



RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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



FERGUSON



PASCO



CHAPEL HILL

**RACISM:
A LIFE AND
DEATH ISSUE
SEE
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REFINERY STRIKE: ONLY COMMUNISM WILL MAKE WORKERS SAFE

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA., February 18—There was an explosion in the ExxonMobil refinery in Torrance, California, today near the Tesoro refinery in Carson where over 800 workers are on strike. Four contracted workers were taken to a nearby hospital with injuries. The blast was felt throughout the area, the equivalent of a 1.7 earthquake. The workers are members of the same United Steel Workers (USW) local 675 as the Tesoro strikers. They are part of the 30,000 unionized US refinery workers who, if on a full strike, would paralyze 64% of US refining capacity. The major issue for the strikers is safety. This explosion shows that capitalism is only out for profits—putting all workers in danger.

Over 5000 oil refinery workers, represented by the USW, are on strike. They are targeting Shell, Tesoro, and BP. They are fighting against speed up, and other dangerous conditions including being forced to work from 14 to 16 days straight for 12 hours a day without enough workers.

ICWP members and other *Red Flag* readers have gone to the picket lines in Carson, CA. with *Red Flag*, communist leaflets and messages of communist solidarity. We call on workers and students to support the striking oil workers. We should organize political strikes in support, calling not for reforms but to destroy this inhumane exploitive murderous system with a communist revolution.

We are not just “allies” in their struggle. This is part of the struggle of all of us. The attacks that MTA and Boeing workers are feeling come from the same source as the attacks on the oil workers. The only way to end these attacks is to get rid of the capitalist profit system. The fight to overthrow the system and replace it with a communist system is the fight we all need to be waging. We should build support for these workers by spreading these ideas, distributing *Red Flag* among our co-workers, families and

See REFINERY STRIKE, page 4

LOS ANGELES MTA: INDUSTRIAL WORKERS' TIES TO SOLDIERS SHOW POTENTIAL FOR REVOLUTION

LOS ANGELES, February 12—“This is our new pamphlet on the revolutionary role of soldiers,” said the *Red Flag* distributor outside an MTA division one early morning. “Do you know anybody in the military?”

“Me!” answered the driver. “I’m in the reserves. They tell us communism is dictatorship. Is that what you want?”

“What we’ve got now is the dictatorship of capital—those who have the gold make the rules. We’re mobilizing workers and soldiers to fight for a world without bosses, money, racism or borders—that’s communism,” responded the comrade.

The driver of the next car honked.

“I’ll read the pamphlet,” said the driver.

“We’ll talk again,” responded the comrade.”

Hundreds of MTA drivers, mechanics and service attendants read *Red Flag* every issue.

This workforce, one of the most racially integrated in Los Angeles, plays a crucial role in the functioning of capitalism. They also have extensive ties to soldiers, sailors and marines.

“Give me another one,” said a driver at another division. “I’m ex-military.”

Most of the MTA workers driving into the division that morning said they had close friends or family members in the military. Many said they were veterans or in the reserves. Everyone took the pamphlet. Several at this and other divisions said they would pass it along.

As the pamphlet points out, soldiers are crucial to maintaining the bosses’ power, both at home and during imperialist wars. Soldiers will be crucial in taking that power from them and using it for the working class by mobilizing to turn the guns around and fight for workers’ power. Mobilizing the masses for communism is our guiding principle—now and after the revolution.

Publishing this pamphlet and distributing it to industrial workers and students is an important step in increasing our party’s ties to working-class soldiers and sailors. It also makes clear the serious nature of the task before us and our strategy to win.

We must follow up the distribution of this pamphlet with more conversations with MTA and other workers: “Did you read the military pamphlet? Were you able to give it to anybody in the military? Do you have questions or comments?”

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Life And Death Issue:

COMMUNIST MOBILIZATION WILL DESTROY RACISM

SEATTLE, WA, February 2—A group of Boeing workers heard about the Pasco (Washington) coroner's remark, "We don't want another Ferguson here." One worker shot back, "Then don't run down and execute a Hispanic worker in broad daylight at a busy intersection during rush hour."

Three Pasco cops fired 13 shots point blank into 35-year old orchard worker Antonio Zambrano-Monte. They admitted he had no gun or knife. What else could they do with dozens of witnesses and a viral YouTube video?

The cops say they had "no choice" because Antonio threw a rock.

"Let's see," speculated another Boeing *Red Flag* reader, putting in words the cops' twisted reasoning. "We'll chase you down with guns blazing, but don't worry, we'll give you a rock!"

Sixty-eight thousand workers live in Pasco, more than half of them Hispanic/Latino. It sits in one of Washington State's largest agricultural regions.

Killer cop Flanagan had previously arrested Maria Davila-Marquez in 2012 when she asked for an interpreter after being wrongly stopped for an earlier disturbance. She was passing the crime scene on her way to pick up her children after completing her shift at the Pasco Tyson Foods plant. Cop Flanagan forced her head onto the hot hood of his patrol car, causing second-degree burns. The city hushed it up with a \$100,000 pay-off.

The analogy between the Pasco cops and Israeli troops who slaughter Palestinian kids for throwing rocks could not be ignored. US Border Patrol agents kill Mexican kids who throw rocks toward them at the border.

Nor can we ignore the recent murder of three Muslim students by a racist neighbor in North Carolina (see box).

"It's even more serious these days," stated another Boeing machinist.

Capitalism has visited upon us a worldwide plague of racist murder. Mobilizing the masses for communism is a present-day life and death struggle for all workers.

Communist Practice Leads To Revolutionary Theory

International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) leaders from three countries discussed the twin evils of racism and nationalism in this context. We must broaden this discussion as we produce a pamphlet for mass distribution. We ask your help in considering these and other critical questions:

Is racism mainly an issue in the United States, where capitalism rooted itself in the enslavement of African people? Or is it a big issue internationally?

Comrades from El Salvador described racism against Nicaraguan immigrants, from racist slurs to "jokes" about their appearance to deportations. "Nobody talks about it, but it's there," said a young industrial worker.

A South African report exposed the government's plan to divert the anger of super-exploited or unemployed black youth towards small "spaza" shops owned by Somalis, Ethiopians and



Communist Party USA poster, 1930—
should have said "Fight for Communism"

Bangladeshis. (See *Red Flag*, v. 6 #1, page 1).

Some workers at a recent ICWP conference in South Africa proposed a nationalist answer to racist imperialism: a new Pan-Africanism. Young comrades new to ICWP waged a sharp, successful struggle to defeat this pro-boss idea.

A Los Angeles comrade reported on a conference that laid bare the contradiction between nationalism and anti-racism. Latina mothers spoke about their sons, killed by the LAPD. A Pakistani activist spoke to the deadly rise of anti-Muslim racism. Yet despite objections, organizers insisted on limiting their slogan to "Black Lives Matter."

How do we carry out a communist fight against racism today?

"When you don't take racism seriously, it holds our work back," a comrade declared.

He pointed to a situation where high school students in our base organized a walkout around the murder of 43 normal school students in Guerrero, Mexico but didn't pull off a similar walkout around the murder of a black teenager in Ferguson, Missouri.

Four of these students attended the meeting and had a lot to say. They are clearly struggling to develop a communist answer to racism.

A Los Angeles MTA transit worker described successful efforts he and co-workers made to integrate social activities and fight the boss together. Close to 100 workers at this site read *Red Flag*, and dozens are active Party members or supporters.

Another comrade noted that relatively integrated workplaces like MTA and Boeing are key centers from which we can spread the communist fight against racism.

Almost all nationalist arguments assume that destroying racism is impossible. Carrying out a bold communist plan to uproot racism—in words and deeds, now and in the future—will help defeat these capitalist ideas.

See **RACISM**, page 3

Chapel Hill Murders: Racist US Imperialism to Blame!

On February 10, Craig Stephen Hicks invaded the Chapel Hill, North Carolina home of his Muslim neighbors, Deah Shaddy Barakat (23), Yusor Mohamad (21) and Razan Abu-Salha (19). He executed these students in cold blood with repeated shots to their heads.

These racist murders are as much an act of terrorism as the Charlie Hebdo killings. Yet local police are trying to pass it off as "a dispute over parking." Hicks' wife explained that he was "anti-religious," as if that were an excuse.

"Races" were invented to justify the enslavement of African people and to divide the working masses so that the capitalists could continue to exploit them all. Spain's rulers "racialized" Moslems in the 15th century, as well as Jewish people, as did French and other imperialists in the 19th and the Nazis in the 20th.

"Hindu" counted as a "race" in the 1930 US census. Now Muslims have been "racialized" as US imperialism intensifies fascism at home and prepares for wider wars, using racism to justify them, as imperialists always do.

Five thousand people attended the students' funeral. "You're seeing an attempt to not stay segregated and separate, but to reach out to people for support, solidarity," said a local Imam. Interfaith groups across the US and elsewhere have held solidarity vigils.

But their widespread call for a "federal investigation" builds dangerous illusions about US capitalism.

The huge annual "Mass Moral March" in Raleigh, North Carolina, days after the murder, linked the Chapel Hill killings to last year's lynching of Lennon Lacy, an African-American teenager. Media coverage featured Lacy's brother who said, "This is not what America stands for." Barakat's brother said, "Muslims are Americans, too."

Racist murder is exactly what capitalist America has stood for since the 17th century. It's time we expose the deadly lies of American patriotism.

US President Barack Obama piously declared that "No one in the United States of America should ever be targeted because of who they are, what they look like, or how they worship." But he lets the Department of Homeland Security spy on mosques. He lets the US military drill recruits with racist anti-Muslim cadences.

Meanwhile Obama's drones rain down terror and death on Muslim civilians in Yemen, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Somalia and elsewhere. Movies like "American Sniper" promote the vilest anti-Muslim racism.

The three Muslim students in Chapel Hill were killed by racist US imperialism, not just by Craig Hicks.

"What will we do to protect one another?" wrote an anguished black woman blogger.

We can only protect one another by mobilizing for communism to destroy this deadly racist system.



**JOIN THE
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST
WORKERS' PARTY (ICWP)
WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG — (310) 487-7674
E-MAIL: ICWP@ANONYMOUSSPEECH.COM
ON TWITTER @ ICWP_RedFlag
WRITE TO: P.M.B. 362
3006 S. VERMONT AVE., LOS ANGELES, CA**

Garment Worker Study Group: From Latin America to Los Angeles

RACISM IS FATAL FOR THE WORKING CLASS

LOS ANGELES—"I used to think that in Latin America there was no racism. And I think that is what the majority of people think," said a worker during a communist study group with garment workers and others. Then he continued saying that only in the Party (ICWP) did he begin to hear about racism. He said that the majority do not see it as a class question but as discrimination between whites and blacks.

Before beginning this discussion we read the editorial about racism and nationalism in the *Red Flag* (Vol. 5 #22.) We said that there's no such thing as "race." It's an invention of capitalism to divide the working class. We said that these two evils: racism and nationalism, are a direct part of capitalism and that the Party will lead the fight against racism, before and after a communist revolution.

A Central American worker said that there's racism against darker skinned workers there. He promised to write more about this question, which divides the working class..

A worker who was born in Mexico asked, "Is the discrimination against those from Oaxaca, Chiapas and indigenous people racism?"

The answer was yes, it is racism. That the ideology of portraying these workers as inferior, lacking capitalist education, as petty criminals, and the practice of superexploiting these workers in the factories, fields and in the service industries is the same that the bosses use in the US against black and latino workers. It is also used in Europe against workers from Africa and other areas, including Eastern Europe.

Another latino worker said with some frustration that he felt discriminated against by black youth and a black neighbor with whom he has had problems for a while.

Others replied that the bosses have created a

society in which we all blame each other. They tell black workers that we latinos come to take away their jobs or benefits. To latinos they say that black workers don't want to work. The bosses consciously create distrust because they are afraid of the unity of these two super-exploited sections of the working class.

Another worker asked the comrade who felt "discriminated" against, "Who has done more damage in your life, these black workers or the Mexican bosses?"

"The cursed bosses...they exploit us here and there," the comrade's wife answered quickly. A few days after the meeting this comrade told us

that he had made peace with his neighbor. He said that they both apologized and shook hands. They both had said that this attitude was making them sick and that it had to end.

We concluded that racism is fatal for the working class, and that we must struggle politically with our friends at work. We agreed that everyone should take more *Red Flag* newspapers and help distribute them massively in the factories to build communist consciousness.



Comrade writes from South Africa:

BOSSSES USE RACISM TO DIVIDE BLACK AND "COLORED" WORKERS

I think communism is in my blood, comrades. I breathe and think communism every second. I do not go to bed without visiting my friends and talking about ICWP.

Some of these friends of mine just come to my house and start crying out about their working conditions and how much they are exploited and how racism puts them down. I struggle with them that only communism will free us from all our misery. The workers in South Africa are desperate. They are barely surviving, as wage slavery pushes them to their graves.

Two weeks back I wrote an article on Volpes Bedding Company. I honestly didn't know that two weeks later I would be writing an article on another company with similar exploitation of the working class.

Once again I was visited by a lady who is a machine operator, this time at a company called Mohair Spinners in Uitenhage near VW automotive. The lady is also best friends with the lady who works at Volpes Bedding. I showed her what

I wrote about Volpes. The lady from Mohair Spinners had been my friend for years before I even met the Volpes lady. She told me about the exploitation and bad conditions they work under.

It was no surprise at all to me because I already know how capitalism works and exploits workers. Her comments were almost the same as the comments of the lady from Volpes. The difference is that at Mohair Spinners the bosses separate workers by using racism as their main tool because there are blacks and coloreds (people of mixed "race") working there.

Mohair Spinners did exactly what Johnson Controls did to its permanent workers, replacing them with casual workers. The lady from Volpes said that some willing permanent workers were bought back to be casuals under employment agencies for an amount of R1800 (\$549 monthly). She was one of those who accepted the offer. With a huge shock, I asked her why she accepted such an evil offer. She said, "Look at me. At my age; where can I get a job again? I am 50

years old."

The "coloreds" are exploited far less than the black workers. "Coloreds' working conditions are far better than those of us blacks," is how the lady puts it. But I know there are never "better" working conditions working under a capitalist system: only bad and worse. The reality of capitalism is exploitation at all costs by the bosses.

I told her that only ICWP can save you from all these horrors of the capitalists. A Mohair Spinners pamphlet is on its way. As I told her, I am going to write it with the purpose of uniting colored and black workers.

Racism is the most effective and dangerous tool to separate workers, and that's where we must start if we want to mobilise at Mohair Spinners effectively.

I will try to get more details and distribute *Red Flag* as our most powerful weapon to end this brutal capitalism system. My blood is boiling as I write this, but it helps me to mobilize the masses for communism.

RACISM from page 2

How can we present the history of racism in a way that allows workers to see the possibility of ending it?

A comrade noted that stereotypes about "other" peoples existed in pre-capitalist class societies like ancient Greece.

Others argued that racism rose with capitalism, from 15th-century Spain to 17th-century England and 18th century France, to the very foundations of the United States, where slavery was tied to the rise of finance capital.

Comrades described the "hidden history" of the working class, such as the Haitian rebellion that abolished slavery.

Racism thrives only because capitalism provides its material basis. Racist pay differences and racist unemployment, which lower all workers' wages, are essential to the bosses' profit. Every capitalist institution supports racist divi-

sions that allow super-exploitation and wage-slavery itself to continue. That includes the organization of work, the schools, and even the way we are taught to view our own worth.

How will communism end racism? How intense will the anti-racist mobilization need to be after we take power?

"There will be racism even after the revolution," said a black college student.

Communist revolution will quickly end the bosses' racist political economy. But vestiges of the old system will remain in society at large. For example, segregated living conditions are still likely to exist. Remaining imperialists will use racism to undermine and attack liberated communist zones.

We'll require a bold communist mobilization to eliminate racism as a social force. This time we'll have the weapon of state power on our side. We can't know every detail in advance, but we

should start discussing this now.

One part will be breaking down divisions among people who grew up in different parts of the world. Everyone will learn several languages. More people will spend time living and working in different places.

We invite readers and Party collectives in each industrial concentration, workplace, classroom, and barracks to contribute to this urgent discussion, based on organizing more anti-racist struggle. We invite you to write, send letters and tweets, for *Red Flag*. Help if you can with translation into other languages, to carry this struggle to every corner of the globe.

Racism is a violent attack on the whole working class and the masses of the world. We invite you to join us in mobilizing the masses for communism to end racism, imperialist war, and all the other horrors of capitalism that are connected to racism.

MOBILIZE COMMUNIST SOLIDARITY WITH OIL REFINERY WORKERS IN CARSON AND NATIONWIDE

This article is taken from leaflets distributed to aerospace and transit workers and high school students.

Even though the United Steel Workers is “targeting” Shell, Tesoro, and BP, the workers are fighting against five US oil companies, including Exxon Mobil and Chevron, the world’s biggest and richest publicly owned corporations.

Last year these oil majors, together with ConocoPhillips, reported profits of \$90 billions or about \$177,000 per minute. Workers’ labor worldwide has made the owners of these corporations rich and powerful.

But they are not unique. The rulers of oil producing countries – Saudi Arabia, Russia, China, Iran, Venezuela, and Nigeria, among others – have also become fabulously rich.

For the international working class, however, capitalist competition to produce oil for profit is a disaster. These capitalist-imperialists’ voracious appetite for maximum profits has claimed the lives of untold numbers of workers forced to slave long hours under unsafe conditions from the US to Nigeria to Iran to Mexico.

Millions more have been, are being, and will be killed, maimed and displaced in past, present and future oil wars raging in the Middle East and Africa.

All these attacks are intensifying, leading to present and future grave threats facing the working class: global warming and World War III.

The main culprits of global warming are carbon emissions, caused by oil consumption imposed on us by and for the benefit of the world’s

capitalists-imperialists.

World War III will be to decide which imperialist power will dominate the world. **Oil is at the center of this bosses’ dog fight.** It is crucial to industrial production and military power. Control of the world’s major oil regions and markets propelled the US as the world’s dominant imperialist power after WWII. Now, rising imperialist powers – China, Russia, India, the European Union, and Japan – covet that position. Their eventual clash is inevitable.

To prepare for this and to compete economically more effectively, workers’ standards of living and working conditions are being cut drastically. **This is what these oil workers are against, and it is not only their fight but that of the whole international working class.**

It can’t be resolved in our favor by fighting for reforms as the union is demanding.

Inherent to capitalism are dangerous conditions and also forced overtime for some workers while others who desperately need jobs cannot get them. These things can only be eradicated by eradicating capitalism. Only a communist revolution that puts the working class in power can do this.

Trade unions cannot solve our problems. Unions only negotiate the terms of our exploitation; they do not aim to end it. As one worker once said, “The bosses have to take our blood. All the union does is negotiate the size of the syringe and the amount of blood to be taken.”

Trade union ideology leads to class collaboration: If you can’t beat them, join them!

That is the mentality of trade unionism, hiding

the fact that we have everything in common with our class brothers and sisters worldwide and nothing in common with “our” bosses, as the union leaders do.

USW President Leo Gerard is a member of Obama’s Advanced Manufacturing Partnership where he serves with the CEOs of billionaire companies including weapons makers Dow Chemical Company, Northrop Grumman, and Honeywell.

Their goal? To strengthen “US competitiveness” in advanced manufacturing, meaning to drive down wages and working conditions for US workers in order to produce more cheaply than do workers in China, India, Nigeria, etc. to strengthen US imperialism.

We Need Communist Ideology

We need a system that eliminates competition of any kind by eliminating capitalism, the bosses, money, borders, racism and sexism.

We need a system that produces only for human needs: A communist system where we contribute to society according to ability and commitment and receive according to need. A system based on cooperation and collectivity.

Only such a system can eliminate global warming by using safe, clean renewable sources of energy. Only a communist revolution can put an end forever to capitalism’s wars for profits and empire.

This struggle of these refinery workers is an opportunity to build ICWP. We urge all workers to join us!

REFINERY STRIKE from page 1

cern, not production. If a dangerous situation, we will stop all production in order to find out what the problem is and repair it. We’ll mobilize all the workers in the refinery and the neighbors around it to solve the problem as quickly as possible. Only then would we return to production.

On the picket line, we have had friendly discussions and distributed **Red Flag** and the ICWP pamphlet about the key role of industrial workers in organizing communist revolution. We gave the strikers and MTA workers a communist leaflet. (see above)

When we asked one worker if they could run the refinery without bosses, he said, “Yes.” We asked what they would do differently. He said they would have “shorter shifts and more workers” to guarantee the workers’ safety. We agreed this is a life and death issue and said that it will take a communist revolution and a communist production to make workers’ safety the main thing.

One worker was very interested in the revolutionary history of oil workers, especially the workers in Baku in Russia who helped print and distribute Iskra (the Russian Communist newspaper) and build for the Russian Revolution of 1917. We explained that we fight for communism, not socialism that they fought for, which was state capitalism. He was interested and in-

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ited us to come back to the picket line soon, eagerly taking our literature, including the pamphlet on the revolutionary potential of soldiers.

Another worker said he was “anti-communist” because he thinks people won’t cooperate. When we pointed out that he and his co-workers were cooperating in this strike, he said, “That’s different.” Even though he didn’t take **Red Flag**, he thanked us for coming to picket with them.

We urge the strikers to join ICWP to fight for a communist world where the production of oil and everything else will be planned, organized and carried out safely and collectively by the workers of the world only for our class’ benefit.

Read our pamphlet:

**BIGGER INDUSTRIAL
WORKING CLASS:
BIGGER COMMUNIST
POTENTIAL WORLDWIDE**

Available at: www.icwpredflag.org



HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS BUILD COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

LOS ANGELES – We had a fellow comrade visit us from El Salvador. He spoke to us about ICWP and why he became a communist. He explained to us what communism was and how it works.

In communism we will all have our necessities met. The working class will be in charge of running the factories themselves. There will be no bosses. To achieve a communist world a long revolution will be necessary and many lives will be lost.

His speech made us well aware of the injustices that are occurring in the world. For example, there are Nike factories in El Salvador where workers can't afford to buy the items they produce.

"These workers are exploited by their capitalist bosses and are paid poor wages," said a student comrade who had just joined the Party.

Another student comrade talked about bringing *Red Flag* to one particular garment sweatshop in Los Angeles where 300 workers take the paper.

"Growing up, my parents were communists and when I grew older I understood why, because of all the injustice in the world," said our comrade from El Salvador.

A student asked, "How will gangs and violence be handled?"

"Gangs are a product of capitalism and often times they are people who are fighting themselves, but once they make peace or form a truce, capitalist agents like the police are sent in to break up that peace," said the visiting comrade.

"In a communist world, neither a government nor the police will be an issue," said another student comrade.

There was a student who didn't agree with communism for one major reason. He wanted to become rich but in communism money will no longer exist. However, people who haven't witnessed or understood all of the injustices that capitalism causes don't understand why we need communism.

"All the money that exists will be burned as we get closer to communism," a student declared.

"We will fight for communism because it will benefit us all," added another.

Another important point made by our visiting comrade was that, in the past, there was never a lack of people who wanted to eliminate capitalism and set up a communist world. He stressed that the mistake was the line (the political direction and leadership) that was put forward. This is why it becomes vital that we all fight, guarantee and develop the correct line.

This meeting was an example of constructing communist solidarity internationally. International solidarity must be based on communist principles and ideas that will move forward the construction of a mass international communist party.

An important principle in this process is mobilizing the masses for communism. An important idea is the elimination of

wage slavery.

Every student, worker and soldier all over the world needs to fight for this solidarity. All need to mobilize their friends and family for a different world where education, mines, agriculture, transportation and all of the centers of production will be in the hands of the workers.

All the decisions that need to be made will be made collectively by men and women, including youth, to satisfy to the maximum the well-being of all. Everything will be done to satisfy human need, not the bosses' profits.

The meeting with the comrade from El Salvador was an important step in the development of international communist consciousness among the students. There are now plans for a conference call between Party youth in Los Angeles and South Africa.



"Without revolutionary theory there can be no revolutionary movement." Lenin, *What Is To Be Done*

History of Dialectics:

In a 1957 speech to a meeting of the world's communist parties, Mao Zedong claimed that Stalin had "developed metaphysics [i.e., non-dialectical thinking] and harmed dialectics.... Stalin had a very metaphysical viewpoint." Some others have described Stalin as a mechanical, undialectical thinker. These claims represent an undialectical view of Stalin, whose relation to dialectics changed drastically over his lifetime.

Stalin understood that the class struggle does not end or die out after the working class seizes power, but becomes more intense until capitalism is completely wiped out. As early as 1906, he defended dialectics against anarchism. He wrote that until the capitalists are completely destroyed and all their wealth confiscated, the working class must have a "proletarian guard," a military force that can defeat the "counterrevolutionary attacks of the dying bourgeoisie."

After the October revolution, Stalin applied this idea to the struggle to defeat rural capitalists ("kulaks") who controlled much of the food supply for the cities. "The more we advance," he said, "the greater will be the resistance of the capitalist elements and the sharper the class struggle.... It never has been and never will be the case that a dying class surrenders its positions voluntarily without attempting to organize resistance."

This correct idea was opposed by other leaders of the Russian communists. Bukharin claimed that the capitalists would realize that they had lost power and had to submit to rule by the working class. He advocated economic policies to encourage the rural capitalists to produce more. The

STALIN'S DIALECTICS

1928 "grain strike," when capitalists would not sell grain and armed workers had to go and seize it to keep the cities from starving, exposed the disastrous nature of Bukharin's policy and led the communists to begin collectivizing agriculture and eliminating the rural capitalist class.

Stalin's influence on philosophy in the USSR was not limited to writing and speeches. He encouraged younger comrades to criticize wrong views of the Deborinites (discussed in a previous column), which eventually led to widely used textbooks of dialectics. On the other side, Stalin pushed the development of the seriously wrong idea of "non-antagonistic contradictions," also discussed previously.

In 1938 the party published a "short course" on its own history. Stalin wrote one section, which became the pamphlet "Dialectical and Historical Materialism." This pamphlet was hailed by the Soviet press as a terrific advance, but in fact it was a retreat.

The pamphlet omitted one of Engels' three laws of dialectics, the law of the negation of the negation. This law says that while history doesn't repeat itself, partial reversals are possible. Stalin's view was that the accomplishments of socialist construction up to that point were irreversible. But Engels' law suggests that reversals are possible. Stalin left this law out, without explanation.

A second mistake in the pamphlet was less obvious. Dialectics holds that the internal contradictions in processes are the main factors in determining how those processes change. Thus

the internal contradictions of capitalism are the main cause of its growth and destruction. Lenin had emphasized this point, and the Soviet textbooks of the early 1930s had said so clearly: "The causes of development are not found outside a process, but inside it." (1932 Leningrad textbook) Mechanists, who opposed dialectics, claimed that it is external factors like geography or climate that determine social development.

In the pamphlet, Stalin wrote that the struggle of the opposite sides of contradictions "constitute the inner content of development." He did not, however, say that this inner content is decisive or make a clear statement about the relative importance of internal contradictions and external circumstances. This fact, and the omission of Engels' law are steps backwards in dialectical philosophy.

These steps corresponded to decisive political steps back in USSR in the late 1930s. The biggest of these was the "united front against fascism," which tried to make an alliance between communists and "good" capitalists, those who were willing to oppose fascism. This "united front" meant ending the demand for world proletarian revolution. In the USSR, Stalin tried but failed to get the communist party to organize elections where the enemies of the revolution (families of rural capitalists, Tsarist officers, priests, etc.) could vote for opposition parties.

There is an unbreakable link between dialectics and revolution. Stalin fought for dialectics, but eventually retreated from real dialectics while he retreated from communist revolution.

Workers need:

A NEW COMMUNIST SOCIETY, NOT A NEW CAPITALIST CONSTITUTION

MEXICO, D.F.—The protests against racist oppression, caused by the disappearance of the normal school students from Ayotzinapa, Guerrero, have brought to light hundreds of atrocities stemming from the use of workers' labor power by the capitalists. The immediate cause is the fight for control of markets (legal and illegal). Guerrero and the “hot land” that also encompasses an area of Michoacán, is a source of raw materials (minerals and vegetables) that is being fully exploited. In addition, it's an area where narcotics are grown and transported, and of manufacturing in general.

“The government has lost control to the criminals,” say some. But, really, the government is the fundamental part of the state, the instrument of oppression by the ruling class. Doing what it does is what it was created for, and it's a trap to demand that it be something else: “a rights-based state.”

The government's main interest is exploiting the workers in the region using the resource of the “fight against crime” to strengthen military control. Currently, the resistance to this policy is led by the revisionists (followers of the old Soviet and Chinese-led Communist movement that ended up restoring capitalism). They promote “a new constituency and a new constitution,” seeking to reestablish the “rule of law.” They will convene a Popular National Assembly on February 21 and a convention on April 10.

Another group is working on another new constituency. They met on February 5, led by the Bishop of Saltillo, Vera and the poet J. Sicilia, among others. Both groups are also discussing the elections.

The experiences gained by the working class since Karl Marx wrote *The Communist Manifesto* in 1848 have shown that capitalism must be destroyed from its base of exploitation and its horsemen of the apocalypse of racism, sexism,

money, borders, banks, etc. We have learned from the experiences of the fight for the republic, for socialism, for democracy, for national liberation, and for socialism of the 21st Century. The deception of a new constitution adorned with “rights,” “laws,” etc., means more destruction of workers by capitalism. Capitalism cannot be reformed; it has to be destroyed by a communist revolution.

We need a Party of the international working class, so we work to build ICWP

In Guerrero some communities are promoting “self government,” however, without a link to the working class and soldiers they do not have the perspective of emancipation from wage labor. The community police who successfully put in check the government in Petaquillas, near Chilpancingo, the capital of the state of Guerrero also lack this revolutionary communist outlook. These community groups succeeded in liberating the workers who had been kidnapped from the

“Half Moon,” a transnational mine in the area. The Army and the Federal police were forced to look for the kidnapped workers, without achieving anything, and are now threatening the community groups.

The struggle to organize our party is the key for our liberation. With millions of men and women workers with communist ideas we will organize a revolution and form a new society that will be based on meeting the needs of free workers. Communist ideas and practice will be the basis of production without money, and of the governance of society through the party and its Red Army.

The mass distribution of our communist literature, study groups, the recruitment of workers, students, teachers, etc will be the basis of this great battle against capitalism. No more tricks, no more capitalism. Join the struggle for a communist society.



MEXICO: THE MURDERERS ARE IN THE GOVERNMENT PALACE

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CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

The Business of Capitalist Healthcare

At the beginning of the year there was a mass march in Mexico City of nurses from the public health sector who are demanding the “professionalization” of their careers and future jobs for those who graduate in this area. Nursing and medical students from the National Polytechnic Institute are in negotiations with the government so that they meet their demands to have a job when they leave school.

Having friends who work in the health sector allows one to have discussions about the situation they are experiencing and the need for communism. One friend commented that the privatization of certain services like the dining room and cleaning the public hospitals means that the workers are employed by a contractor and not by the social security system as before. At the same time, there is greater pressure and control of the workers under this model. According to official statements, the work becomes more efficient.

Another friend said that he agreed with this. He doesn't work in the health sector but he realizes that the private service is better. He works for an information company and sees that when they work in this model, the people give better results. However, another person responded, that could be but this increases the stress and bad mood at work, and fosters competition among the wor-

kers and people get sick with this rhythm of life.

In the case of the nurses, the lack of instruments means that the patients do not get the medical care they need and they blame the doctors and nurses for bad treatment. In some cases, these are fired without being at fault. The bosses take advantage of this situation to push reforms.

These struggles, although inspiring and showing the workers' anger, should not be a struggle for reforms which will not solve the workers' problems. We shouldn't fall into the capitalist illusion that the system can be reformed to satisfy workers' needs.

Whether health care is private or public, it is capitalist healthcare. We workers must fight, but so that the capitalist bosses cease to profit

from our labor. In a communist society, health will not be a business, nor will it be the privilege of a few.

We workers will learn basic questions of health and nutrition to reduce disease and the contradictions (illnesses) that arise will be resolved. Millions of workers will mobilize to guarantee the health of everyone—without any money or profits — making sure that all the instruments needed are made and used for workers' health.

In the march many carried signs demanding to be treated like “professionals,” but all workers need to be treated with dignity. In Communism, workers won't be divided into “professionals” and others. Everyone will work with our hands and will learn the theory of healthcare. Everyone's work will be valued.

We will not compete among ourselves. Evils like stress in these times will be isolated cases. We will all build our communist society; we will all be responsible to take care of our class brothers and sisters, in healthcare, nutrition, development of skills, etc. Workers of the world, let's unite to storm heaven, let's fight for Communist Revolution.

--Comrade in Mexico



LETTERS

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CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

For a Communist Fight Against Racism, Now and in the Future

Our Party study group discussed the recent articles on racism in *Red Flag*. We were four Party members and four close friends, women and men, black and latino/a and white.

Everyone agreed that racism as a system arose with capitalism. It continues today because the capitalists use their mass media, schools, and state power to keep it going. A comrade emphasized that nationalism helps to build racism, not to fight it.

We also agreed that communism can end racism by destroying its material basis, the capitalist wage system. We talked a lot about a letter to RF (v. 5 #23) that argued against the idea (presented in an earlier article) of a protracted struggle against racism after workers take power.

The letter said that in the process of mobilizing for communism, mass consciousness would change dramatically. We agree. That process has to include fighting racism hard, now, as part of building mass communist consciousness. But we still think the original article was right.

We discussed the period when communism has been established in some places but not everywhere. Class enemies will use capitalist strongholds to fight harder than ever to re-establish the old system. Racism will still be one of their main tools.

We will have to use communist workers' power to defeat these enemies, internally and externally. We don't know how long it will take before communism is in place everywhere.

One comrade said that the numbers of people we will need to mobilize to win communism will leave many people—probably more!—who are not yet won politically. Fighting racist ideas and prejudices will still be part of the continuing work to win them, too, to become active Party members.

As masses join the Party, we should expect them to bring their contradictions, including racism, with them. The fight against racist ideas will sharpen before it eventually disappears.

We also talked about residential segregation and other aspects of racist capitalism that will not all disappear overnight. This will take a lot of political struggle.

And people will have different needs, based in part on how racism affected their lives, work, and health under capitalism. Winning everyone to communist "distribution accor-

ding to need" will probably demand political struggle against racist ideas and stereotypes.

There's a lot more that we haven't discussed yet. But we are all confident that the masses can make communism work and put an end to racism. The main struggles that continue in this group are to expand the regular distribution of *Red Flag* and to recruit some very good friends to the Party.

—a Southern California collective



The obvious futility of elections

Globally, most people do not trust politicians. Political scandals, conspiracies and corruption are the current currency in all countries and in all the electoral parties. The majority of electoral politicians do not count on the support of their own voters. Many think that politics necessarily generates corruption (it is known that "Power Corrupts") and others are not going to vote because they think elections will not bring important changes.

The lack of participation in the elections is a "vote of no confidence" against the bosses' system. The people who got disappointed by the corrupt politicians are looking for politicians worthy of their trust. If they find them, the time will come when the new ones will also disappoint them.

Some think that a dictatorship avoids corrup-

tion and is therefore preferable to a representative system. Others know that corruption brings more corruption, that a representative system finds no alternative. They get disappointed and leave the running of society to the politicians. This makes things worse since the running of society stays in the hands of individuals who only care about themselves and not for society.

"Politics" is the making of decisions for a whole society. When the citizens decide for themselves what society will do, there is no need for these politics. The politicians are representatives of the citizens. When the citizens decide that they represent themselves, the representatives have no authority. The authority to decide for others is the origin of corruption in politics. Those who want to get this power will do everything possible to win the favor of the true owners of power.

"Everything" includes illegal acts, both ethically and legally. Misuse of authority is corruption, either because the person who has the authority was not authorized to use it or because he did not use the authority when he should have used it.

Then, what should the population and the working class do? The only road is the building of a communist society where the entire people decide their course.

—A Comrade in El Salvador

Pacifist and Humanist?

Red Flag Reader, the writer of the letter "Charlie Hebdo: Kept Up the Fight," (*Red Flag* vol. 6, #. 1) raises as one of his/her points that "Charlie is also...deeply pacifist and humanist."

We in ICWP are against pacifism and humanism. We call for the destruction of capitalism through a revolution led by soldiers and workers, and that necessitates violence. The world's ruling classes have always demonstrated, and are now demonstrating, their willingness to murder millions and more millions of workers in their unending quest for world dominance. These rulers will never peacefully turn over power to the working class: we have to fight for that power. Humanists like pacifism because their philosophy is that we should all get along: workers and bosses should live together in harmony.

How does that work out in practice? Well, what it means is that we workers are supposed to peacefully accept our exploitation and oppression...and that includes "peacefully" obeying our bosses' orders to kill our working class brothers and sisters in other countries for the bosses' system. We say "No!" Turn the guns around on the ruling classes of the world and on their officers! Destroy capitalism and establish communism!

—A comrade in ICWP



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We get no funding from the capitalists, their foundation or NGOs. This newspaper is not a commodity produced for sale. We are fighting to abolish commodity production. However, we have to pay for the costs of producing and distributing the paper, as well as for other expenses of building an international party. The box below includes a suggested donation of \$20/year which is about the current cost of mailing a single copy to a U.S. address. PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY.

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Ukraine Crisis:**CEASEFIRE BUT A LULL IN BROADER IMPERIALIST WARS**

The Minsk Agreement is but a lull in a war waged by proxies between the US and Russia. The US and its allies finance, train and arm the Kiev military fighting the pro-Russian rebels. The Russians have done likewise for their supporters in Eastern Ukraine.

This war is slaughtering thousands of civilians and soldiers and displacing almost two million civilians. But it is just a skirmish in the bigger struggle between US imperialism and its main imperialist rivals, China and Russia, for world domination. The US must constrain and eventually confront Russia in Europe and China in Asia Pacific.

A resurgent Russia, aggressively trying to reassert its influence over its post-Soviet space poses a major threat to US imperialism, whose goal since its early days as a rising imperialist power has been, “to not allow any state to amass too much power in Europe... The most dangerous potential alliance, from the perspective of the United States, was considered to be an alliance between Russia and Germany.” (Stratfor’s George Friedman from US-Russia.org 01-17-2015)

Therefore, the US bosses have two main objectives in the Ukraine. One is to induct Ukraine into an alliance with the West. The other is to drive a wedge between Russia and Europe – especially Germany- to prevent a German-Russian alliance, and even more terrifying for them, a German-Russian-China axis.

Putin’s annexation of Crimea and support of the Eastern Ukrainian rebels is a reaction to the first objective. Russian rulers realized that in the short term the US wants Ukraine as part of a line against Russian expansion into its post-Soviet space.

In the long term, they understand it is for war:

if the West succeeds in dominating Ukraine, Russia will become indefensible. This would leave Russia wide open to US and allied forces that could be stationed less than 350 miles from Moscow. This is unacceptable to the Russian imperialists.

So far the US has failed on both counts. Ukraine is still and will remain for the foreseeable future a bone of contention. The fact that the French President and German Premier participated in brokering the Minsk Agreement, without the US involved, indicates that these European imperialists are questioning their US alliance.

Whether the Minsk Agreement holds up or not, it can at best slow, and more likely accelerate, but will never stop these butchers’ drive toward greater and more lethal wars and World War III.

Peace under capitalism is impossible. Its dog-eat-dog competition inevitably leads to war. The only way to end capitalist-imperialist wars is to end capitalism-imperialism and build a communist society worldwide.

Many workers abhor the horrors of war. Many agree that working and sharing collectively the product of our labor - without bosses, money, racism, sexism, and borders to divide us and pit us against each other – sounds fantastic.

“But,” they say, “the capitalists-imperialists are so rich and powerful. How can we do it?”

In appearance they seem invincible, but in



essence they are very vulnerable. We, on the other hand, may seem weak but in essence we are very powerful. We are actually the most powerful force in history.

The bosses’ wealth and military might depends on us. If we refuse to work, their whole industrial base grinds to a stop. Nothing moves without our labor power. All their money will not get one single machine to run.

When the soldiers, sailors and Marines in the armed forces refuse to obey their superiors and join forces with a revolutionary working class and turn the guns around – the bosses will be history.

Our task is to transform ourselves into a revolutionary force in order to make the communist revolution we need. For that we need communist organization and ideology. We can only get both by joining the International Workers’ Party,

Let’s fight capitalist ideology among our class by distributing **Red Flag** among our friends and family at work, school and in the military.

U.S. Military:**BOSSES DRAW DOWN TO PREPARE FOR WIDER WAR**

In January, we wrote about the fact that the majority of troops in the U.S. military report low morale. *Military Times* recently published a report that revealed that more than 70% of troops believe that their senior leaders do not have their best interest at heart. The article also exposes such numbers as only 45% rated their health care as good or excellent and only 44% are satisfied with their pay.

So why are the bosses exposing the weakness of their military? What does this mean for us?

Whenever the bosses criticize their own system it is because they are searching for solutions to more effectively oppress us. In this case, it means that they are trying to fix morale so they can be better prepared for future wars. Drawing down on spending or decreasing the size of the military does not mean the end of war. Far from it! The U.S. government has specific plans.

The first plan is to cut the spending because the U.S. can’t afford another expensive war like the ones in Iraq and Afghanistan. Public opinion has been extremely critical of sending troops abroad. However, downsizing creates the problem of limited resources to sustain a large military. Undoubtedly this affects pay and healthcare for thousands of soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen. Clearly, the bosses don’t care about them. On the other hand, they still need to have an effective and obedient army.

This brings us to their second plan—relying on the deployment of smaller groups of units around the world. This plan has manifested itself in the creation of Pacific Pathways units: small units that will be ready to deploy in parts of the Pacific for quick response to “emergencies or regional threats.”

This comes at a time when the U.S. is shifting its resources to Asia-Pacific. This strategy creates a permanent presence in the Pacific region, where China is emerging as a threat to US hegemony. Maintaining a close relationship to the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Cambodia and India is essential to U.S. imperialism as it is ultimately preparing for a military confrontation with China and Russia.

At the same time that they’re downsizing and facing criticism

over military spending, it’s becoming increasingly clear that they will need to fight to stay on top. Eventually small wars will lead to world war.

Soldiers and sailors are in the middle of this predicament. We must not take sides with one set of bosses against another. Our allegiance should always be with the international working class. The bosses fill their military ranks with the working class. They rely on our obedience to follow orders as they mislead us into their imperialist conflicts.

One way to increase obedience is to create an illusion that they care about us. This is difficult to do when they’re cutting our health benefits. This is why Obama is eager to grant legal status to undocumented immigrants with the hope that many of these youth will join the military with unquestioning loyalty. That’s also why he used his signature of the suicide prevention bill as a photo op to show how much he cares about the mental health of veterans and active duty personnel.

But we can see through these lies and refuse to obey orders when we are forced to fight the bosses’ wars. We must reach out to the international working class and organize for communist revolution. This means organizing inside and outside of the military.

If they have a plan to recruit working class youth (immigrant and not) to fight their wars, we must send ICWP members to expose and derail their war plans, and recruit soldiers, sailors and marines to the International Communist Workers’ Party.



**Read our pamphlet:
Soldiers, Sailors,
Marines:
Crucial to a
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