

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM



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



**MAY DAY
LOS ANGELES
2010**

THE WORKING CLASS NEEDS NO BORDERS--NO IMMIGRATION LAWS!

U.S.—Eleven million undocumented workers and their families, here and internationally, are hoping for the impossible. They hope for an immigration reform that will end their nightmare of being undocumented and put them on a path to citizenship, prosperity and dignity. Nothing could be further from US rulers' minds.

At Atomic Denim where two hundred workers read *Red Flag*, a garment worker observed that President Reagan's "amnesty" of 1986 "legalized" 3 million undocumented workers quickly. "Why will it take so long with Obama's plan for workers to be legalized now?" she asked.

Before answering this question, let us ask ourselves: are borders and immigration laws a human need?

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The answer is a resounding no! From the cradle of humanity in Africa, humans migrated and populated the whole world. Their journey took thousands of years and they had to overcome an untold number of obstacles, but not borders or immigration laws. The world then belonged to no one and everyone.

Class society changed this. Class society arose when humans could consistently produce more than they needed for their immediate survival. This surplus gave rise to slavery: slave masters that lived off the slaves' labor.

All rulers since have claimed the earth and its natural resources as their property, erecting fences and creating armies to defend it. Capitalism, however, went further, drawing up borders to divide the earth in nations.

WORKERS AND YOUTH PLAN GROWTH OF ICWP

EL SALVADOR—Friends and members of the International Communist Workers' Party carried out a big meeting in the mountains. The goal was to strengthen ties of comradeship and discuss communist ideas with the workers and teachers who day by day are joining the communist project that we workers of the world are building, organized in the ICWP.

The meeting began with a breakfast prepared by the comrades who hosted the meeting. Between jokes and laughter, we shared with our comrades, some of whom were attending a meeting for first time, and others who, for some time, had distanced themselves from the party but recently had made the decision to come back and meet with us.

Then we began the agenda where we talked in an objective and real-

istic way about the situation of the current worldwide capitalist crisis. Comrades contributed to a discussion, pointing out that what happens in Syria or Iraq affects the whole working class since these regional wars will end in a world war in which the capitalists want workers to go and kill each other for the control of world wide markets and energy resources.

This meeting was attended by youth who take leadership in the areas where they do political work, whether in school, the university, or on the job, and who engage in conversations with their friends and co-workers in which they discuss and spread revolutionary ideas.

There was time to debate about World War III and whether in truth we can expect a global conflict in the coming years or decades. This

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With This Issue, We Begin *Red Flag's* Fourth Year

STEP UP MOBILIZING THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

“The Party needs the experiences and ideas of masses of workers and their allies. The struggle for communism is a mass struggle, not the property of a few.”—*Mobilize the Masses for Communism* (MMC, the ICWP manifesto)

This issue begins *Red Flag's* fourth year. We take this opportunity to acknowledge the thousands of readers who make this possible. You are showing what it means for workers to grasp communist ideas as their own. The work around *Red Flag* begins to show what it means to mobilize the masses for communism.

Everyone who works on this paper or helps to distribute it is a volunteer. None of us is a professional journalist. The money you donate goes directly toward printing and distribution costs. If you give a copy to a friend, you are part of our “circulation department!”

Readers' contributions include:

Producing *Red Flag*

* Transit and industrial workers, students and military personnel, provide information, contribute artwork, and write for the paper.

* A growing crew helps translate and proof-read *Red Flag*.

* A young-adult collective produces the monthly cultural page.

* Many readers raise questions and share criticisms that help improve the paper.

Distributing *Red Flag*

* A bus operator takes a stack of papers “for my public.” Another brings six copies to her turn-around, where she shares and discusses them with co-workers.

* Readers defend *Red Flag* from anti-communist attacks. Many carry their copies defiantly into work.

* Workers distribute hundreds of papers openly in the garment district. Students get *Red Flag* to classmates inside and outside their schools.

* Youth squads defy repression to get out hundreds of copies in countries where open distribution isn't possible.

Many readers take copies for friends, relatives, fellow students and co-workers.

Friends around the world who read *Red Flag* online link their blogs or Facebook pages to our website www.icwpredflag.org.

Supporting *Red Flag*

* Readers give donations for the paper, from small change to \$5 and up.

* Some give larger occasional donations for the Party's international work.

* Some give monthly “sustainers.” More would, if asked.

* Others have opened their houses to us, or loaned cars, or cooked, or helped with babysitting so others could participate.

Today and Tomorrow

In communist society there will be no money. All work –producing a newspaper or vegetables or housing or airplanes – will be



done by volunteers. Nobody will need money because we'll share the products of our collective labor: “From each according to ability and commitment, to each according to need.”

Everybody's contributions will be valued. Nobody will be left feeling useless. We will all continually learn new skills and develop new talents. Most important, we will all participate in the development of our political line and the practice of building communist society.

We lay the basis for this communist power today. *Red Flag* distribution networks can become study-action groups that “will make our paper even more grounded in the working class, deepening our understanding and practice.” (MMC)

Study groups can lead class struggle and solidarity actions, and eventually become party collectives. If you agree that capitalism is a disaster for the masses and for the planet, that revolution and not reform is the order of the day, and that communism would be a great way to live and work – then you should be a Party member.

“Communists learn on the job” (MMC) but that's only half of it. The ICWP needs many more people like you to help figure out answers to critical questions about how to mobilize the masses for communism, now and in the future.

A World to Win

In *Red Flag's* short life, the world has already begun to change more rapidly, in ways that increase the urgency of spreading this paper far and wide. The masses are in motion as most of us barely imagined three years ago. Some examples:

* The Arab spring. Rebellions in Egypt now question, not only the President, but the institutions of capitalist government.

* The massive strike wave in South Africa. Miners and farmworkers have seen through the lies of democracy and “Black Empowerment” that enriched a handful of black capitalists while further impoverishing the masses.

* The unquenchable strikes and mass protests in Latin America and Europe against the bosses' “austerity” cutbacks and the politicians (including Socialists) who do the banks' dirty work.

We must get *Red Flag* and *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* into the hands, hearts and minds of these heroic fighters!

At the same time, inter-imperialist rivalry continues to sharpen toward eventual world war. Most especially, *Red Flag* shows how US imperialism struggles to contain or confront the rise of Chinese imperialism on practically every continent. Conditions deteriorate for the masses, with mounting racism, repression, joblessness, homelessness, and death tolls from famine, flood, and warfare.

These developments mean that we must all accept the responsibility of doing a little (or a lot) more, a little (or a lot) better. Maybe the list above gave you some ideas. Here's another one: **Join the International Communist Workers' Party! As Marx and Engels wrote in 1848, we have nothing to lose but our chains. We have a world to win.**

JOIN ICWP



**JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST
WORKERS' PARTY (ICWP)
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90007, USA**

Union Contracts Justify and Legalize Our Wage Slavery!

ONLY COMMUNIST REVOLUTION CAN END IT!

IRVINE, CA. JAN. 31 – Thousands of hospital and campus service workers held spirited demonstrations on all the University of California campuses and medical centers in statewide actions before the expiration of their AFSCME union contracts at midnight tonight.

Hundreds, supported by many students, participated at the UC Irvine facilities. Over 150 of them enthusiastically received *Red Flag* and our communist flyer addressing their struggle.

The workers are demanding higher wages, more staffing for safer and better patient care, and better retirement benefits. A priority is refusal to accept UC's proposal to cut new hires' pensions in half.

The patient-care struggle has been submitted by the union officials to a federal arbitrator. The service contract will most likely soon follow suit. This is a serious mistake. (See Boeing article page 4) We can't depend on our slave masters' courts and arbitrators to rule in our favor. They are there to lull us into passivity and give us the illusion that capitalism can be fair.

Why do we need capitalism that forces us to fight unendingly for our basic needs?

Like all capitalists, UC bosses don't care about our lives, either as patients, employees or students. For them we are beasts of burden, exploitable for maximum profits and discarded when no longer needed.

Caring less about where and how we end up, the UC bosses' plan is to eventually eliminate all our pensions. However, we don't need to fight for pensions. We need to fight to get rid of capitalism and for a system where pensions won't be needed.

Our system will be based on human needs, not

profits. Our system is communism which will eliminate money that corrupts and divide us, turning some into slave masters and others into slaves.

Instead of capitalism's dog-eat-dog and everyone for him/herself mentality, we will collectively take care of each other from cradle to grave. No one will ever be denied life's basic needs. Everyone will receive everything needed



to live the most creative, productive, dignified life possible.

No one will be discarded as too old. Everyone will be encouraged to contribute to society as long as they can and desire. All contributions will be always be welcomed and appreciated.

We can't fight for communism and fight to reform capitalism

That is why trade unionism is an enemy of the working class. It squanders our energy in the impossible task of trying to make capitalism meet our needs. It blinds us from seeing the need to de-

stroy capitalism with a communist revolution.

In the midst of the 1930's Great Depression, the US Communist Party organized the CIO and led millions of workers to fight and win the 8-hour day, social security, unemployment benefits, pensions, etc. Today, US bosses are wiping out whatever remains of those "gains."

As their economic crisis deepens and they prepare for war with China, US bosses have nothing to offer us except cutbacks, increased exploitation and the "privilege" to fight and die for their profits and empire.

We Need an Armed Revolution for Communism

Trade unionism destroyed the US Communist Party. From hundreds of thousands it has been reduced to a handful of reformists. The unions they created are now an appendage of the Democratic Party, preaching that the bosses' electoral circus is our salvation.

However, neither voting or a union contract will ever destroy our wage slavery. They justify and legalize capitalism's rule and exploitation, while tightening its chains around our necks.

Instead of spending their time, energy and lives building trade unions, the communists should have built a mass revolutionary communist Party among workers, soldiers and students to violently destroy capitalism.

Learning from their mistake, we fight for revolution not reform. Our strikes should be political strikes against capitalism and for communism. Our goal should be to use them to build a massive International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) to fight for the world we need: a world without bosses, money, unions, racism, sexism, borders and imperialist wars. Join us!

IMMIGRATION REFORM from page 1

The capitalists' constant competition for market share inevitably leads to war. The bosses invented patriotism to blind us into fighting and dying for their nations, profits and empire.

Competition also demands the cheapest labor possible. Immigration laws were invented to super-exploit our brothers and sisters forced to immigrate for a job.

Class society's needs are not our needs: Let's destroy class society!

Our needs demand a different system and a different world. We need a system that produces for our human needs, not for the capitalists' inhumane needs for profits and empire.

Our system is communism: a system without money or bosses, where we will all contribute for the good of society as best we can and receive according to what we need.

Workers have no nation and will never have one. Communism will destroy the bosses' borders, nations and racist immigration laws, together with their racism, sexism, and all their other poisonous ideologies that divide and weaken us. The world will once again belong collectively to humanity and collectively we will share its resources.

Now, why will this immigration reform be such a long process?

Once again, it boils down to the capitalists' needs. US bosses are more desperate than ever for a cheaper labor force to remain competitive against China and other imperialist rivals. This competition is also forcing them into bigger military adventures.

Under the Immigration Reform that has been rejected, workers would have to work for 5 years before being able to apply for legal residency. If out of work for 60 or more days, they could be deported.

After those five years, workers can then apply for a "green card." To qualify, they must have paid a fine, back taxes, learn English and have a job; or be deported. After residing here "legally" for 5 more years they can apply for citizenship.

The bosses hope this long process will provide them with a passive, obedient, super-exploited work force. They will then use this as a club to drastically reduce wages and benefits of other US workers, citizens and "legal" immigrants.

The DREAM Act, supported by the Pentagon, will force hundreds of thousands of undocumented youth into the military. The bosses need them to keep the "all voluntary" army alive before being forced to institute the hated draft.

US Bosses' long term plans: Use immigration reform to prepare for World War III

The bosses portray their immigration reform as the greatest charitable act ever. They expect undocumented workers and their families to be forever patriotically grateful.

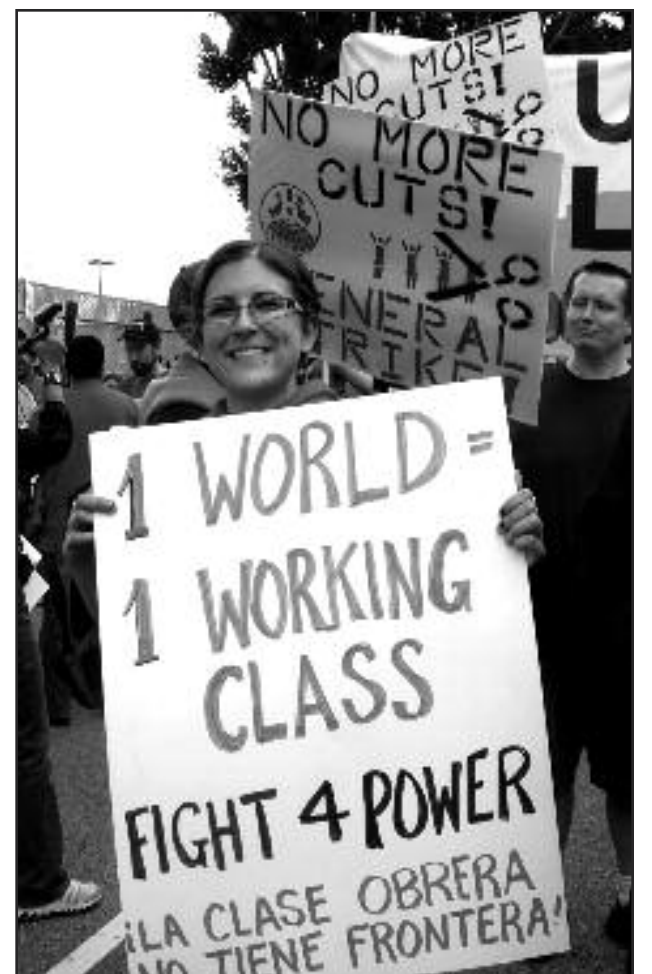
They hope to use this patriotism to rebuild their war industries on the cheap and get millions to respond to their call to arms when they institute the draft. They know that war with China or other imperialist rivals is inevitable.

Let's welcome our immigrant industrial and military brothers and sisters

These workers' hopes will turn into disillusion, and disillusion will turn into anger. Many of these workers come here with a long tradition of fight-

ing – including armed struggle – against local capitalists, and US and other imperialists in Latin America, Africa and Asia. ICWP members will be there – in the factories, army and navy – with *Red Flag* to mobilize that anger for communism.

The bosses are preparing for world war and so should we. Spreading *Red Flag* massively, especially among industrial workers and soldiers, and recruiting them to ICWP to mobilize the masses for communism will make this world war the last the bosses start.



FEDERAL MEDIATION: GUARANTEEING THE FREE FLOW OF PROFITS

SEATTLE, WA--Months after their contract expired, Boeing engineers and technical workers will finally get to vote for a strike. The union will count the mail-in ballots on February 19. If the vote goes as expected (the last deal was rejected by 96% of the union members), there still won't be a strike until mid-March at the earliest.

You have to wonder if the SPEEA leadership will ever pull the trigger. The union's negotiation teams only recommended rejection to "send us back to the bargaining table to fix items," according to their latest flyer. Without the might of a mobilized working class, the obvious conclusion is that the union leadership is relying on the federal mediators.

The elimination of defined pensions for future hires included in this contract will not be accepted by the membership. Substitution the 401(K) for a defined pension will immediately cost new hires a 40% loss in pension amounting to hundreds of thousands per employee. The only remaining groups that have defined pensions at Boeing are SPEEA and the Machinists.

The pension gap will increase quickly. Everyone expects Boeing to act as other companies have and soon freeze pensions for those who still have defined plans. This contract includes additional benefit risks, particularly to retiree medical.

Millions have hit the streets around the world. The masses are no longer passively accepting the brutal attacks by bosses trying to escape the economic crisis of their own making.

In South Africa alone, hundreds of thousands defied their union leaders and wildcatted. The strikes continued even when government police shot down dozens of strikers.

The SPEEA leaders have chosen to confine the class struggle to a hotel room under the auspices of Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS). The FMCS was created as a separate government agency under the notorious anti-worker Taft-Hartley Act in 1947. Its mission is to "prevent the impact of labor-management disputes on the free flow of commerce..." In other words, find a way that the bosses can continue to exploit the working class.

Capitalist governments and all their agencies are the organized might of the bosses. They are never neutral parties in the class struggle.

The post-apartheid South African government has perhaps the best cover imaginable because its leaders played such a prominent role in the anti-racist, anti-apartheid struggle. Even it was forced to show its true stripes in the face of the heroic struggle of South African wildcatting miners.

Twenty-three thousand white-collar Boeing workers have the opportunity to join millions around the world to lead and inspire many more by

busting the company/union no strike regime. Now is not the time for conciliation, but the time for political strikes against a system hell-bent on destroying our pensions.

Now is the time for a political strike against capitalism.

Such a strike can help us build for a society without phony mediation between our interests and the interests of the bosses. The bosses' interests and our interests are, in fact, irreconcilable.

The means of production will be taken from the profiteers and put in the hands of those that produce: the working class. Then we will not mediate, but rather unite, to provide for the needs of the worlds' workers.



YOUTH DINNER CELEBRATES 3RD ANNIVERSARY OF ICWP & RED FLAG

LOS ANGELES, CA. FEB 1--Close to forty people attended ICWP's dinner to celebrate the third anniversary of *Red Flag*. We heard a report on the international situation, a powerpoint presentation on the role of *Red Flag*, and a speech on the importance of organizing in the military. All were followed by good discussions. We sang beautiful revolutionary songs including *Bella Ciao*, the *Internationale* and *Red Flag*. The following are comments that some of the students made regarding the dinner:

"The dinner was good, the people were friendly and the conversations were great. Most importantly, I kept in mind that it does not seem right to me that we have to worry about having the law on our backs when all we want is to do is make the world a better place for everyone to live in, not just one certain class."

"I was able to open my eyes and ears to hear about the issues of capitalism that I never saw as

a problem. I was also able to see the fundamentals of communism such as *Red Flag* and powerful lyrics from songs. The atmosphere and people I was surrounded by was all exuberant. People are suffering because of the greediness of CEO's who put no labor to get their riches, whereas the everyday worker who works his hands to the bone only makes minimum wage. It doesn't seem right to me, capitalism doesn't seem right to me anymore."

"I attended a dinner in which we discussed and listened to fellow workers about issues that are caused under this capitalist government. *Red Flag* was also a discussed. Everyone shared how many newspapers they usually distribute and to who. Also, one of my classmates talked about the need of joining the army to influence other soldiers to become communist organizers. Overall the dinner was a success. We bonded with other people who are unhappy about capitalism. I am

not a communist, but I am not in favor of capitalism. My position is uncertain because I want to learn more about communism; so this gathering was definitely a great learning experience."

"I brought my friend along so he could learn about communism. When I walked into the building, I saw a diverse group; there were Latinos, blacks and whites, teenagers, adults and older folks. There were comrades and those thinking about joining. When my turn came, I explained that the military is where there will all ways be weapons; therefore we should organize soldiers for our revolution, so when the bosses order them to kill us, the working class, they will instead turn their weapons on the capitalists. After I got home, with my new "*Mobilize the Masses for Communism*" sign on my wall, I immediately started thinking about what I would bring up for our next club meeting. I can't wait!"

EL SALVADOR, from page 1

led us to talk about the arms race among the imperialists, in addition to the debt and the decline of the US in favor of the Chinese and Russian imperialist. We said that the US capitalists won't just sit by passively and watch their empire fading away. One comrade asked, "Isn't this part of a show put on by the capitalists?" And the collective answered that it's part of the capitalist crisis that has no solution, and that the fights between the US, Russia and China for influence in Latin America are preparing strategic allies for a future world war.

A comrade who had come to an ICWP meeting for the first time said that, at first, a member of the party talked with him about the problems of capitalism and the solutions that as workers we must give. After some conversations, the comrade began to give him *Red Flag*. At first, he only accepted it to be polite. But then seeing that the comrade kept on giving him the paper, following

up and talking to him, he became curious, dusted off the paper, started to read it and found it interesting.

Besides that, he shares with the Party a revolutionary ideal and conviction that was forged during his participation in the armed conflict in El Salvador during the 1980's. Then he started reading every *Red Flag* that came out and later agreed to participate in this meeting.

He told us that before coming to the meeting, he was debating with his brother about communism, and said that, as workers, we must build a base so that a communist revolution is carried out, and that we must do this for the liberation of our class brothers and sisters and their children.

Now that he's convinced that it's necessary to organize to topple capitalism, through his job as a teacher, he tries to win more students to communist ideas and principles.

Other comrades carry out activities in which collectivity and solidarity are part of the activity. They put communist ideas into practice; every-

one eats together, sharing a pot of delicious beans, and everyone does their part and takes their share without any kind of selfishness or economic interest.

These anecdotes that comrades told during the meetings inspire us to continue in the struggle. It helps us realize that we workers aren't alone in the fight to destroy capitalism, but that in different parts of the world comrades organized in ICWP are spreading the communist ideas of the Party worldwide.

The meeting ended with a commitment by the comrades present to organize more frequent meetings and to let more workers and youth know about the project of ICWP to mobilize the masses for communism and continue passing *Red Flag* to more industrial and agricultural workers.

Let's make sure that the presence of ICWP is stronger this coming May Day when thousands of workers show our strength and make the bosses tremble.

Communism Is Our Heritage and Our Future

PART XII: BABEUF'S LEGACY: MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

"One can do nothing great except with all the people," wrote Gracchus Babeuf in 1795. "It is again necessary to do something with them, to tell them everything, to show them tirelessly what it is necessary to do, and less to fear... One must take into account all the forces... one gains in activating opinion, in enlightening it and showing it a goal."

Babeuf's strategy was to work within popular societies while organizing a working-class party... The party would mobilize the revolutionary crowd, break down divisions between members and spectators, and insist on equality for women. He published a revolutionary newspaper and pamphlets, and built a network to distribute them.

Babeuf's approach to local issues was to shift the discussion immediately to general principles. He thought this the best way to win immediate support and promote the revolutionary cause.

His comrade Charles Germain argued for a two-stage theory of revolution: first, "land to the peasants" and only later cultivation in common for the good of all, with absolute equality. Babeuf, in contrast, insisted that armed insurrection could immediately institute communist society.

By abolishing private property, Babeuf predicted, "The circle of humanity would grow, and step by step, frontiers, customs posts, and bad governments would disappear. [and]... the great principle of equality or universal fraternity would become the sole religion of the peoples. ...All distinctions between industry and commerce will

disappear, and there will be a fusion of all professions raised to the same level of honor."

Babeuf's party made detailed plans for insurrection in 1796. Police learned about it ahead of time and arrested many, including Babeuf and Germain. Babeuf spent the next year in jail, composing his "Defense."

"A nation takes the path of revolution," Babeuf declared, "because... the majority of its members can no longer continue to exist in the old way. The masses realize that their situation is intolerable, they feel impelled to change it, and they are drawn into motion for that end... The hour strikes for great and memorable revolutionary events, already foreseen in the writings of the times, when a general overthrow of the system of private property is inevitable."

In 1828, Babeuf's comrade Buonarrotti published a book about their Conspiracy of the Equals. Marx and Engels, founders of scientific communism, cited this book in *The Holy Family* (1845) and honored Babeuf's leadership in the *Communist Manifesto*.

Finding Once More the Spirit of Revolution

"The social revolution... cannot take its poetry from the past but only from the future," wrote Marx in 1852. He urged that the "awakening of the dead" should "serve the purpose of glorifying the new struggles, not parodying the old; of magnifying the given task in the imagination, not recoiling from its solution in reality; of finding once more the spirit of revolution, not making its ghost walk again."

That's been the purpose of this series. It ends here, on the brink of the modern era.

In *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*, our party summarized what we have learned from the Paris Commune of 1871, the Russian Revolution of 1917, and the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution in China in the 1960s. We hope that readers have been inspired to learn and write more, especially about communist movements in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

We stand shoulder to shoulder with the masses who have fought for a classless society for thousands of years. Their dreams—of a world where all work for the good of all, where none are privileged or exploited, a world without money or private property—are our dreams. We learn from their victories as well as from their mistakes.

We are at a new beginning. In our time, the horrors of capitalism in its many forms (including socialism) stand exposed as never before. The working class is increasingly connected across borders, the masses are proletarianized. The line of revolutionary communism is more advanced.

The need for communism has never been more urgent. The possibility of communism has never been greater.

In Babeuf's words, "the masses realize that their situation is intolerable, they feel impelled to change it, and they are drawn into motion for that end." It is again necessary "to tell them everything, to show them tirelessly what it is necessary to do, and less to fear."

Mobilize the masses for communism!

US NAVY IMPERIALISTS TEACH HOW TO MISLEAD WORKERS

There are plenty of bosses in the Navy and every sailor has his/her specific rank in a long and ridiculous chain of command. Organizing that many people, and maintaining control, takes place by dividing sailors into smaller and smaller groups. Each group has a leader who acts as a middleman to higher leadership.

The group leaders do not have any significant power over their sections. They are really just watch dogs for higher ranking bosses. However, they do get privileges that group members do not get. For example, group leaders do not have to stand watch, they do not have to clean, they get priority when it is time to hand out opportunities, they are removed from living with the rest of the sailors to a special location, and they get a trivial, but noticeable, social status of being a group leader.

These advantages are why people choose to lead. Group leaders do not lead first and foremost to take care of the collective. They may want their group to be in order so they can show others how well they can lead, but this is driven by their own in-

dividual concern with themselves. They lead to better themselves through privileges and opportunities.

Leaders should be those who make more sacrifices, that is, do their regular work and additional leadership duties dedicated to the collective. Leaders are workers first before anything else. If leaders lead for the right reasons, not for their own interests, the collective will genuinely respect them.

One of the big mistakes in the Soviet Union was to give privileges to leaders that workers did not get. This ruined leaders' credibility and distanced them from workers. Only workers can lead workers. Leaders are just workers who have experience to share and know-how to teach. There's no need for leaders to have better housing, nicer cars, luxury vacations and fancy suits that the entire working class cannot also have.

I have heard of the impressive leadership

traits of the North Vietnamese fighters during the Vietnam War. American troops used to identify leaders of the North Vietnamese by the fact that leaders were the last to eat in the group and many times ate the least. This type of selfless leadership commands respect and loyalty from those s/he leads. This is leadership on a higher level. The type of leadership that gives communists advantages over imperialist slave-driving techniques.

The poor leadership that exists in the US Navy and existed in the Soviet Union are mistakes from which communists can learn. We need leaders whose working-class consciousness is the foundation for everything else. Workers deserve leaders that make sacrifices to lead with no incentives or privileges. Placing power into the hands of the working class is plenty of incentive.

The imperialist military chain of command benefits the bosses, not sailors. At the end of the day, those leaders care about their reputations and their paychecks. The vast majority of them would not accept leadership roles if they included no monetary incentive or if they still had to partake in banal duties that are handed to junior sailors.

We can become better communist organizers, have stronger teams and tougher fighters by learning from these imperialist and socialist mistakes.



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LETTERS

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LETTERS

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

Credit Cards = Capitalist Terrorism

Today in Central America we see the working class, whether working or generally unemployed, suffering the ravages of a new form of exploitation, abusive like all forms, through the issuing of credit cards. The financial oligarchy is creating an accelerated and greater poverty for the workers.

We see the transformation of the banks, whose mission in the beginning was no more than to serve as intermediaries, that is to transform inactive capital into active capital, putting it at the disposal of the capitalists and the small bosses.

Now, the capitalism that began its development with small bloodsucking capital gets to the end of this development with gigantic blood sucking capital, which is the massive issuing of credit cards. Capitalism is in a crisis of overproduction and one way to try to stem the decline is to sell on credit, with the "hope" of improving the economy. In this way, capital looks to produce greater benefits and profits at the cost of the massive working class.

Lenin was not wrong when he correctly foresaw in his book "Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism," that the development of finance capital that would pass from being simple banks with funds available for producing commodities, raw materials and the acquisition of property to become big all-powerful financial monopolies that control capital. However, he wasn't able to anticipate for certain that within this phase of capitalism, overwhelming consumerism would become one of the most brutal and cruel forms of exploitation of the working class.

In Central America, this has become an unbearable attack against the working class, because massive propaganda has led to rampant consumerism, mostly of unnecessary things. The use of the credit card, at interest rates that range from 60% to 100%, has caused an atmosphere of desperation among the exploited class. Without a way out of this hopeless debt, it leads us to be slaves for life to the financial oligarchy.

According to reports, it is estimated that every cardholder, mainly from the working class, on the day that the payment is due, has already committed more than forty percent of his or her pay check to pay the card, most of which is to pay the interest. In the case of unemployed workers, the situation is even worse, since they are subjected to permanent harassment to pay (from 5 to 10 phone calls a day) that creates a depressing psychological state and in many cases has led to suicide or abandonment of his or her family.

Sooner rather than later, the day will come in which money in whatever form will disappear forever along with capitalism, since society in general doesn't need it for its survival. Instead, the whole collective will be guaranteed that all of its needs will be met without money, which is the source that the capitalists take advantage of to keep control over society. This is the new communist society for which we must fight. Join together under the leadership of the International Communist Workers' Party and its newspaper **Red Flag**.

--Comrade in Honduras



Does *Red Flag* Speak to Everyday People?

A high school comrade recently expressed the following concern to his collective:

"**Red Flag** is not tailored to the average everyday citizen. Contrarily it is tailored to the more radical, leftist, and revolutionary citizen, such as me, the editor, and my comrades, who are surely reading this. In order to attract the brainwashed workers of America and other nations, we must appeal to the citizen who believes themselves to be democrat or republican. Currently, when those same people read the **Red Flag** they immediately think, these guys are lunatics; do they really believe in communism? That is because past leaders such as Stalin, Chernenko, and Andropov, who all hailed from a socialist-not communist state. In order to appeal to the masses, we must cater to the brainwashed slaves, and systematically break their shackling to the lies and deceit of the bourgeoisie. This is to be done by writing articles which do not explicitly call for the execution of the slavers but offer empathy to the slaves and encourage them to rise against their masters. If we do this, we will grow the International Communist Workers Party into a worldwide power consisting of every single citizen on earth. The purpose of this newspaper is to bring that future about, and to do that; it must propagandize, incite, and rationalize. Let us utilize these three points as the path to our destiny; and incite the masses, until they join together in armed revolution against the bourgeoisie to reclaim the rightful property of the world's workers. In other words, mobilize the masses for communism."

After we read this out loud in the club meeting, another student said, "I think **Red Flag** does speak to the average person. I remember that I got the paper for the first time and I liked what it said. It can motivate other people to be part of mobilizing." This student has been meeting with the club regularly and distributes four **Red Flags** to her friends.

Red Flag does speak to students, workers and soldiers. Workers from MTA write about working conditions and the importance of organizing political strikes against capitalism. Workers from factories write about the factory conditions and about the need to mobilize the masses for communism. Soldiers write about conditions in the barracks and the battlefields and the need to organize to turn the guns around. Teachers and students write about conditions in the schools, the nature of capitalist education and how communist education can liberate the working class.

Friends and comrades from different countries write about organizing maquila workers, having **Red Flag** study groups and securing

Red Flag distribution networks. These articles in **Red Flag** explain how the capitalist crisis leading to world war is affecting workers, how the masses are in motion fighting back and how mobilizing them for communism is the only real alternative.

Comrades and friends visit factories, MTA divisions, military bases, high schools and

universities. Thousands of papers are distributed at these places. Normal everyday people like the newspaper because it speaks to them. If the paper is not speaking to the masses then we are failing them. **Red Flag** must not only "incite" the masses but it must lead them in joining "together in armed revolution against the bourgeoisie to reclaim the rightful property of the world's workers," as the student said. "In other words, mobilize the masses for communism."

--Los Angeles high school collective

Communist Principles in Daily Life

The article "Communism is our heritage and future-part V" caught my attention. It talked about the Essenes a group of people that lived 4-5 thousand years ago with communist principles. I first heard of this group of people from a substance abuse recovery video. I was impressed by the Essenes' values of honesty, selflessness, and working with and for others. The video talked about how other religions branched out from this group, including various forms of Christianity leading to the Good Samaritans who coined the phrase 'anonymous,' the beginnings of Alcoholics Anonymous. The Oxford Group was born out of the Good Samaritans and they developed 6 basic steps for helping people recover from alcoholism.

Alcoholics Anonymous was born out of the Oxford Group and expanded the 6 steps to the AA 12 step program. The 12 Steps provides guidance to alcoholics for returning to what was valued thousands of years ago (with a heavy emphasis on God/higher power). It starts with working on oneself; then to working on personal relationships, and ending with requiring individuals to give back to the community (in AA the community is limited to helping other alcoholics). This recipe has been proven to work for many. People regain purpose when they see themselves as belonging to and being a part of a community, whereas addiction becomes a disease of isolation.

Despite the usefulness of AA; it purposefully leaves out "politics" from the discussion. It does not talk about how capitalism promotes greed, selfishness, pride, gluttony—the opposite of what is trying to be achieved. Sticking to a plan to counteract capitalist propaganda /values takes work and effort. Personally, I am thankful for my collective within the International Communist Workers Party for helping me live a life based on the principles of honesty, selflessness, and working with and for others—and struggling with me when I think I can "go it alone." Communists are working to create a system that returns us all to these basic principles and so we can all be healthier TOGETHER.

--Grateful for the Party

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

Physics, the Environment & Communism

The capitalists are full of campaigns for the environment, advertising sound bites, laws, and other useless things for the problems of the earth. "It was easier for them to create a mask for all us humans to use to try to keep us from generating CO2 (carbon dioxide) than actually reduce its production and lower their profits," my physics teacher told the class in a talk on environmental issues.

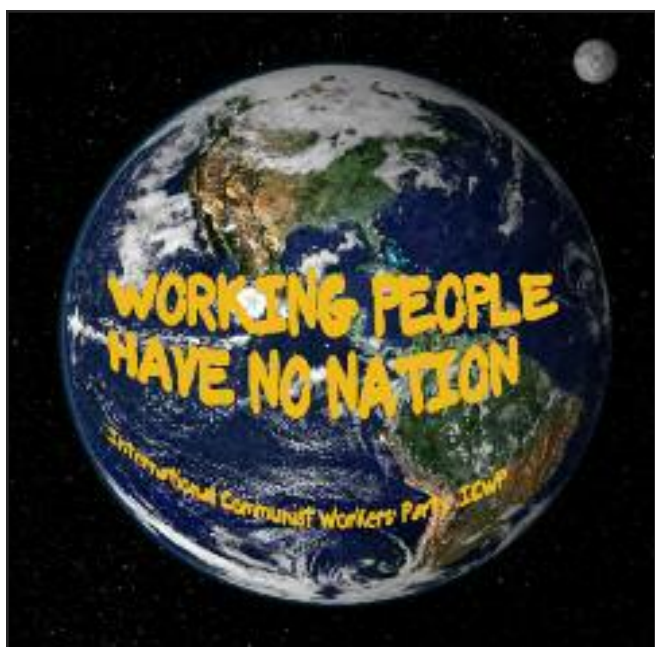
He said that the internal combustion engine (car engines which run on oil) only uses 20% of the energy that it produces. He asked, "Why do you think that, knowing this and everything else needed to make smaller, more useful engines, they don't do it? It's about money, about oil." The General Motors EV1 was the first electric car produced in large quantities. It stopped being manufactured due to the economic interests of the big oil companies, and most were destroyed or donated to museums.

Capitalism is a brutal system; its thirst for profits smashes anyone that stands in the way. In communism, with scientific advances, we'll find ways to help achieve a stable environment for human existence.

Many think that the bosses will be concerned about the planet and leave their profits to one side. FALSE. The only way that there will be co-existence between the environment and human beings is by destroying capitalism and forging a new society of men and women workers, a communist society.

The lecture continued and we talked about energy. The bosses always seek to control natural resources. They generate millions of dollars in profits selling energy as they do today. We talked about solar energy and how everything will be different. "What will they do to sell a ray of light? It's impossible." But for the bosses, whatever doesn't generate a profit is something useless. It's a big mistake to think that the bosses will develop a conscience and use these methods to advance the planet. In communism, we'll use the technologies for use and not for profit. We'll eliminate the generation of profits through the uncontrolled exploitation of natural resources.

In the 1990's it was calculated that by 2050 the earth's temperature would rise 4%. From its creation until then, the earth's temperature had only risen 1%. The Antarctic will unfreeze, raising the sea level. The largest dam in the world, "Three Gorges" in China, changed the earth's gravitational axis by two centimeters, and there are many other threats that capitalism is generating to the earth.



Did you expect that Greenpeace would come and save the world? Did the agreements of the G8 help the planet? Clearly not. The only way to stop all this is to win this new world, communism. Fight for communism and you will be fighting for the future of your sons and daughters; fight for communism and you will fight for everyone; fight for communism and you will fight for the planet!

We must not allow ourselves to be misled by the "environmental" organizations. We must focus on our road, the road for communism, which is the only valid fight for the planet earth.

--Young Comrade in El Salvador

Bosses' War Plans March On

The article "World War or Not, It's Time for Revolutionary Growth" in the last issue of *Red Flag* contained interesting insights into the bosses' new war strategy. Since then new developments give an even clearer picture of U.S. imperialism's plans.

The Council of Foreign Relations' (CFR) "indirect approach" to hem in Iran and China was fleshed out by Linda Robinson in "The Future of Special Operations." (*Foreign Affairs* digital edition 12/21/12) She directs the growing Special Forces "community" to focus on building military alliances with local (proxy) forces.

The Pentagon goose-stepped right in line. They emphasized opportunities to form operational alliances with Niger's army and those of neighboring countries to justify the new multi-million dollar base in Niger. It's not primarily about drones, but about exploiting local military forces, they insisted.

The bosses are worried about selling this new war strategy to the U.S. public after the fiascos in Iran and Afghanistan. That's why *Newsweek* sells this idea as a prescription for a more peaceful world in their recent cover story "Will Obama End the War on Terror?" We must not be fooled. Capitalism remains the most violent system in history.

We live in a period when the masses are in motion. The bosses' economic crisis has not only sharpened inter-imperialist rivalry, but also the contradiction between bosses and workers.

The Obama administration has offered some supposed reforms to answer the sharpening unrest. These so-called progressive reforms not only sharpen the economic attacks on workers, but also fit in nicely with the ruling class's new war strategy.

For example, comprehensive immigration reform has suddenly become a priority. The administration's bill is structured to increase the supply of low-cost labor to the factories and recruits to the volunteer armed forces.

The CFR's "indirect strategy" needs to rebuild U.S. productive capacity with low-cost labor. Otherwise the U.S. won't have the economic wherewithal to secure proxies. Maintaining the volunteer armed forces would quickly become prohibitively expensive without a significant increase in immigrant applicants.

Obama's new foreign policy cabinet team vows to implement this new strategy. The bosses will try to avoid direct invasions, while jostling for the upper hand against imperialist competitors. Millions will be slaughtered in this "more peaceful world."

The conclusion of last issue's article is proven even truer. "Our main job remains to turn crisis and mass ferment into recruitment to

our party from the concentrations, schools, jobs, and barracks. Communist mobilization is the way forward"

--A comrade worker

Fighting Anti-Communism at MTA

Today we went to MTA's Division 3 to distribute *Red Flag*. As always, it is a pleasure to distribute our communist newspaper to MTA workers. The reception is great and we consistently distribute at this Division over 120 papers. Many take extra papers to distribute to coworkers, friends and family.

The workers are always friendly and respectful. Even those that disagree with us and won't take the paper, tell us cordially, "No, but thanks anyway!" Occasionally, we encounter someone, like the driver I encountered this afternoon, who is a rabid anti-communist. This letter is about her.

As she was pulling out of the Division, I approached her with the paper. Before I could say anything, she barked out, "I don't want that communist s**t!"

Normally, I wouldn't think about writing a letter about someone's anti-communism. Since we are born, raised and educated in this system, we have all been anti-communists at one time or another. We all still have a lot of anti-communism (anti-worker ideas) in us and it is a constant struggle to rid ourselves of it.

What prompted this letter is what she blurted next, "Why don't you go to a communist country and LEAVE MY COUNTRY!" Rabid anti-communism and patriotism is a deadly combination for workers. I asked her what part of the country belonged to her, but she kept screaming about "her country." Since she looked like a Latina, I wanted to remind her of the racist history of this country. I shouted, as she was pulling off, that her "country," not too long ago, posted huge signs on restaurants in Texas that read, "No dogs or Mexicans allowed."

But most importantly, workers should know that we have no country, and never will. We own no property. The house we buy belongs to the bank until paid in full. Then we might get a piece of paper saying it is ours, but it belongs to the government. If we don't pay the property taxes, it will be auctioned for whatever taxes are owed. This happens to a lot of elderly people who live alone and become senile.

Veterans, however, could talk more eloquently about "whose country" this is. Sent to war to fight for "their" country, these soldiers make huge sacrifices both physically and mentally. Yet, on coming home they find no jobs and little or no medical help for the physical and mental injuries received.

Tens of thousands of them sleep on the streets on any given night. In winter, many have frozen to death. On dying, if too destitute to buy the hole where they should be buried, they won't be buried. The country they fought, bled and killed for won't give them that hole. They will be incinerated!

The same happens to any one who lacks the money to pay for a grave. This is brutal capitalism. The country belongs to the capitalists. They own everything, we own nothing. Our destiny is to wipe them off the face of the earth and build a society where collectively we will own and share the world's resources.

--Red Flag Distributor

EGYPT CALLS OUT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

Ever since class society began, history has been determined by class struggle: the struggle of the oppressed masses to get rid of their oppressors. This gigantic struggle has lasted eight thousand years.

Today, liberation is finally within our reach. Capitalism-imperialism, the maximum expression of class oppression, inevitably created its own grave diggers, the working class. Embodying the experience of our predecessors and our own – today we fight for communism and nothing less because only communism can bury class society and all oppressors forever.

Communism, however, does not fall from the sky. It is the product of revolution. Revolution needs specific conditions and revolutionaries must know them to be able to understand and advance the process to a victorious conclusion.

Egypt can be shown to be an example of how close, yet how far away, we are from achieving our goal of communist revolution. The first two preconditions for revolution are that the masses can't live in the old way and the ruling class can't rule in the old way. The events in Egypt are showing that these preconditions are maturing.

Two years ago, the Egyptian masses rose against the oppressive Mubarak regime which they had endured for decades. The beatings, incarcerations, tortures and killings by his goons, cops and army were no longer able to subdue or contain their anger and hatred.

As the revolutionary rage of the masses overflowed into the streets and spread to the factories, unable to continue ruling in the old way, the Egyptian rulers dumped Mubarak. They gave in to the masses' demand for democratic elections. Morsi from the Muslim Brotherhood was elected to the presidency.

Capitalism wore a different mask but its essence remained the same. Bitter experience is showing the masses that democracy is just another form of the capitalists' dictatorship. The conditions that gave rise to their heroic struggle got worse under Morsi. Once more the masses have risen, refusing to live under the crushing poverty capitalism's deepen-

ing worldwide economic crisis is imposing on them.

Tens of thousands exploded into open rebellion, filling Tahrir Square on the second anniversary of the uprising that toppled Mubarak, showing their rage against the Morsi government and his Muslim Brotherhood. Workers and youth from Alexandria, Port Said and throughout Egypt, in 10 of the 27 provinces, took to the streets to protest the ravages of a capitalist system that can't meet their needs.

They have been mowed down in the streets and beaten mercilessly. Instead of instilling terror in their ranks, it has made them more fearless. Demonstrators set ablaze the provincial government headquarters in Port Said and ransacked and burned offices of the Muslim Brotherhood in three cities.

In Port Said, 50 protesters were gunned down. When the government declared a 9 pm curfew, the workers defied it. They started their marches at 9 pm. "He [Morsi] declares a curfew—We declare civil disobedience," insisted a defiant protester. As an Egyptian professor phrased it, "Things are more critical ... than when Mubarak was ousted. The authority of the state is really in question. Some people are no longer accepting the legitimacy of political institutions, including the presidency—not just the officeholder."

At present the masses are uncontrollable. Nei-

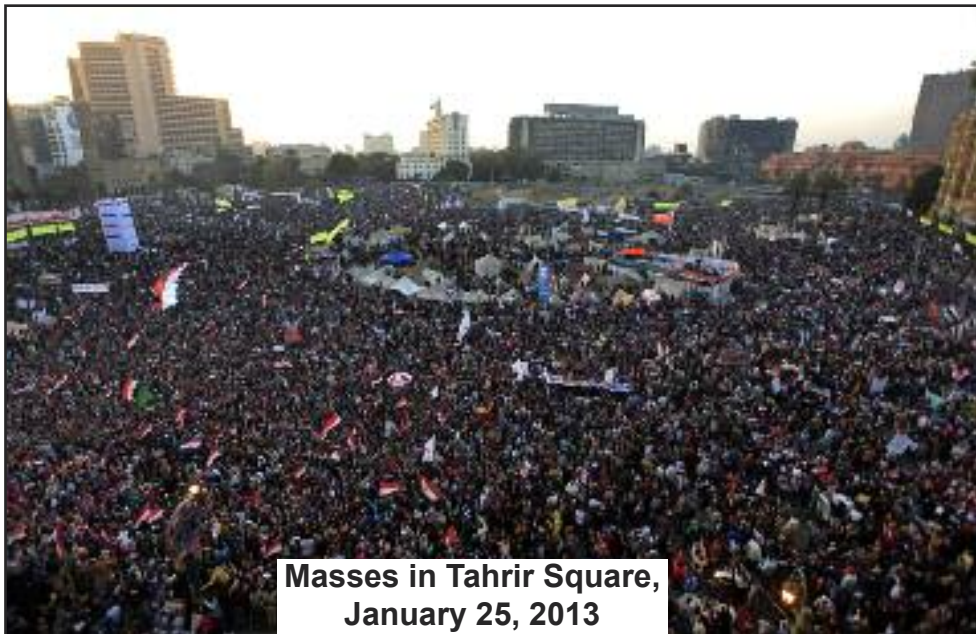


ther the brutality of the Muslim Brotherhood government nor the sleek talking treacherous leaders of the opposition can pacify them. They have lost their fear of dying and their actions are becoming more political. This is the third precondition for revolution.

All the ingredients for revolution are there, except one: a mass communist party, the ICWP, mobilizing the masses for communism. Communism will free the masses to produce all that workers need, without bosses, cops, money, or banks. Masses will collectively plan, decide, produce and fight to meet the needs of our class.

This is what the rebellious Egyptian masses are unknowingly grasping for. Their experience, however, show us how close our class can be to revolution. It shows that communist revolution is not a far away dream but something presently in the air. This should inspire us to put *Red Flag* and our manifesto *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* into these workers' hands and help them build ICWP.

We encourage ICWP clubs and *Red Flag* readers to organize solidarity with Egyptian workers by deepening and spreading the fight for communism. We need to mobilize now wherever we are. We ask friends to translate MMC and *Red Flag* into Arabic and other languages and spread it to friends and family in Egypt and throughout the world.



Masses in Tahrir Square, January 25, 2013

MARCH ON MAY DAY UNDER THE RED FLAGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY



ICWP has published our manifesto *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*. It's available in English and Spanish. Order your copy or copies. Please send donations for the costs of printing and mailing. We also ask for your suggestions and criticisms.

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