

RED FLAG

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



Unrest in Yemen and Bahrain poses dire threat to US control of Middle East oil. (See article page 16)



Workers need Communism

JAPAN'S DISASTER: BOSSES DRIVE FOR MAXIMUM PROFITS-MOST DESTRUCTIVE FORCE IN HISTORY

March 16-Massive earthquakes and tsunamis are natural phenomena, but it takes capitalism to turn them into destructive forces claiming millions of working class victims. The Japanese disaster is a Japanese bosses' created disaster. To cut back on the use of US controlled expensive oil, they built 55 nuclear power plants in one of the most active seismic area in the world. Now four reactors have exploded, endangering the lives of workers nationally and internationally.

Nuclear power made their industries less dependent on oil and gas. This reduced their production cost and maximized the profits. Besides these disastrous explosions, some of those old plants leaked radiation, contaminating the air, water and food supply. The Japanese bosses have no plan to replace them, much less find safer alternative energy sources. They, however, have big plans for rearming.

Wars are the product of the capitalists' drive for maximum profits. This drive is the most destructive force in history. We need a world without bosses, money and their wars for profits: a communist world. Under communism in emergencies workers would immediately mobilize all needed help and more. But most importantly, we would

avoid building cities in areas prone to natural disasters. Putting workers' safety above all, we would close the bosses' nuclear reactors and polluting sources of energy, using only safe alternative energy sources.

Japan sells off US treasury bonds: serious threat to US economy

The bankrupt US economy has survived by huge borrowing from foreign governments and private banks through US treasury bonds. Japanese capitalists, the second largest holder of US Treasury bonds, hold about \$877 billion. The Chinese bosses have amassed \$1.6 trillion.

Due to an increasingly weak US imperialism, US bosses are finding it more difficult to sell their bonds, that is, to borrow money from foreign governments and banks. The situation became so serious that the US bosses started Quantitative Easing (QE). This trick allowed the Federal Reserve Bank to buy the unsold bonds by printing money out of thin air.

But QE reduces the value of the dollar, which reduces the value of the money US bosses owe foreign lenders. Now, Japan needs to rebuild its huge

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BOEING CREW SEIZES OPPORTUNITY; EXPOSES CAPITALIST RELATIONS

SEATTLE, WA — DuPont Inc. now thinks it's an authority on personal relationships. At least that's how they came off in a 40-minute video our line boss made us watch at a Boeing crew meeting.

In fact, both DuPont and Boeing could care less about workers' relationships. As one Machinist joked sarcastically, "It's all about the profits." The only relationship DuPont—among the original napalm producers—wants you to have is with weapons-grade nuclear explosives.

The video expounded on how to increase "throughput" by eliminating bottlenecks. The featured plant manager not only increased production while cutting costs to save the plant, but also saved his marriage by applying the same management mumbo-jumbo and got a promotion to boot.

This fictional plant manager almost tripped up when his plant started producing more than the "market" could buy. But in this fantasy nobody gets laid-off because a customer decides to place a huge order because the plant

was able to produce so quickly and cheaply.

This was too much! One worker pointed out that every capitalist tries to do the same thing. They all produce more and more goods paying workers less and less causing "a classic crisis of overproduction like we've seen for the last three years."

"That's what happens when you produce for profits and sale," added another machinist.

The boss went ballistic. "If you don't want to work for the company's profit, you can find a job doing philanthropic work," he threatened, scaring no one.

His tirade became more and more nonsensical (and dragged on forever). "Maybe the world will go to hell again in the next few years, but, for now, we have to get better at increasing production."

Workers clustered in groups joking about the crew meeting as we returned to our work area. More seriously, a comrade pointed out that it's not the

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MAY DAY 2011: LET'S WELCOME THE DAWNING OF A NEW REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST EPOCH

As we prepare to celebrate May Day, the International Workers' Day, the invigorating winds of revolution are once again circling the world. The world's oppressed masses, unable to live in the old way, are rebelling against the ravages of capitalism. The world's capitalist-imperialist rulers are mired in their worst economic crisis in 80 years. While savagely attacking workers to pay for their genocidal wars, they are less and less able to rule in the old way. These are two of the three preconditions for communist revolution.

The mass uprisings in North Africa and the Middle East shattered the myth of the bosses' invincibility. The rebels could have vanquished the rulers, destroyed the capitalist state, and raised the red flag of workers' communist power. They didn't do this because the third and most important pre-condition for a successful communist revolution was missing: a revolutionary party mobilizing the masses of workers, soldiers and youth for communism.

Those uprisings show that the masses are not passive objects of history. They are the makers of history.

Our class goes into motion at any given time with whatever political understanding it has. The North African and Middle Eastern masses clamor for democracy because for decades the old international communist movement mistakenly trained them to fight for democracy. Their actions, nevertheless, powerfully impact world affairs. They indirectly determine immediate and long-term winners and losers among the capitalist-imperialist blocs locked in deadly competition. (See p. 16).

From their mass actions we can also draw invaluable lessons to improve the revolutionary practice and theory that guides our class. But inter-capitalist-imperialist rivalry will remain the world's main contradiction until class war explodes into a successful communist revolution. And for that our class must be mobilized for communism.

Celebrate May Day Mobilizing the Masses for Communism, Not Reform

Communists organized the first May Day in 1890, but they firmly believed that workers could not be mobilized directly for communism. On its eve, Engels wrote that the European and US working classes were being "mobilized ... as One army ... for One imme-

diante aim: an eight hour working day..."

Since then, the masses have been mobilized, through "stages," to fight for unions, democracy, national liberation and socialism, but almost never for communism. In the US our Party fights the electoral and trade unionist ideology ingrained by the CPUSA in the working class. In El Salvador we fight the deadly ideological trap of "Participatory Democracy", put forward by ex-FMLN commander Dagoberto Gutierrez. In Oaxaca, Mexico, we expose treacherous political slogans like "the impulse for democracy" and "the rule of law" put forward by the teachers' union and APPO.

Unchain the Creative Power of the Masses

We reject the "stages" theory. We call on the international working class to help mobilize the masses for communism. Mobilizing the masses for communism means putting the interests of our class above all else. It means winning the masses to inject communist theory and practice in every issue confronting them. Most important, in class struggles against the bosses, it means to guarantee that communism is always our most immediate and only goal. Addressing all issues from the most advanced position – how would we deal with them under communism? – will help our class better resolve the contradiction between reform and revolution.

This practice requires the full, active and conscious participation of the masses. This is how to unchain their power, creativity and commitment. It will give us all a better vision of what communism will be like. It will show in practice how, through the ICWP, we will be able under communism to decide and administer every aspect of our collective lives.

Recruit Massively to ICWP

The old communist movement had a "stages" theory for recruiting to the Party, and we reject that, too. Mobilizing workers for communism means first of all, having them join the communist party - the ICWP. We are a mass

party open to everyone who believes that communism is the only solution and wants to work collectively to make it happen.

Only the masses have the need and the power to fight for, win and build a communist world. Only the masses mobilized for communism can create the multitude of communist leaders needed. These will mobilize ever greater numbers of workers, soldiers, students and others, creating more communists, more communist leaders, and an ever-widening sphere of communist social relations. This process will continue until the international communist working class becomes the human race.

Use this May Day to inspire our class to fight for a communist world

Mobilizing the masses for communism requires that we concentrate our organizing efforts among industrial workers and soldiers. Without the participation of these key sectors, vital to our revolutionary strategy, no communist revolution can triumph.

Finally, only by mobilizing the masses to fight for communism can they develop the commitment to wage an unrelenting, merciless war to eradicate capitalism from every corner of the world – no matter how long it takes. We are one international working class with one party, one line, one flag and one goal: a communist world to win! Long live May Day! Join ICWP!

**MARCH ON MAY DAY
TURN IMPERIALIST
WAR INTO
REVOLUTIONARY
WAR
MOBILIZE THE
WORKING CLASS FOR
COMMUNISM**

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abstract world that is going to hell. Rather, it's the profit system that leads to depression and war. As Lenin, the leader of the Russian revolution, said, "Capitalism is horror without end."

**Capitalist Motto:
Think Only About Yourself**

"I don't see anybody here breaking a sweat," said one misguided soul in an attempt to defend the besieged boss. As discussed throughout the day, speedup for lower wages is exactly what's happening throughout the aerospace industry. Focusing on what is happening to yourself, at this moment, blinds you to the fate of our class.

Work that is traditionally performed by Boeing employees is being shipped to industrial sweatshops throughout the country and the world. These new sweatshops employ larger numbers of black and Latin

workers. This racist super-exploitation in "uptown," subcontracting shops undermines the working conditions of our class ¾ including those left in the Boeing-owned factories.

As the new South Carolina plant shows, even Boeing-owned plants are turning into industrial sweatshops. How much longer before the full force of capitalist exploitation visits your home?

Communist Motto: International Working Class Collectivity Is The Solution

"I'm really mad that DuPont dares to talk about relationships," fumed one worker. Capitalist relations are based on making workers wage-slaves. The bosses appropriate all the means of production, forcing us to sell our labor to them to survive.

If the bosses can't exploit our labor, we don't exist for them. They want us to imitate capitalism's for-profit, dog-eat-dog mentality in every relationship we have.

Communism relies, on the other hand, on producing for human needs. It gets its strength from collective labor. Extra workers become helping hands, not competitors. The good of the international working class comes first.

Children under communism will see adults producing for the common good, not for individual survival. From the time they begin to think, they will develop a morality based on this collectivity. Personal relations will change for the better, along with the new relations of production.

The tens of thousands demonstrating in Wisconsin or millions struggling in North Africa and the Middle East should set their sights on this collectivity. There is no way to reform a capitalist system to meet our interests. These millions will not only change society, but also change how we think about relationships (and ourselves).



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MEXICO: STRUGGLE FOR COMMUNIST IDEAS BEARS FRUIT

In the midst of an international uprising of the working class, and one year after the birth of the International Communist Workers' Party, the ICWP is imbuing us with the energy we need to continue on the communist road. Only the struggle against revisionism and the building of the new party make it possible for us to clearly see the reformism of the old party.

The political line of the ICWP guides its practice. Now, more than ever, we're convinced that the struggle against revisionism has to be to the death, since revisionism can lead the working class into the abyss in our struggle for our emancipation. The current struggle of the workers in the north African countries and the Middle East deals a blow to all those who thought that the working class was going through a period of despondence and that it was very hard to undertake the struggle for communism.

It's urgent to show our class the communist road; it's urgent to mobilize massively for it. How will we achieve it? Breaking with the limits of the past, our practice must show the correctness of our line...how we are advancing toward our goal after a year?

Is this timeframe a lot or a little? When we carry out political work everyday, it can seem like a lot of time, but we must win many to join us, millions to go on this road. How much more time do we have? According to current events, it can be a short time. What's happening in Africa and the Middle East shows us that the working class isn't willing to put up with more exploitation and poverty, but what's lacking is that they put the fight for communism as pri-

mary on the agenda. Capitalism sends thousands of workers to their graves everyday, and we're no longer willing to put up with this system. Our task is to lead with communist ideas out front.

Currently our collective sells 250 *Red Flags*. Our goal is to double the sale. After five months our paper is now known: workers and students wait for it. We distribute 17 papers hand to hand, and we coordinate two study action groups. We try to write articles for the paper regularly. We participate in monthly meetings of the leadership.

We take advantage of every opportunity, for example, in our family we've explained in different ways about communism and revolution. Two days ago we saw a movie that gave us the opportunity to have a discussion. The most interesting thing was that one of our brothers-in-law mentioned very clearly, "So money is only made to fool us, money isn't what's important, instead it's the resources or the goods created by man." Another member of the family said, "But you would need a worldwide coup, if not the capitalists would again take possession of everything." Another said, "We should put up giant screens so that many people can learn what you all know." Someone else commented, "But the government wouldn't allow it, they'd kill us."

So we explained that the organization that we're building is from below with our friends, relatives, co-workers and fellow students, because we need an organization that's unbreakable.

It was a very successful afternoon, after several years in which advances were apparently small or al-

most nil, but we saw that no, our relatives have clearly understood communist ideas. Until now they've been readers and sympathizers. We'll continue the struggle with them to become part of the party.

Many times we've talked about how communism will be, how we'll produce food in the whole world, and one relative correctly explained to another that in a society organized in the interest of all workers, borders won't exist and foodstuffs will be produced where the environment has the best potential to produce them and that these foodstuffs will be shared with the rest of the workers of the world. And if a place doesn't have this potential, other workers in other parts of the world will share the food they produce with us.

They don't talk about communism openly for fear of government repression, but everyday they take on the task of discussing with people they know about a different way of living, and above all that it's possible, when we are organized.

We're involving several comrades and friends in organizing a dinner to celebrate the first anniversary of ICWP. We plan to invite all our friends and readers of *Red Flag*.



Mass March Against Racist Budget Cuts:

STUDENTS BRING REVOLUTIONARY IDEAS

Sacramento, CA, March 14—"What's the Solution? Revolution!" Hundreds of students took up this chant started by *Red Flag* readers as thousands marched on the California state capitol building in the rain, protesting budget cuts and fee hikes at the community colleges.

Half a dozen students distributed *Red Flag* flyers calling on all to march on May Day with the International Communist Workers' Party to end wage slavery and borders – to build a communist world without money or bosses.

The marchers took the flyers eagerly. Several found us later to discuss them.

One young student was very interested. "Do you think we'll make revolution in my lifetime?" he asked.

A comrade repeated what the flyer said: We live in historic times. Worldwide, workers can't live in the same way. The capitalists can't rule in the old way. Our historic task is to mobilize the masses for communism now.

As the march passed the business district, the student asked, "What are we going to do about all these banks?"

"We don't need banks or money either," the comrade responded. "Banks don't grow food. They don't sew jeans. All they do is help the capitalists pile up money from exploiting workers." The student took a copy of *Red Flag* and promised to read it.

Later that same student was overheard telling his friends, "Banks don't feed us." Obviously the conversation made an impression on him.

The march passed two people holding signs that said, "Education, yes. Illegals, no." Our group started a chant: "Education, yes. Racism, no!"

Many groups were handing out reformist flyers with demands like "tax the rich."

"Why should there even be

rich and poor?" one marcher asked another.

The worst thing was the rally at the end of the march. A series of politicians and student flunkies started chants of "Let Us Vote!" This is the Democratic Party's program of getting voters to approve tax increases that will mainly hurt the working class. Most likely they won't save the colleges from massive budget cuts anyway.

Many students left the rally early. About 75 took their own rally right into the Capitol building, where a member of our delegation started the chant, "They Say Cutback – We say Fight Back!" The cops cordoned off the protestors and forced them out of the building.

Students were thrilled with the energy of the march, but also doubtful about what it accomplished. "People were hungry for revolutionary ideas, and you brought them into the march," a more experienced comrade said. "You made a difference."



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infrastructure: houses, factories, and power plants. To finance this rebuilding, the Japanese bosses started selling their US treasury bonds the day of the earthquake.

If Japan's disaster forces Japanese bosses to massively sell their US Treasury bonds, the US could be hit by a financial tsunami. Such a dump of US bonds would drastically reduce their value, prompting other bosses to follow suit, fearing a complete meltdown of the US bond market. "There is not much value in the vast majority of US Treasuries," said Charlie Morris, an economist.

Japan's nuclear disaster impacts oil market, sharpens inter-imperialist rivalry

30% of Japan's energy comes from nuclear power. The earthquake has shut off most of this power indefinitely. This will put more strain on the world's oil

market, already volatile, since Japan will have to import more oil and gas to produce the energy it needs. Higher energy prices could cripple the already weak US "recovery."

As Bahrain, Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya show, we're entering an era of unprecedented wars for control of resources and profit. This is leading to World War III. US declining power and its desperate need to capture lost markets mean that US bosses must soon launch a major war against their main rival, China. Japan's rearming and its frequent military exercises with US are aimed at containing China's rise.

Japan's Disaster Will Sharpen the Contradiction Between Workers and Bosses Worldwide

Masses of Japanese workers have lost confidence in the Japanese Government to take control in the disasters or tell them the truth. As the Japanese government can no longer rule in the old way, millions of Japanese workers are now among hundreds of mi-

llions worldwide who can no longer live in the old way. They objectively have a more pressing need and a greater opportunity to destroy this capitalist system.

Japan mirrors what can happen in the US. Nuclear power plants here are also time bombs waiting to explode. The 104 nuclear plants, which account for 20% of US energy use, were all built in the 1970s or before, many with the same design as the exploding Fukushima, which was built by General Electric. Several, like two in California, were built on active seismic zones.

In communist society based on the needs of the working class, nothing will be bought or sold. Communism won't have power-hungry bankers or armies of politicians and union hacks. With workers in control, the creative power of the masses will be liberated to find and implement technical solutions to meet all workers' needs.

From Wisconsin to California

“AMERICAN DREAM” BECOMES A NIGHTMARE

Massive demonstrations by workers in Wisconsin have exposed that the bosses' racist profit system is sharpening the exploitation of all workers in this capitalist crisis. Wisconsin Governor Walker has proposed cuts in wages, benefits, and pensions – all of which the union leaders were willing to bargain away — in order to balance a \$137 million budget shortfall.

Still, Walker and the legislature have effectively destroyed 'collective bargaining' for teachers and other public workers.

Democrats and the union officials tell us that we can stop these attacks legally. “We are not asking members to strike,” said a Wisconsin teachers' union president. “Doing so will result in our members being fired from their jobs which State Law prevents us from striking. We are working to recall the governor.”

But, that is a pipe dream. Capitalism can't be reformed. It must be destroyed. Trade union ideology and elections chain us to the same capitalist system that is attacking us.

Wisconsin: Tip of the Iceberg

What's happening in Wisconsin is happening in every other US state, city and county, whether controlled by Democrats or Republicans. These budget problems can be traced to the capitalist banking crisis in the US that started to unravel in 2007. The bosses' drive for maximum profits created a housing bubble which exploded when the US imperialists got stuck in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Under Bush and later Obama, the US rulers poured trillions of dollars stolen from the working class to rescue private banks and save their tottering banking system.

The effect of transferring this stolen wealth to private banks has devastated the working class. Over 4 million working-class families have lost their homes. Every 10 seconds one family receives a foreclosure notice. As the “American Dream” turns into a nightmare, an estimated 25 million people will have lost their homes by the end of 2011.

Racist Cuts Attack All Workers

It's even deadlier for black and latin workers, who are disproportionately thrown out on the street. One in five latin families and one in nine black families

have lost their homes. Black and latin households support extended families, worsening the effect of foreclosures.

Compounding this is massive unemployment, almost double the official rate of 12%. Among black and latin workers it is twice as much, and nearly 40% among black and latin youth. Black and latin workers are unemployed much longer and more often denied unemployed benefits. The conditions for undocumented immigrant workers are even deadlier.

The combination of foreclosures, high racist unemployment and the US bosses' ever-expanding wars has created huge deficits in the state budgets. Making things worse, the states are unable to get credit.

US bosses, facing stiff competition from the Chinese and other rising imperialist powers, are in a deadly struggle for survival. Their survival and ability to wage war depend on their vicious and racist attacks on workers' wages, benefits and pension cuts.

Don't Sacrifice for the Bosses – Build the Collective Fight for Communist Power

In the midst of these attacks on the working class, Obama and the unions are calling for “shared sacrifice.” They want us to sacrifice so the bosses' bloodthirsty system can survive, attack workers harder and wage bigger wars.

On the communist road, the working class will have to share both scarcity and abundance. But we shouldn't sacrifice blood and treasure for the bosses' survival! Our blood, sweat and tears should be to build a communist world – free of the bosses' exploitation, banks, money, racism, sexism, crises, borders and wars.

The AFL-CIO is organizing marches to defend the unions and the Democrats. *Red Flag* readers need to mobilize to bring *Red Flag*'s revolutionary communist message to these marches.

Millions of workers mobilized for communism will change history. History is on our side. Millions of workers worldwide are in motion, heralding the birth of a new revolutionary epoch. Join ICWP, march with us on May Day and be a part of the communist upsurge that will bury capitalism-imperialism forever!

Grocery Workers: Don't Negotiate the Terms of Wage Slavery: FIGHT TO DESTROY IT!

Workers are in the same boat, from grocery workers in LA to public sector workers in Wisconsin to textile workers in Egypt. Capitalist competition leads the bosses to attack workers ever more sharply, especially now as they prepare for bigger and deadlier wars.

Yes, we have to fight back! But no, trade-unionism isn't the answer. Even a community-based strategy of mass mobilization isn't the answer.

Our fightback must be for communism because nothing else can meet our aspirations or even, increasingly, our basic needs.

California grocery workers were on strike for 20 weeks in 2004 to save their health benefits. Increased capitalist competition, the stores said, meant the benefits could not survive without contributions from workers. And in spite of the massive support strikers received, they didn't win.

The United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 770 settled for a two-tier deal that cut wages and health benefits for workers hired since 2004. The contract forced veteran workers to pay more for their health care, and cut company pension contributions for everyone. Many workers were furious.

Now the Kroger Corporation, which owns Ralphs, reported \$1.12

billion in net earnings for 2010, up from \$70 million for 2009. Yet the company wants to take back even more than before in a new contract.

“From each according to commitment, to each according to need.”

Natural disasters like the recent earthquake and tsunami in Japan, as well as crises like the civil war in Libya, show the urgency of workers everywhere to prepare to take power. We need to prepare ourselves right now to build a totally new society, a communist society, without money or bosses. Think how important grocery workers could be in organizing food distribution based on need! They are a link in the chain that includes the farm workers who grow and harvest the food, the factory workers who process it, and the truck drivers who transport it to urban workers. In communist society, these social relations would not depend on the exchange of money or the demands of profit-hungry bosses. Instead, we would mobilize labor directly to meet the needs of our class.

In communist society, we'll all have health care. We'll all take part in making the decisions that affect our collective life. We'll share and share alike, in good times and bad. And we have to build this movement, starting now



Masses of angry workers demonstrate against cuts and anti-union legislation. But US capitalism in crisis will deepen its attacks on all US workers. Unions cannot stop this. The logic of this shows that mobilizing for communism is the solution--fighting for a system to meet our needs, not the rulers' profits.

FIGHT AGAINST REVISIONISM BRINGS VIETNAMESE WORKER TO RED FLAG

In Vietnam I was very young when the war ended. At the beginning I didn't have any political convictions, either for capitalism or communism. But being a working class student, I was infected by the enthusiasm with which the workers and their families referred to communism, and the zeal, commitment and sacrifice with which they were willing to build the new society, in which all of us would be equal.

We thought that in this society there wouldn't be any privileges for anybody and every individual would receive according to their need. In the factories and the fields, the working people worked with extreme care and honesty; there was a lot of camaraderie. I think that the best sentiments that human beings have come out during this stage.

We thought that the differences between the rich

and poor would disappear over time. However, as the years passed, they no longer spoke of communism, but instead of socialism, and in front of our eyes an abyss was again being created between the privileged and the dispossessed. And what at the beginning were isolated anomalies, became each time greater in an antagonistic system between the rich and the poor, with the exception that this time the people showed their hatred against “communism.”

The factories and fields stopped producing as they had at first. The demoralized workers hated the supposed “communist leaders” and thought that communism was nice in theory but in practice it didn't work.

I lived for several years with this idea, and when I heard talk about *Red Flag* and about communist workers in my workplace, I thought I would confront

them to make it clear to them that they couldn't fool me because I had lived the experience in Vietnam and warn them that the leaders sell out or become corrupt. However, in some way I started to read *Red Flag* and it interested me a lot. With two other co-workers, we began to have daily discussions about whether communism was possible.

After several meetings it began to make sense what the co-workers said, that communism wasn't put into practice because the leaders thought that socialism was necessary and that it wasn't only about a handful of sellout or corrupt leaders but a capitalist system that they didn't pull out at its roots and that as a consequence the next revolution must be directly for communism.

A *Red Flag* Reader

Capitalist Food Crisis:

MILLIONS OF WORKERS STARVE TO DEATH WHILE CAPITALISTS GET RICHER

Worldwide the price of cereal grains is rising. The price of wheat rose by 74% and corn by 87% in the past year. These price hikes are creating more starvation and death for hundreds of millions of workers. The bosses blame climatic changes, like the drought that affects northern China, where 42% of the wheat crop was lost, forcing exporters to become importers of wheat.

But these changes help the financial institutions like Wall Street speculate in food, which is creating a major problem in developing countries where, in 2010, workers in the poorest countries paid 20% more for food than in 2009. In contrast, in the US food prices will only rise by 2% in 2011. While millions die, US agribusiness increased their profits by 20%. At the same time, one in every 8 workers in the US gets food stamps, and one in five kids goes hungry.

The war for foodstuffs and natural resources will be part of WWII. The imperialists who control the natural resources will have a weapon against their adversaries.

In Communism there won't be banks or financial institutions that regulate production. We workers will produce to meet our needs, and the Communist Party in power will have to guarantee this.

After WWII, many cities will be left in ruins and cultivated areas will be destroyed. The beginning of reconstruction will be vital for the workers, the Party and the new society. We'll have to exterminate all the murderers and their

weapons of destruction. At the same time, we'll have to rebuild cities, but smaller, with the capacity to organize with others and then decide what we need to cultivate and in which areas. If an area wasn't as affected by the war, it would have to share what it has with other areas. The division between the fields and city will have to disappear. Every worker who's lived in the city will have to work some hours in the fields, so that he or she can better see the importance of this work. And every farm worker will have to learn the science of how to make food more durable without contaminating it with unnecessary chemicals.

In these first communist cities we'll decide what grains, vegetables and animals will be necessary for human consumption and which will only be preserved as a species. Science and technology will be used to better understand the world and how to improve it for the massive production of the things we need for survival — but not for the market. There won't be money, and nothing will be bought or sold, nor even bartered. Barter means that you're not addressing the question of need, but still using the seeds of capitalist exchange value rather than use value, which is based on need.

The rule that will be in effect will be

to give everything that you can for the wellbeing of your society, and you'll receive based on what society can produce at a given time. The individual will be taken into account based on the functioning of the communist city in its historic moment. History would stop being a struggle between classes. There won't be wage slavery. The new history will be to remember all the steps taken to make of humanity a truly advanced society, where each human being who passes through this world enjoys his or her short existence, without having to worry whether tomorrow they'll have money to buy food. Let's fight for Communism, let's organize ICWP.



Red Flag invites articles in any language. Below we print an article in French next to its English translation.

A PROPOS DES TRAVAILLEURS «ARABES».

Il est incorrect de parler au sujet des soulèvements nord-africains de travailleurs «arabes». Ce terme équivaut à appeler les travailleurs bretons, «celtiques» et les travailleurs polonais, «slaves».

Par ailleurs, ce nom ne couvre pas la complexité de la situation. Les travailleurs Nord-Africains sont composés de divers groupes qui ne sont pas tous arabes. Par exemple, une portion non négligeable des habitants du Maghreb est berbère (et non arabe). Les riches pays pétroliers comme la Libye et l'Arabie Saoudite doivent faire appel à une main d'oeuvre étrangère en provenance principalement d'Afrique, des Philippines et du Pakistan. Ces travailleurs - souvent leurs coreligionnaires - sont exploités sans pitié par leur super-riches patrons arabes. La cupidité capitaliste se moque de la compassion et solidarité religieuses !

La colonisation a contribué également à l'implantation d'autres nationalités au Maghreb. Des fonctionnaires et militaires privilégiés qui devaient administrer et contrôler le pays pour le bénéfice de la métropole mais aussi

d'humbles travailleurs. Au 18ème et 19ème siècle, de pauvres paysans espagnols, italiens et français se sont exilés, souvent dans de dures circonstances, espérant gagner une meilleure vie en Afrique du Nord. Comme souvent, la puissance colonisatrice s'est servie du racisme pour diviser et mieux exploiter ces deux groupes de travailleurs (autochtones et nationaux).

Pour prendre le cas de l'Egypte, dès 1907, 147 000 Européens avaient émigré en Egypte y compris 63 000 Grecs et 35 000 Italiens. Il y avait également 34000 Syriens, 7 700 Arméniens et 18 000 Soudanais sans parler de 30 000 Juifs. Les Grecs étaient concentrés dans l'industrie de la cigarette, les Italiens dans le bâtiment, les Européens de l'Est dans les usines d'huile de coton et les Juifs dans la couture.

Preuve supplémentaire de cette diversité, beaucoup de ces «damnés de la terre» exilés de plusieurs pays mais unis dans une lutte commune aux côtés de leurs camarades égyptiens - ont organisé et mené des luttes communistes dans leurs usines respectives.

SPEAKING ABOUT “ARAB” WORKERS

Red Flag referred to the rebels of North Africa as “Arab” workers. This is a misnomer and does not cover the complexity of the situation. It is the same as calling Irish workers “Celtic” or Polish workers “Slavic”. North African workers are comprised of many groups which are not Arabs. For example, many Algerians, Tunisians, Libyans and Moroccans are Berbers. Oil rich countries like the Arab Emirates and Libya rely heavily on immigrant workers, mainly from Africa, Philippines and Pakistan. These workers – often coreligionists – are cruelly exploited by their obscenely rich Arab bosses. So much for religious compassion and solidarity.

Colonization brought other nationalities to the Maghreb, not only privileged civil servants or military men to administer and control the country, but poor workers as well. In the 18th and 19th centuries, poor Spanish, Italian and French workers and peasants would exile themselves and try to make a living in Algeria in harsh circumstances. Capitalism used racism to divide these groups, but nevertheless exploited them

all, creating profound poverty and misery.

For example, in Egypt, by 1907, 147,000 Europeans immigrated to Egypt, including 63,000 Greeks and 35,000 Italians. In addition, there were 34,000 Syrians immigrants, 7,700 Armenians and 18,000 Sudanese, not to mention 30,000 Jews. Many were poor farmers or workers in their country of origin. The Greeks concentrated in the cigarette industry; the Italians construction; Eastern Europeans (including Russians) in the cottonseed oil plants, and the Jews in the needle trades.

Many of these “wretched of the earth,” were exiled from other countries, but they united in common struggle with their Egyptian comrades and helped found the communist movements in these factories.

Travailleurs du
monde
entier s'unissent!

Communism Means the End of Bosses

Under communism we won't be forced to work under any type of bosses' threats because bosses won't exist. We'll work based on our understanding of society's needs. The workers' solidarity and loyalty will be the fruit of class consciousness and not of threats.

Under capitalism it's the opposite: everything we do is based on economic incentives, and we are under constant threats.

In a factory in Los Angeles the boss wrote in a document, "Any employee who divulges confidential information about the company which benefits its competitors or particular people will be prosecuted in the appropriate courts."

The general supervisor of this factory called a meeting of all the workers to give them instructions about how to implement health and safety techniques in the production area. At the same time, he gave an envelope to each one with instructions written and attached to five yellow cards, each with a value of \$20.

Whenever someone is caught violating health and safety rules, the boss will take one card away, and if someone is seen doing more than is recommended, they'll give him or her one. After a month they'll collect all the cards and depending how your attitude has been, you could win or lose in this game. In essence, these cards are one more form of exploitation, terror and division of the workers.

In this maneuver, who wins, the boss or the workers?

"I don't want charity," said a worker sarcastically. Three others joked about it without giving any importance to what they heard. "This is something serious; don't you see that they treat us like fools?" said another worker.

The jokers calmed down, and the document about confidentiality was given one-by-one to every worker. "Whoever doesn't sign this doesn't have a job," the supervisor ended by saying.



March 15--The Los Angeles Police Commission ruled the racist police murder of Manuel Jamines Xum "justified," showing the bosses won't punish their racist thugs. Mayor Villaraigosa supported the Police Commission and called for calm and peaceful protest. The masses of workers who rebelled against the point-black shooting in the head of this Guatemalan immigrant day laborer should join ICWP and mobilize for communism to smash the bosses and their racist cop terror.

The next day three workers refused to sign it. But after making them think that it was serious and that the other workers in the office had signed it, they also signed it and returned to their jobs.

Under communism production will be organized to meet our needs and not to sell or buy commodities. We'll produce beverages that are healthy and nutritious, and we won't have to hide the information about the process of making them because we won't have competitors. We'll share the knowledge of the different processes of production so that we can help each other meet our needs and produce the most useful products based on learning from each other's experiences.

Together we'll create secure and human conditions of production. We'll eliminate chemical substances that put the physical and mental health of the workers in danger. Without racist contamination and without money, class divisions will disappear because there won't be privilege for anyone. Knowledge will be available and open for the use and advancement of all of us.

The black and latin workers who work in this factory need to forge unity based on communist ideas to destroy a system based on threats and wage slavery. Reading and distributing *Red Flag* can be the first revolutionary step in this process.

Red Comrade

**Questions for ICWP Action-Study
Groups:**
**We suggest that you read and discuss
the questions in the letter below.**

What Would ICWP Do in Egypt?

The rebellions in North Africa have made it clear, once again, that revolution is not an impossible pipe dream. In Egypt, the only thing missing was a revolutionary party with a big enough communist base to take power. What would the ICWP do if we found ourselves in a situation like that in Egypt, with enough support to make a revolution? How would we actually take power, and what would we do with it?

If we are serious about making revolutions, we need to think ahead. I don't have all the answers, but I have some questions. Taking power, surprisingly, would likely be the easiest part. The working class rebels in Egypt (last month) had largely knocked out the police. That left the army, and the rank-and-file are poor conscripts unwilling to use force against their working class brothers. Only the officer corps stood between the rebels and the bosses.

As communists we could quickly put together a "Red Guard" of committed rebels and defecting soldiers (this is where years of working in the army would pay off). The Red Guard would seize the remaining government buildings, TV stations, power plants, and so on. They would defeat and/or disarm the loyalists in the military and immediately begin transforming the Red Guard into a Red Army, eventually millions strong. The next question we face is, how do we (re)organize society? Traditionally, communists retained the basic capitalist organization. People still went to work and got paid, used the money they earned to buy food and so on. I don't think we should do that, because historically this ap-

proach leads to socialism and then naked capitalism. Instead, we should begin to immediately organize on communist principles.

Should we abolish money immediately? We could make a big deal of it. We could break into the banks and have big bonfires of currency, stocks, bonds, checks - all now worthless. Some better off Egyptians might be upset to see all this 'wealth' being destroyed. But the vast majority of the population has no money. Only debts, which are also abolished.

How would we run society without money - for example, produce and distribute food and shelter? *Red Flag* workers should discuss how they would organize the sectors of the economy. And whether these sectors would still be needed under communism. We would build a massive Red Army to defend against the inevitable bosses' attacks. In the meantime, would we offer to trade textiles for food? Would we keep the Suez Canal open? Would the bosses be willing to do business with us on a short term basis? Lenin thought so, and in Lenin's time they did. Maybe not any more.

The biggest priority of all would be spreading the revolution. From Egypt we could reach out to the west, through Libya, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco. Think about communism spreading all across North Africa! Furthermore, Europe has millions of workers of North African origin. Also, there are millions of workers in these so-called 'Arab' countries and in Israel from the East Mediterranean, from East Asia, and from Sub-Saharan Africa. These millions could become ambassadors for communism. Of course at the moment we do not have a huge communist base and a pre-revolutionary situation. That may seem far-off, but events are moving quickly, and we can start preparing now. In Seattle we are combining this preparation with preparation for this year's mayday. Early next month we are having a pot luck / study group where we will discuss the questions raised here. When the time comes - for May Day or for revolution - we'll be ready! --Northern Comrade

MTA Driver Writes:

In a recent incident, a white driver from Division 8 with 32 years of seniority had been threatened with being fired but "was lucky" instead to have gotten off with "only" a thirty-day suspension without pay.

He was driving an express bus, meaning it doesn't make all the stops. On the bus there was a mentally disturbed homeless person who asked to be let off at a station where the bus didn't stop. The driver told him couldn't let him off.

The homeless person got mad and started cursing the driver. He then left and moved to the back of the bus. Shortly after, the driver heard a noise as if something heavy had hit something or had fallen on the floor.

If the homeless person had fallen, hurting himself or someone else, it is the responsibility of the driver to stop the bus and call in to report the accident. To continue driving the bus and not report the accident is "reasonable" cause for termination of employment.

The driver stopped the bus and went to the back to see what had happened. The homeless person

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took off running toward the front of the bus. He ran into the driver, dislocating the driver's shoulder.

The driver reported the accident and went on sick leave until his shoulder got better. On returning to work, he was called in by management and told he was fired for getting up from the driver's seat.

With 32 years of service and having been an acting supervisor, this driver knows the ins and outs of how the company and the union function. He was able to defend himself from getting fired. He still nevertheless got a heavy punishment for just getting up from his seat. Many workers with less experience to defend themselves have been fired for similar and even for lesser incidents.

The union officials do not publicize these incidents much less mobilize the workers to fight them collectively with work actions and strikes. By reporting these incidents in Red Flag we hope to build the unity and class consciousness of MTA workers to create a communist political atmosphere that will be fertile ground for the growth of the ICWP and the revolutionary movement we need to put an end to capitalism's oppression. --

Red Driver

Egypt: Example of the Upheaval inside the Capitalist Monster

The recent protests and struggles in Egypt show how exploited people mired in poverty and hungry for change no longer tolerate oppression and the neoliberal policies behind it. The US bosses, worried about losing control of Egypt through the overthrow of its authoritarian puppet government led by Hosni Mubarak, still give logistical advice and weapons to the Egyptian capitalists in order to prevent the situation from getting out of their control.

Why are the US bosses so worried about the popular struggles in Egypt? Simply put, it's the Suez Canal. The US bosses aren't in a position to leave Egypt to the mercy of their rival imperialists and let them dominate economy and trade. They also don't want ideas of change to spread throughout the Arab world.

The bosses' media, obeying the orders of the imperialists, are responsible for intimidating the masses and filling them with lies. The media argues that the actions in Egypt are the work of rebels and anarchists and that the country's only path is the empty shell called democracy. The Egyptian workers don't need democracy; they need Communism, and they must learn that capitalism only produces oppression against the people. As the ICWP, we have the duty to be in the midst of protests and strikes to guide the people to an ideology of true change so that they don't adopt false solutions to end the exploitation of the working class.

TRIANGLE from page 16

and the WTUL brought the strike to an end.

Fighting for the union was a mistake.

Another bitterly-fought general strike followed in the menswear industry. It ended with a "Protocol of Peace" that agreed to most of the workers' demands but tied their hands with a no-strike clause and compulsory arbitration.

Massive garment strikes followed in Chicago, Cleveland, and Milwaukee. In NY, struggle sharpened between the militant left-led women workers and the deeply sexist and racist ILGWU, with its WTUL allies.

When Triangle burned, waistmakers led tens of thousands in mass protest meetings and marches. Their demand for a second general strike was sabotaged by right-wing officials interested mainly in legislation and negotiation.

An even larger strike wave followed in 1913, union-

It's time to take the lead and strengthen ourselves everyday to give leadership to the people for a real change. Together we'll cultivate communist ideas among more workers, students and soldiers. Until the Final Victory! -- Red Youth, El Salvador

Red Flag comments:

In this edition there are two letters, one using the word, the "people", the other talking about the "nation." People isn't a class concept. It includes the exploited and the exploiters. When society was divided into classes, people no longer existed. It's better to use the working class

The Word nation was created by the capitalists to mark their zones of control with borders, including their markets and the workers they exploit. Under communism there won't be nations or borders.

The Masses Will Rise Up!

One day the common folk, we who make up 99% of this nation, will get sick of this. One day someone will help to open the eyes of the blind and make them see the rotten core to the façade we call the American Dream. There is only so much the masses can take before they rise up and join, band together and fight for what this obscene system denies us. It's a shame that we must live in the so called land of the free, America is called the most powerful nation in the world and yet we are falling apart.

I am not a religious man, but I pray that people will gain the ability to see before it's too late. We watch television and shy away from the truth. People in the most powerful nation starve to death, live without a roof over their heads to shelter them. Nothing to defend them against the elements, yet we do nothing but watch something else, removing the thought from our minds as if to believe that everything is fine. It may not be in your home, for the time being. I do not wish misfortune on the blind, as sooner or later it will knock upon their door and they will weep in despair. Open your eyes before it's far too late, and do something that can help change tomorrow.

I get asked, "What can we do?" "It's not like anything we do makes a difference?" "Why should I care?" All I can say is perhaps we cannot do much; perhaps the effect of the forthcoming struggle will bear no fruit for us directly, but I say do it for the future, so that someday people on this planet can live without fear of living without the basic necessities.

One day you too will grow your sight, cast aside the shit they feed you in order to keep you in check. We are the MASSES! We should hold the cards; we hold the power to change, to fight for what we need!

We fear the opposition, the fear that if we could revolt, the might of the hammer will fall upon us. But

nizing the needle trades based on the "Protocol of Peace." Italian women workers, enraged at the sellout, turned to the anarchist Industrial Workers of the World (IWW). As workers did in Italy, they mobilized massive street demonstrations and direct action, and organized a massive strike in the brutally oppressive silk industry in New Jersey. Again, young women emerged as fighters and leaders.

The strike was defeated, but a greater victory was won. It had "shown many what it was like to conceive of a world run by workers, and what it might mean to create such a society," writes historian Jennifer Guglielmo.

The struggle in garment between left-wing anti-capitalism and right-wing unionism sharpened in the years after World War I. The Bolshevik revolution in Russia inspired many left-wing workers, including young immigrant women, to become communists.

But they continued the mistake of mobilizing workers for unionism, not communism. The workers

think for a moment. WHO IS THE HAMMER? Who makes up our police force? Our Military? The Hammer we fear is made from the downtrodden, the very people they step on. We hold all the cards, we have nothing to fear. Someday eyes will open and hearts will sing of true freedom, of true liberty, and a true nation that can stand up to the meaning of being the best.

Never forget who truly has the power, nor give in to the lies they feed. Keep your mind strong, and open your eyes. As one day the house of cards that is this corrupt system will fall, the question is, will you be part of the ones pulling the cards or part of the few caught under the falling rubble?

A Reader

Bad Religion

When someone mentions religion, what comes to mind? Many of us may be reminded of the sense of community we've experienced while being with our family and friends in church. Perhaps you have a warm sensation of comfort in knowing that you will go to heaven when you die and that God is keeping you safe. Some may also think of how it helps people be better people. If there are so many good things about religion, what could possibly be so bad about it?

According to Karl Marx, there are several problems with religious beliefs and the organizations that teach them. First, it's important to understand Marx's statement about religion being the "Opium of the People." When people take drugs such as opium, they often experience a much different world than when they are sober. Many people get addicted to these drugs and use them more than they should in order to escape their unhappy lives. In the same way, religion can be an escape for many people in the working class who are being exploited by their capitalist bosses. While the worker works harder and gets poorer, the boss works less and gets richer. This situation creates a very depressing situation for many workers. In order to cope with this situation, many workers turn to religion to make them feel better. They are told that they will have a better life in heaven and that their suffering in this world is only temporary.

Why is the belief in a better life in heaven such a big problem? If the workers simply accept their grim situation in this world as it is under capitalism, they will not fight to make it better. They will continue to go to work for the capitalist, make him or her rich, and not stand up for themselves in this world. The workers must realize that this life is all there is, and they have the power to make it better for everyone, not just for a select few. If we stand together and fight, we can make this world better and not have to wait until we die to enjoy life. --A Reader

themselves were ready to take the struggle much, much further, but they lacked revolutionary leadership.

Eighty years after the Triangle fire, 25 poultry workers in Hamlet, NC died in a fire. Like Triangle, exits were poorly marked or padlocked.

In 2010, dozens of Bangladeshi garment workers died as fire raced through a factory supplying Gap and JCPenney. This disaster, too, followed a massive strike..

The lesson of the Triangle fire is that trade unions and labor legislation can't defend workers from the bosses or their government. It was a mistake to fight for union recognition then. It's a mistake to fight for unions now. Workers need communist revolution. Unions are a diversion from that struggle, not a step along the way.

References: Philip Foner, *Women and the American Labor Movement* (1979), and Jennifer Guglielmo, *Living the Revolution* (2010)

UPRISINGS SHOW POTENTIAL FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION AND INEVITABILITY OF GLOBAL WAR

March 16-The US and European imperialists are at a loss about what to do about Libya. However, whatever decision they adopt and whatever government they install in Libya, the needs and aspirations of the Libyan working class won't be met.

Getting rid of Kaddafi and installing democracy won't make a difference. South Africa's apartheid was replaced with democracy, yet conditions for black workers are worse now than they were under apartheid. Democracy is just the myth the capitalists use to mask their class rule: their racist ruthless dictatorship.

Only communism can meet workers' aspirations. Our class will blossom fully - physically, intellectually, and socially - in a world where money won't define our humanity, and a pay check, capitalism's wage slavery, won't decide whether we live or die or how we live or die. Eliminating money, privileges and all forms of exploitation, we'll build a communist world free of racism, sexism, patriotism and other bosses' deadly ideologies that perpetuate our enslavement.

The massive uprisings in North Africa and the Middle East are shattering the myth of capitalism's invincibility and showing the potential for communist revolution in our times. However, deprived of revolutionary communist leadership for decades, our class is unable at present to fulfill its historic task of burying capitalism. This points to our class's urgent need to develop this leadership.

Lacking a communist vision that only this leadership can provide, these heroic struggles will be used by one gang of capitalists-imperialists or another to battle each other for world domination. The vast oil and gas resources of this region are now at the center of this imperialistic clash.

US imperialists: Main Losers of the Uprisings

Unlike the European imperialists with huge Libyan investments, US bosses' main strategic interests lie in the Middle East, in particular the Arabian peninsula and the Persian Gulf; the cornerstone of their world domination since 1945. At present, backed by China and Russia, Iran's rise as the region's dominant power poses the greatest threat to US control of the area.

This threat looms ever larger as the turmoil spreads in the Middle East, pitting the Shiite majority or size-

able minority populations against US backed Sunni dictatorial regimes, giving Iran's Shiite rulers ample opportunities to foster "regime change" or instability in these strategic countries.

Six of them - Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates - hold 55% of the world's oil reserves and 35% of its natural gas. They also, with the exception of Saudi Arabia, house major US military bases crucial for controlling the region and beyond.

Other countries in the region, like Bahrain, Oman and Yemen, although not major energy producers, host strategic US military installations. For example, Bahrain harbors the US Fifth Naval Fleet and Oman has three US military bases, critical for US control of the strategic Strait of Hormuz where 40% of the world's oil travels daily.

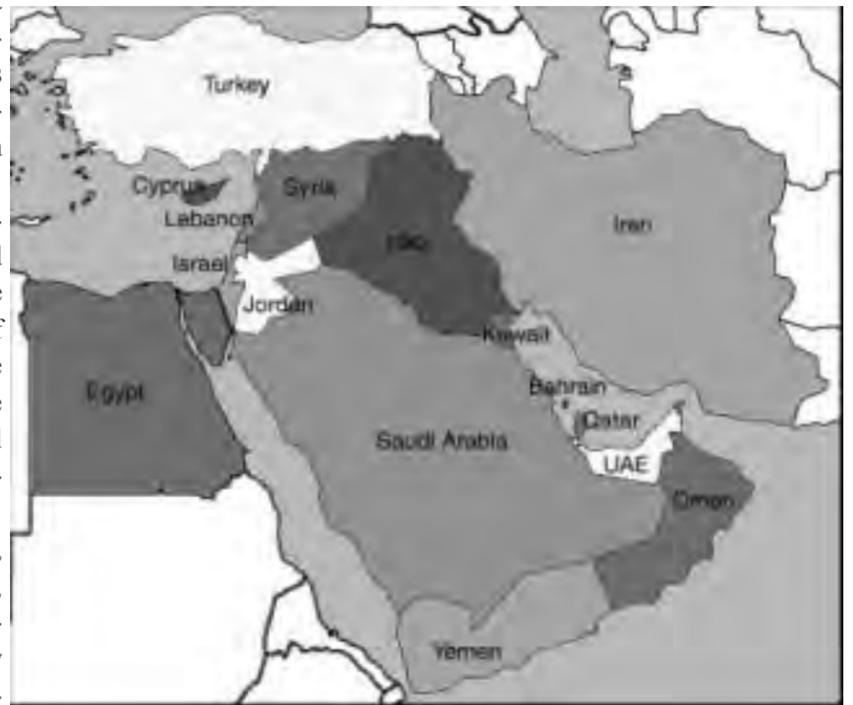
Consequently, Shiite unrest in these countries not only threatens US backed regimes but the loss of strategic military assets vital for US control of the region and military encirclement of China and Russia, its main rivals for world domination.

Furthermore, Shiite protests in Bahrain, Yemen and Oman can stimulate unrest among Saudi Arabia's restive Shiite population. Of special concern is Bahrain, which is 15 miles from Saudi Arabia's strategic region where 90% of its oil is produced and two million Shiites live. Fearing that Iran could exploit the massive Bahrain Shiite unrest, and hoping to quell it, Saudi Arabia invaded the country last Monday.

"Bahrain is the focal point of a struggle between Saudi Arabia and Iran for control of the western littoral of the Persian Gulf. The Iranians are in a powerful position whatever happens given the U.S. withdrawal from Iraq." (STRATFOR, 3/8/11)

US withdrawal from Iraq strengthens Iran

The US invasion of Iraq eliminated it as the traditional counterweight to Iran's regional ambitions. The US then set up Egypt, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia as a



key block to contain Iran. Mubarak is now history. Jordan is being rocked by massive anti-government demonstrations. And Saudi Arabia, key to US control of the region, is being targeted by Iran.

The US inability to install a strong pro-US government in Iraq means that "... Iran will be the single outside power with the most influence in Iraq..." (Stratfor 3/8/11) Iran's growing influence there and in the region will further energize the Shiite unrest, destabilizing the region. These developments will inevitably force the US to wage war against the China-Russia-Iran axis:

The New York Times put it bluntly: "Saudis, Fearful of Iran, Send Troops to Bahrain to Quell Protests" screams its front page. (3/15/11). It later adds that the "The Saudi Decision to send in troops could further inflame the conflict and transform this teardrop of a country... into the Middle East's next proxy battlefield between regional and global powers."

Capitalism-imperialism means unending murderous destructive wars for the control of markets, natural resources and the exploitation of the workers' labor power. Only a communist revolution can eliminate this scourge. Help us turn our class's revolutionary potential into actuality. Spread *Red Flag*, join ICWP and the fight for communism!

Triangle Shirtwaist Fire Centennial:

WORKERS NEED COMMUNISM, NOT UNIONISM

"We who produce all the social riches...must skimp in our own lives." — Alba Genisio, 1908.

"It is not with changing certain laws that we can call ourselves free... these laws are made by the bourgeoisie for their interests." —Virginia Buongiorno, 1895

A century ago, on March 25, 1911, 146 garment workers — mainly young immigrant women — died horribly in a fast-moving fire at the non-unionized Triangle Shirtwaist Company in New York City. This tragedy has inspired commemorations this month, including two made-for-TV movies.

The Triangle fire happened amidst a massive strike wave that unionized a large part of the US textile and garment industries. In its aftermath, labor laws were strengthened.

Not surprisingly, the main theme of the Triangle commemoration is to "defend unions and government agencies that protect workers." With Republican politicians on the warpath against unions, Democrats, liberals, and union officials want to send that message.

But many workers a century ago drew different lessons. They fought against brutal wage slavery with the goal of mobilizing for a world without bosses. They learned from bitter experience that union officials tied their hands.

We must learn the history you won't see on TV.

By 1900, nearly 100,000 workers slaved long hours in garment factories facing unhealthy conditions and constant harassment. Bosses segregated men and women on the job, so they could pay women half of the men's wages.

Workers fought back. In 1898, non-unionized women struck a Chicago glove factory, protesting a new piecework system. Other strikes followed in small towns and big cities, often led by teen-aged girls. Like today, immigrant workers, influenced by anti-capitalist movements in the old country, often gave the sharpest leadership.

Frequently, strikers refused offers of "help" from the established unions. They insisted that the bosses deal directly with the masses of strikers.

A wave of small garment strikes exploded in 1909 into a general strike: the "Uprising of 20,000." Smaller shops quickly agreed to better working conditions, higher pay, and union contracts.

Wealthy young women organized by the Women's Trade Union League

(WTUL) joined picket lines and raised money.

Triangle and other large companies declared war. Their cops and thugs beat picketers, their judges jailed them. But masses of young women fought back, defying every sexist stereotype.

After a long, bitter struggle, the manufacturers agreed to all the workers' demands except one: union recognition. Encouraged by the Socialist Party, the women fought on until pressure from union officials

See TRIANGLE, page 15

