an even deadlier absurdity: wars and world war. The capitalists make war over markets, cheap labor and natural resources (especially oil) so that a handful of them can control the world.

Why must hundreds of millions of us be sacrificed for this inhuman need? In a communist world workers will share the earth’s resources to produce for our needs.

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South Sudan: World's Bosses Create New Nation

COMMUNISM WILL ELIMINATE BORDERS

As we go to press, the referendum in South Sudan has concluded with at least 60% participation. Although the results won't be known until February, it seems clear that the world's bosses are creating another national border, splitting Sudan into two separate countries.

Red Flag has written about this previously, concentrating on the role of rivalry over oil between the US and China and how the US bosses have pushed for this separation in order to gain control over the oil in South Sudan. What we haven't emphasized enough is a communist vision of the role of national borders.

Communists in the past have had a contradictory analysis of nations and borders. Marx said "Workers of the World Unite!" yet communist parties were organized by nations: the Communist Party of Mexico, the Communist Party of Sudan, etc., etc. We reject this position. Our stand is "One World, One Working Class, One Communist Party."

In looking at colonial and post-colonial Africa, bourgeois analysts say that the origin of ethnic violence in Africa is that the European colonizers divided Africa up for their own convenience, without taking into account the so-called "natural divisions"

that already existed in Africa between different language, religious, and cultural groups. They claim that these divisions are the cause of the current violence in Niger, the genocide in Rwanda, and the fighting in Sudan between the "Arab and Muslim north" and the "Christian and animist south."

Communists have a different analysis. Although it is true that the European colonizers drew national borders without taking the Africans into account, there is no reason why in a communist society, urban and rural workers of different language and cultural backgrounds can't build a world where cooperating, rather than conflict is the operating principle.

Nationalism, tribalism, and religious/ethnic conflict are created by the bosses and used by them to divide the working class for two reasons: to weaken the working class so they can maintain their control and to maximize profit. The bosses need racism, as well as maximum profit, to survive capitalist competition. The elimination of the wage system will abolish the need for racism.

Nationalist movements are promoted by bourgeois politicians who use these ideas to divide the working class while they capitalize on their positions of "leadership" of the movements they create. In South

Sudan, the former guerrilla leaders are looking forward to being the new rulers, negotiating with US and Chinese oil companies, and living large off the oil revenue while the people in their territory continue to suffer poverty and exploitation. The only thing that will change will be the "cultural identity" of the bosses who exploit them.

We are building an international party, which will organize the working-class masses to fight to take power wherever we can. We will not limit ourselves to the artificial borders the bosses have set up. And when we do take power, we will build a collective society, putting into practice the principles of "from each according to his/her commitment, to each according to his/her need."

Eliminating the wage system will eliminate the material basis for racism and will allow us to forge real bonds and relationships that go beyond the artificial divisions that the bosses have promoted for generations. We will make a conscious fight against all the bosses' ideas that have kept us divided, learning each others' languages, eating each others' food, and forging a new international working class culture.

Workers of the World, Unite!

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words to the National Anthem and sing it with your hand over your heart."

What kind of "family" leaves 4 million homeless and 50 million hungry in the US alone while a privileged few jet from one mansion to another? What kind of "family" is organized to maximize profits for those who never lift a finger by squeezing the life out of those who do all the work? What kind of "family" institutionalizes vicious racism against black and latino/a people?

The 19th century communist Karl Marx wrote, "Working people have no country." It's still true. Our real family is the international working class. Our anthem is "The Internationale."

Obama's patriotic platitudes are propaganda to prepare us to sacrifice our class interest and kill our class brothers and sisters in US capitalism's imperialist wars. These wars—enabled by Democrats like Giffords—kill far more innocent people than any right-wing lunatic.

Obama praised Giffords' aide Daniel Hernandez as a hero. Later, Hernandez echoed Obama's praise for "public servants like Judge Roll and Congresswoman Giffords." He called the shootings "a call to public service."

Serve the Workers, Not the Capitalist Warmakers

Under capitalism, "public service" means serving the capitalists. That's what all the politicians do, everywhere, not just in the USA.

When the bosses need to mobilize workers for their own ends—especially for war—they introduce "compulsory national service" (military conscription). A dozen countries have that now, and the US rulers are preparing to join the list.

It's no surprise that the fact that Hernandez is gay is being used to justify ending the US military's anti-gay "don't ask, don't tell" policy. The US rulers need every soldier they can get.

Giffords herself is a big fan of national service (so far, voluntary). "The volunteer spirit has long been a cornerstone of our democracy," she said, praising the 2009 "Serve America Act." She actively promoted repeal of "don't ask, don't tell."

Right now the US military can meet its recruitment quotas because of mass unemployment and restricted college enrollments due to cutbacks and tuition increases. As Giffords said two years ago, "The downturn in the economy has sparked a new interest in national service."

But inter-imperialist rivalry continues to sharpen. Chinese military capabilities are growing faster than

their US counterparts expected. The pace of preparation for World War III is bound to increase. And for that, the US bosses will need a draft.

Communism means that all work is done by volunteers. Our slogan is, "From each according to commitment, to each according to need." There will be no money, no pay, and no price tags on the things we need.

In communist society, "public service" will mean serving the workers of the world. "Public servants" will not be a bunch of parasites looking out for the interests of exploiters. We will all participate, through our Party, in making the decisions that affect our collective life. We will all participate in productive labor and in fighting for our class internationally.

Joining the International Communist Workers' Party now means committing ourselves to the process of mobilizing our whole class to fight for the communist world we need.

The bosses' war mobilization will make this increasingly necessary and possible. Young people in the military—whether volunteers or draftees—are well-positioned to serve their class by organizing to turn the guns around in revolutionary battle.

CAPITALISM CREATES RACIST MADNESS

In the hours after the Tucson shooting, liberal Democrats were quick to blame Tea Party Republicans for whipping up an atmosphere of hate that seemed to encourage such an attack. Now the mass media have all but buried that story. If you watch the US evening news, you'd think the main issue was mental illness.

The Tucson shooter, Jared Lee Loughner, is clearly mentally ill. It's equally clear that few resources are available in the dreadful US health care system for unstable people. But most unstable people don't buy semiautomatic weapons and commit mayhem as Loughner did.

Why is there so much mental illness? And why did Loughner's take the form it did?

Loughner's racist rants echoed right-wing bloggers and pundits. They reflect a fascist attack on aspects of capitalism that diverts attention from the reality of capitalism as a system.

For example, Loughner blamed the Federal Reserve Board for issuing money not backed by gold or

silver. That's true. But instead of understanding this as the logical development of finance capital, fascists call it a "Jewish conspiracy."

But racism is not exclusive to the far-right. Capitalism was built on racism, starting with the genocide of indigenous people and the enslavement of African people for labor on plantations throughout the Americas. Since then racism has remained a cornerstone of the capitalist system. All capitalist rulers and their politicians depend on racism to keep the working-class masses divided and themselves in power. Racist super-exploitation reaps super-profits worldwide.

Some racist killers are mentally ill, but thousands of black and immigrant workers have been lynched and murdered by racists who were otherwise considered "normal" in this racist society.

Capitalism distorts humanity; communism fosters it.

But there's nothing "normal" about a society which treats people as commodities to be bought and

sold for selfish ends. The stresses that this produces, including unemployment, fear of unemployment, and alienating jobs, make all of us a little crazy and some of us seriously ill.

Communism won't eliminate all mental illness, but it creates the basis for healthy attitudes and relationships. Mobilizing the masses for communism means that millions of people, eventually all of humanity, will learn to think, plan, and act collectively for the common good. Social relationships of equality and comradeship will be at the core of society. Mental illness will be much rarer, and we will be much better able to deal with it.

President Obama preached at us to be "better people." To most of us that means less selfishness and greed, more compassion and collectivity. Capitalism encourages all our worst impulses. We need to fight for a better society—communism—and help each other become better people in the thick of the revolutionary struggle.

Moscow, 1931:

COMMUNISTS MOBILIZE MECHANICS TO SAVE FLAX HARVEST

“The Communists do not merely reflect the will of the masses, as a ballot might, or a showing of hands,” wrote journalist Anna Louise Strong. “It is their job to lead, to organize the people’s will. . . . When the Communist Party analyzed, urged and demanded,” she continued, “they were able to find, organize and create, deep in the heart of the masses, a will that carried through.”

The Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) mistakenly fought for “a socialist state.” Socialism was state capitalism. It maintained wages, wealth, and markets. It organized workers to “defend the motherland” through unions and other associations that were supposedly independent of the Party. What ICWP thinks they could and should have done instead was to mobilize workers for communism directly under Party leadership.

But we have much to learn from the Soviet experiment. One example is typical of the inspiring strengths and fatal weaknesses in their practice. These weaknesses came largely from their mistaken theory that they couldn’t start building communism until there was material abundance.

Strong describes “the ‘mobilization’ of automobiles and mechanics in the spring of 1931 to save flax sowing in Moscow province.” Flax is used to make fabric, paper, medicines, fishing nets, linseed oil and other products. It was a key industrial crop in the pre-revolutionary capitalist development of Russia.

“Collective farming came [in 1931] . . . in a great drive of organization and propaganda backed by hundreds of new tractors,” Strong wrote. “In the first week of sowing, telegrams . . . poured into Moscow, announcing that . . . tractors all over the province stood in the fields, not moving, for causes yet to be analyzed.”

“The Moscow Committee of the Party . . . decides that the break in flax is serious and calls for a ‘mobilization’ of mechanics.”

“The call goes out to Party organizations in a hundred shops and factories. . . . Not a single mechanic is compelled to answer, but any mechanic willing to give a day or two for tractor repair . . . will be helped by foreman and fellow workers to arrange his job. He may work at this sanctioned public task without forfeiting wages, while others fill in the gap in his regular work.”

“What is the motive?” Strong asked. This mobilization was not motivated by material incentives. Instead, workers were motivated by “the fun of participating in saving the sowing, of helping the country, of living a varied, useful life.”

In communist society, that’s what will motivate all of us to do whatever work needs to be done. There won’t be wages at all. Instead of “helping the country” (nationalism), we will be serving the international working class.

Strong volunteered her car to be ‘mobilized’ to carry the mechanics to the farms.

“We came to the tractor station . . . Of thirty-three new tractors from Putiloff Works, eleven could not move out of the railway station. The rest were breaking down in the fields, under the hands of worried peasant boys and girls [actually, rural workers] who had seen their first machine one month before. All night our volunteer mechanics repaired tractors. All night the local tractor drivers stood up to watch in their eagerness to learn.”

Urban mechanics teaching young rural workers in the classroom of life: there were seeds of real communist education. But those seeds were not nurtured as carefully as they should have been. We understand now the need to struggle against pragmatism and to put the conscious construction of communist social relations first in all we do.

“The following day,” Strong continued, “I drove my car to Moscow with sleeping mechanics in the seats. They had worked twenty hours on end [and] . . . would report next morning to their interested fellow workers in Moscow factories.

“They had also prepared a technical report charging the Putiloff tractor with certain grave defects. It was printed within two days in the Industrial Gazette . . . and led to a conference of industrial leaders on improving the Putiloff tractor.”

There, too, were the seeds of communist engineering: based on the mechanics’ own knowledge. Today we understand, though, that the key to problem-solving is mobilizing workers politically (not just in production) by developing more and better communists. These workers will themselves be the “industrial leaders.”

“Three weeks later the flax sowing of Moscow province . . . went over the top at 108 percent [of plan],

the best flax record in the [Soviet] Union.” This was a great achievement, but Strong reflects the mistaken Communist Party theory that placed increased production of goods ahead of the development of communist social relations.

“The driving will that saved the situation,” Strong concluded, “was the will of thousands of Moscow workers organized and assigned to their tasks by the Moscow Committee of the Communist Party, of which most of the mechanics were not even members.”

The practice described in this story was more advanced than Communist Party theory. There was no need to wait for material abundance in order to build communism. The workers were ready for it, but Party leaders weren’t. Imagine what could have been accomplished if the CPSU had been recruiting workers like these mechanics and farmworkers into a mass Party around the line of mobilizing the masses for communism!

Anna Louise Strong, *This Soviet World* (1936), pp. 104-108. On the flax industry, see Lenin, *The Development of Capitalism in Russia*, 1899.



BUILDING COMMUNIST RELATIONS

The discussion of the draft document, “Mobilizing the Masses for Communism,” has been very inspiring, and has helped us to think more deeply about communist principles and how to carry them out in our work.

The article about the tractors in the current *Red Flag* (above) helped me to think more deeply about what we will do when we take state power, and made me read pages 6 and 7 of the draft document more critically. On these pages we talk about our priorities when we seize power: abolishing private property, making sure everyone has their basic needs met and that no one goes hungry, defending and extending the revolution, and smashing racism. These are definitely priorities, but what should be emphasized more is how we will organize communist relations and how work will be done collectively and in a way that develops the initiative and potential of all.

In the Soviet Union, partly because they were under attack from the imperialists from the beginning and partly because they thought they needed abundance before they could advance to communism, the urgent task of increasing production was emphasized over building communist relationships. If they

See Communist Relations, page 15

Tunisia from page 1

food prices and hundreds of thousands of jobs. But it was too late. On January 14, he and his clique fled the country. The Tunisian Prime Minister, Mohamed Ghannouch, took his place, with the army’s support.

Almost immediately, Ghannouch was also forced out. As we go to press, the crisis continues to unfold.

Like other African countries, Tunisia is caught in sharpening inter-imperialist rivalry. Tunisia’s main import and export partners have been the European Union, Libya, Russia and China. In 2010, the Ben Ali government signed an agreement with the EU, removing most trade and tariff barriers. However, it also signed a pact with the US that was intended to become a free trade agreement.

The situation in Tunisia has many similarities to that in other Mediterranean countries like Greece and Italy, which have also experienced recent militant protests of workers and youth against the effects of the capitalist crisis. It’s too soon to tell the impact the Tunisian rebellion will have on neighboring countries like Algeria, which has recently seen massive working-class strikes and protests over similar issues, and other Arab countries. The capitalist rulers in the region, as well as those in the EU, US, Russia and elsewhere, are obviously worried.

But this much is clear: Tunisian capitalism remains intact. This was no revolution. And reform struggles, however militant, don’t lead to revolution. Only a conscious mass mobilization for communism can lead to the armed insurrection necessary to create a society that can meet the needs of the working class.

The phrase “Jasmine Revolution” recalls pro-democracy movements in eastern Europe and elsewhere that replaced pro-Russian state-capitalist regimes with pro-US free-market capitalism. But changing the outward form of capitalism doesn’t change its essence: the dictatorship of private property and its owners over the working-class masses of producers. The trappings of democracy – elections, a privately-controlled press, and the like – only serve to conceal this class dictatorship.

Communism openly proclaims the need to turn the world upside down with armed revolution that smashes the bosses’ state power. It openly proclaims the need for a dictatorship of the working class that will abolish private property and wealth. There will be no unemployment in communist society because all will have the opportunity to work for the common good. We will share scarcity as equals while working to create prosperity for all. Join us in spreading this communist movement worldwide! Join the International Communist Workers’ Party!

Commentary about the novel The Betrayal

This novel is one more of those well-written by Walter Raudales, graduate in letters, specializing in communication. He is both the Director of Communication of the FMLN and the Director of the Supreme Court of Justice in El Salvador.

The main focus of the work is a direct attack on a group of "traitors" who were his partners in the guerrilla struggle of the FMLN. The novel uses fictitious names, close to the real ones, but the actions known in the political environment of the country are real. Their main character, who looks for psychological help to keep being a traitor, is Merlin Galves (Marvin Galeas—his real name), who was the spokesperson for Radio Venceremos during the war. Now Galeas is the spokesperson and planner of anti-communist propaganda for ARENA (the party of the right), converted into a filthy rat.

Others mentioned as traitors are the ex-commanders of the FMLN, Ana Guadalupe Martínez, and Joaquín Villalobos, who gave military classes in Oxford, England, about how to fight insurgency and who was political anti-insurgent advisor to President Uribe in Colombia and for the anti-insurgency campaign in Mexico.

Salvadoran workers and others worldwide can recognize these traitors easily, because their actions and direct and open work with the bosses leave no doubts.

But there are other more dangerous traitors who fool the Salvadoran workers with the illusion that the capitalist system can be reformed to serve the working class with the FMLN government. They say that elections and bourgeois democracy are the roads to follow, that communist revolution is not necessary. And among those traitors is the same Raudales, serving as spokesman for the capitalists of the FMLN and the same bourgeois Salvadoran state. His novels, writing and actions only serve capitalism and fatten his pockets.

The struggle for the liberation of the working class will not be carried out in the halls of Congress or the Supreme Court of Justice, but in the streets, factories, schools, and barracks, with the goal of a true communist revolution. The communist struggle continues, and in the future the workers will achieve the termination of murderous capitalism and ALL the traitors,

—Comrade in LA

The struggle against revisionism continues

In a recent talk with an ex-comrade, he commented to me, "We've proven that we weren't wrong for not leaving PLP. Now the discussions are more open, with more confidence, they've published some of the articles that we've written, "Dark Night" has been modified, and they're making some changes, among other things."

I don't remember completely what I answered but I made him see some aspects. It was a short talk. What role does the Party play in our personal lives and in the tasks inside the Party? To what extent, if it plays such a role? Did they really change the status quo or are they simply trying again to accommodate? This has given me the task of analyzing

several aspects. The Party must be the guiding axis in our lives and with this, the fulfillment of our relationships with our family members, friends, and co-workers.

The Party must assure a continuous development of its political line, and its congruence in practice. When we talk of practice I'm not only referring to political practice, but to all practice in general. The Party must continually practice criticism and self-criticism and seriously correct the negative aspects and broaden the positive aspects. We should be intolerant of liberalism, passivity, sexism, racism and revisionism-and counter-attack them with clear, irrefutable, and convincing practice.

The Party must teach us to live with dignity. We must act with urgency and patience in the mass revolutionary communist struggle. The Party must permanently push to expand our limits. Until now ICWP is keeping to its goal; let's make this be massive, with millions of workers, soldiers, students, farm workers and unemployed.

A good communist should always be in trouble; a good communist shouldn't have his or her hands clean. Let's build the communist revolution day by day; this means to write for, read and distribute Red Flag, it means to build study groups, it means fighting for and expanding communist ideas in the mass movements, it means building firm friendships every day, it means developing the communist line, it means solving our contradictions, it means being consistent in word and deed.

We have room for you in this Party, we need you, the working class needs you. Let's make communist ideas penetrate up to the last cell of every worker and materialize in a mass revolutionary movement, so big that it destroys once and for all the capitalism that asphyxiates us everyday. No more retreats from communism. Our struggle against revisionism must be to the death. ICWP is waiting for you.

—Comrade from Mexico

Red Flag Comments:

We agree with your main analysis of struggling and being a communist. It's good to keep up a long term struggle with some friends who in the past were our comrades in struggle. But our main focus should be the hundreds of millions of workers, students and soldiers who are feeling the contradictions and waiting for our communist ideas.

More about Wikileaks

The article about Wikileaks in Vol. I, #23 of Red Flag clearly shows who was behind it. Assange's diplomatic gossip seems to fool some people, but as Red Flag explained, his financial backers are the ruling class liberal organizations. These same imperialist butchers, who help tyrant rulers, tell us their focus is on "oppressive regimes in Asia, the former Soviet bloc, Sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East." In December, 2010, I was watching a Russian TV station called RT, broadcasting in English. There was an interview with former British Prime Minister Tony Blair. Asked about Wikileaks, he answered that it was "good for democracy." The same capitalist rulers who condemn billions of workers to wage slavery talk about democracy. Blair means it's good for the imperialists.—A reader

Budget Cuts from page 3

To prepare their coming wars, the bosses worldwide are attacking the world's workers harder. That's why Brown proposes to cut health and welfare (including Cal Works) by half; cut UC and CSU budgets by \$500 million each, and increase community college fees by \$10 a unit. Brown also plans to increase sales and vehicle taxes that will hit workers the hardest. The CTA officials are helping Brown campaign for these tax increases in exchange for the promise of maintaining the K-12 budget. Nationally, Obama and Congress cut programs workers need while expanding the war budget.

However, as the crisis deepens and life becomes unbearable, US workers will rebel and question the absurdity of capitalism, as many workers worldwide are already doing. The bosses will then resort to fascism, brute force, along with their appeals to patriotism and racism. Fascism has never stopped the working class. The bosses' poisonous ideologies have. That is why the fight against racism, nationalism and patriotism is a life-and-death question for workers everywhere. Communism will abolish all borders and destroy the bosses' invented divisions of races. In a communist world there will be only one race – the human race. Only this can destroy the scourge of racism forever.

Union officials will mobilize against the budget cuts to "tax the rich" or to save some workers' jobs and benefits at the expense of others'. We should not fall for their tricks. Capitalism can't be reformed to meet our needs. It must be destroyed. We need a society where workers will make all the decisions concerning our lives and live according to the principle "from each according to commitment, to each according to need."

We urge you to join this fight. In the coming battles against the budgets cuts, put forward the fight for communism. Help organize May Day Dinners and communist contingents in the May Day Marches. Read and distribute *Red Flag*, write for and support it. Organize political strikes against capitalism, its racist cuts, fascism and imperialist wars.



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Contradictions in Articles in *Red Flag*

We see antagonistic ideas reflected in the same edition and even in the same article in *Red Flag*. For example, the article "Languages and Literature Must Serve the Working Class" (Vol 1, No. 23, page 3) clearly explains the idea of ending exploitation by unifying mental and manual labor. In communism we'll all work and study, but not in a capitalist way; the centers of work will be centers of study. It explains how the capitalists use the condition that workers speak different languages to divide and conquer, criticizes correctly the strategy of the rulers in their universities where they intercede for multiculturalism and diversity minimizing what we have in common as the working class and extol and exaggerate the "differences."

But other articles talk of a multi-racial base or multi-racial unity of the workers (for example, "Industrial Workers Take *Red Flag* as Their Own," page 3, "Attica Means Fight Back", page 6).

The ICWP doesn't endorse the concept of "races and ethnicities," its one more capitalist trick to divide us as a class. Under capitalism there are still groups of isolated people, who have developed in an uneven manner because of the conditions and resources that exist in other parts of the world. Including before capitalism. This generated cultural differences and also that people have different physical features. But this doesn't make us different as a human species; we have the same genetic make-up. Eliminating this separation under communism will eliminate these physical differences and their importance, which are fueled by capitalism.

Another example: The ICWP analyzes the capitalist system dialectically and emphasizes that we're in a struggle to the death, of working class vs. exploiters (unity and conflict of opposites). But the editorial (page 2) mentions the "working class and its allies." There can only be two sides in this war, but the bosses, through their wage system, give crumbs to the majority and only a few get a little more. The workers who receive a little more apply the laws and administer the wealth robbed for the bosses, but as the article "Freedom School" correctly states, we must root the students in the working class. WE ARE ALL WAGE SLAVES, there are no allies, paying different wages to workers is reflected in the division of the working class. We'll put the capitalist system to death together with its wage system.

—Analyzing *Red Flag* Mexico

Red Flag comments:

Thank you for your comments. We agree that multiculturalism and diversity are capitalist tools to push racist divisions in the working class. However, we don't agree that calling for a multi-racial base and multi-racial unity of the working class is the same thing as multiculturalism. Races don't exist genetically, but they exist socially in capitalism. The police single out black and latino/a workers for the worst terror, using that to terrorize all workers. Black and latino/a workers are the last hired and first fired. We call for multi-racial unity because communists must build a base today that brings workers who have been artificially separated by capitalism together to learn from each other and to build the fight for communism together. While we reject any scientific basis for races, we have to mobilize against ra-

cism all the time. We especially need more black and latin workers and youth to give leadership to the fight for communism.

Talking about communism

We were getting ready to start work and a co-worker said, "Another day, another dollar." We talked about this and that for awhile.

Then I said, "I'm just trying to get money to feed myself. The little we get doesn't matter to Corporate up there."

My co-worker said, "We are just hoes and they are the pimps. They use us to get the chickens [customers] and take their money, and it's easy for them to replace us."

"That's right," I said. "So why does it have to be like that? Why do we have to work under someone who's treating us so badly? They don't give us any recognition, not even a Christmas party. They say they can't afford it, but they had a big party for the office workers."

Then I tried to explain communism. "Instead of working for money you would already know that your family is fed so you would work to know that you did a good deed for the neighborhood." He nodded.

Then another co-worker said, "That's wrong!" and changed the conversation.

I am going back to the first guy to bring him *Red Flag* and talk some more.

—Student-Worker Comrade

What do students need?

I think they should give us more money for books and for classes and also they should try to bring back the free campus shuttle bus right away. Also they should give us free meal tickets for lunches. They should stop raising the prices up for our classes every semester.

Other students and I need to sign petitions for paid-for meals and classes. We need to make a rally and also write letters to the government.

—Working-class student

Red students comment:

It's good that you want to fight back, but instead of begging the rulers for these things, we need to fight for communist revolution. People have been protesting and writing letters for years. The people in power know what we want but they can't and won't provide it. Capitalism works for the capitalists to make more money that they really don't need, and then use it to make even more money. Communism will get rid of money. Nobody will pay for meals, education or anything they need.

MLA Professors, Students Welcome *Red Flag*

Many graduate students, teachers and librarians at the Modern Languages Association (MLA) convention thanked us for our communist newspaper and gave donations. As one older professor walked away after taking our communist leaflet and a copy of *Red Flag*, he said "Keep it up, Comrade." When we asked whether he was serious, he gave us \$5.

The positive response showed us that the current worldwide capitalist crisis gives us an opening with professors as well as workers to put forward that communism is the only alternative to racist capita-

lism, with its inevitable crises, budget cuts and wars.

The leaflet's title, "Languages and Literature Must Serve the Working Class," caught the attention of many. Some asked, "Yes, but how?"

We explained that education won't serve the working class until we have a communist society, and that fighting for communist ideas now while exposing capitalist education will help us get there. Others said, "You got that right. I'm unemployed."

An attendee from Morocco told us that as a high school student he had been a Marxist, but that communism had failed. We explained that what had failed was socialism, which was state capitalism, and that the fight must be directly for communism. He said, "I know someone who will *really* like this paper." One graduate student remembered some of us with respect from 15 years ago and wants to keep in touch.

Several people from far away were very pleasantly surprised to see a communist newspaper and said they would read it. One volunteered to help with translation. On the last day, some said they'd already gotten the literature and liked it.

Self-critically, some of us hadn't been very enthusiastic about distributing *Red Flag* and our communist leaflet at the MLA convention, but our experiences there showed that we had been wrong. About 700 graduate students, professors and others from many countries gladly took and read the leaflet and 155 took *Red Flag*. Many gave donations, and a few gave their contact information, although we didn't ask enough people.

We should boldly welcome all opportunities to spread our communist ideas among workers, students, soldiers and teachers. The current crisis creates opportunities to expose this racist system (in this case especially capitalist education) and build the fight for communism.

—LA comrade

**MOBILIZE THE
MASSES FOR
COMMUNISM!**

Communist Relations from page 13

needed steel mills built, the experts trained under the old system worked all day to design them, and other people built and operated them. In this way, divisions between intellectual work and physical work were maintained and real collectivity and equality was impossible. In China, there were campaigns against this policy during the Great Leap Forward and the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, under the slogan "better red than expert."

We must learn from this error and make our first priority the organization of all social life in a way that emphasizes collective and cooperative social relationships and develops the initiative and potential of everyone. Everything else follows from that.

Right now, mobilizing the masses for communism means that we must attempt to put that into practice in our political work. How can we organize the writing, publishing, and distribution of *Red Flag* in a way that makes communist social relationships primary? How can we avoid the pragmatic error of relying on experts because of the urgency of the task at hand? —A comrade

QUESTIONS FOR RED FLAG STUDY-ACTION GROUPS

1. We've been writing about US-China rivalry for a long time. Do you think this meeting between Hu and Obama signals a qualitative change? Are we in a new period?
2. Several articles in this issue say that the material basis of racism is capitalism and that communism will end it. Do you agree?

Developing and Testing a New Communist Theory

COMMUNIST THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE: PART IV

In our last column we discussed the failure of the theory that socialism leads to communism. We not only noted that socialism has never actually done that, but explained why: Socialism is a form of capitalism. Its wage system and its government and party hierarchies are capitalist institutions and they inevitably produce a new capitalist class, as happened in China and the USSR.

We also outlined ICWP's theory of how to fight for communism and organize communist society, mass mobilization for communism.

Mass mobilization for communism was put into practice in limited ways inside the old communist movement. In the late 1920s, Soviet workers in many industries organized "communes" to pool their wages. They were made to stop this after a few years, since it undermined socialism's wage system.

As the Chinese communists fought for power, they lived on a "supply system," where everyone got a similar allowance for food and clothes. This system was abolished under socialism, but looking back later Mao Zedong commented, "...the collective lived an egalitarian life. In work everyone was industrious and in warfare all were courageous. There was absolutely no reliance on material incentives, but rather a reliance on the drumbeat of revolutionary spirit." Further mass mobilizations for communism took place in China in the People's Commune movement of the 1950s and during the Cultural Revolution of the

1960s.

Mass mobilization for communism doesn't just mean having a mass communist party. It means putting the fight for communism in the hands of workers and their allies, and relying on their initiative and creativity to strengthen the fight. Concretely it means encouraging those who are short on experience as organizers or who don't yet know the ins and outs of communist theory to join ICWP if they agree that the working class needs communism. When millions do the best they can, we can win.

Mass mobilization for communism means making it possible for people who respect ICWP but aren't sure about communism to work with us to distribute *Red Flag* and make it their paper. Our commitment is not to offer the working class anything short of communism, like reformism or socialism. But we also struggle to create close relations—communist relations—with those who don't agree with us fully, and ask them to do more.

An article in the last *Red Flag* (Jan. 19) from an industrial workplace gives examples of this approach. One black worker took several *Red Flags* and gave the Spanish part to a latino worker. An asian worker heard that there had been a *Red Flag* article about a labor issue in the plant, and asked another worker for a copy. That worker got a copy and brought it in the next day. One worker who wanted to discuss communism asked why the get-together had to be done so

cautiously. Another worker figured out why we have to keep our *Red Flag* network secret from the bosses when someone asked who had written an article about their workplace.

These examples are modest but they show the idea of mass mobilization for communism, relying on workers' initiative to push the movement forward.

Some workers at the same plant have been asked to write articles or letters for *Red Flag*. This is another important example of mass mobilization for communism. It's your paper—let others know what your experiences have been or what you think about communism.

The positive experiences mentioned here are important in two ways. They help show that the mass mobilization for communism can work in practice, and they provide information about how to expand and correct ICWP's understanding about how to apply this approach.

This is a key point of the communist philosophy of knowledge. All knowledge comes from practice and the theories derived from practice guide further practical work. Practice shows the strengths and shortcomings of a theory and allows it to be improved. This is the dialectic of theory and practice, the philosophy which has proved itself in the practice of over 100 years of working class struggle for communism, and is still the way we learn how to win.

Mobilizing soldiers and sailors for communism:

ORGANIZING IN THE BOSSES' MILITARY

As a communist, I often reflect on the type of political work I've accomplished with my friends. I often ask myself how effective I am at organizing for our party. A recent experience in a military cadre school has reassured me that the small steps we take in mobilizing the masses for communism are in fact monumental steps towards the communist future we seek.

Our military cadre school was intense considering the small numbers. In that small room, and with those small numbers, lay the foundation of our Party. There were a handful of new faces, but these faces had bright, open eyes seeing how critical it is to organize in the military for communism.

Analyzing the current economic situation of capitalism can be very overwhelming. One friend mentioned that the presentation made his mind go on overdrive. It was clear to everyone in the meeting that capitalism is headed towards a world war that places soldiers in the forefront of a fight between imperialists. A PowerPoint presentation was given.

The bosses can get messy with their plans for war, but in this meeting we proved that workers and soldiers are able to make sense of what is going on around the world. Sharing this information is the first step in advancing our military work.

There were certainly multiple highlights in our meeting. After a comrade announced that he will be joining the military in the future, everyone in the room applauded. His dedication motivated everyone in the room to discuss further how we may succeed in our political work.

A good friend of mine was also in the meeting. We were deployed in Iraq together, and my friend began to read communist literature during this time. Even though I had introduced literature to two

friends, at the meeting we came to the conclusion that we could have given the paper to many others. We were actually mentioning names at the meeting. This proves that we cannot underestimate our potential. Even though those days are long gone, we still know many of those soldiers who need to be revisited.

This same friend also agreed to get more involved in our work. He made this decision after a veteran comrade urged him to take more responsibility. This was a lesson learned for me because we all need to push more people to take this work more seriously, and to take leadership. Again, we cannot underestimate our potential. My friend plans to write about his experience to continue this work in the military. After the meeting, I learned that the person whose mind went on overdrive was very inspired by the work we are doing. He also plans to join the military.

As you can see, our meeting was intense. Yet, many individuals we had planned to invite could not attend because of conflicting schedules. Some were out of town, and others had to work. Our military collective plans to organize another similar meeting to consolidate our contacts and invite others who could not attend the first meeting.

I am personally inspired by the work we have accomplished. It is nothing new to organize in the military. In the meeting we also studied the rich history of communists organizing in the military. We even watched a clip of "Battleship Potemkin."

What we are doing in ICWP is continuing to advance this work, this time putting our goal to win soldiers to communism front and center. In fact, I am content to say that the very future of our Party was present at the meeting.

--Red Vet

I recently spoke with some comrades who had years of experience in organizing within and around the military to strengthen the movement for communist revolt within the military.

I spoke with soldiers who organized decades ago, to ones who were just recently discharged, to ones currently enlisted, and to others who are heading in soon.

We discussed the current international political situation and how it is driven by imperialist rivalry. Then we looked at historical examples highlighting the importance of organizing in the military, such as the Potemkin uprising, the revolt on the USS Constellation, the USS Kitty Hawk mutiny, and others.

The support the ICWP has in place for people who are thinking of contributing to the party in this way is impressive. Comrades were avid about visiting the soldiers as much as possible and making sure that they are working and sharing their work with the Party. The soldiers' organizing experience also serves as important learning material for the Party's future military work.

We discussed having regular meetings about this activity, like a regularly-scheduled military school. This is a good idea because it emphasizes the military aspect of the Party's work. Soldiers should teach other comrades who are not, or not yet, in the military the training they received by the military, such as marksmanship and weapon maintenance.

No doubt this type of work is crucial if the revolution is to be successful. The capitalist military-machines must be weakened from within. The only way to do this is to have soldiers organizing other soldiers to fight for their actual shared interests as members of the working class.

-- Potential Red Sailor

**MARCH ON MAY DAY WITH ICWP--SUNDAY MAY 1ST
MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM!
WORKERS OF THE WORLD, UNITE!**