

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM



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



Cops Murder Homeless Man **LET'S THROW CAPITALISM INTO THE DUSTBIN OF HISTORY!**

LOS ANGELES, March 3— Hundreds demonstrated today against the racist murder of a homeless black man, known on the streets as “Africa.” The LAPD shot and killed Africa on Sunday, March 1, on Skid Row. He was unarmed but five cops, including a black cop, surrounded Africa, tasered him and then shot him multiple times, killing him. All of this was caught on video.

Africa had a history of mental illness, like over 60% of the homeless people on Skid Row in Los Angeles, where more homeless people live than in any other US city. The majority are black.

Furious demonstrators marched and carried signs like “1000 more homes, 1000 less cops” and “Body Cameras Don’t Stop Police Murder!”

Many gladly took copies of *Red Flag*. A *Red Flag* distributor asked a demonstrator, “How about homes and useful work for EVERYONE and NO cops?” The demonstrator liked that a lot. That’s the world ICWP is fighting for, a communist

world with no wage slavery, cops or racist terror. Every person will be valued for whatever contribution they can make to the collective, and the needs of every person will be met to the best of the collective’s ability.

This exchange led to good discussions about the need to fight directly for communism, not to try to reform capitalism. Reform fights won’t lead to communism: we need to mobilize for it directly. In communism, those who are homeless now will help build homes along with experienced construction workers and others, for themselves and everyone else who needs them. No one will go hungry or worry where they will sleep at night. Everyone will contribute what they can and receive what they need.

The murder of Africa is part of the rampant racist police killings throughout the US to terrorize angry workers and youth. In each case, from Omar Abrego, to Michael Brown, to Tamir Rice and now Africa, following the racist killing, the bosses’ media spews attacks on

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COMMUNIST COLLECTIVITY, NOT CAPITALIST ELECTORAL FARCE

EL SALVADOR, March 3—The March 1st elections for mayors, representatives to the legislative assembly, and representatives to the Central American Parliament gave the FMLN a great advantage over the ARENA Party and others. Now the FMLN controls the Presidency, the Assembly and the majority of the mayors. But capitalism continues—and will continue—to ravage the working class.

“The FMLN has become the largest political force in the country...now we have the strength of 67% of the population,” said Medardo Gonzalez, Secretary General of the FMLN.

Voting for a defender of capitalism to decide our destiny is putting a noose around our own necks. To fight for what we want, we have to fight a revolution for a communist society in which we all participate collectively every day in the decisions that affect our lives.

More than two and a half million working men and women went out to vote for the capitalist politicians. Most unions and organizations mo-

bilized their base to support the FMLN, many of them workers with illusions about changes in their lives but who are also fed up with capitalism.

History has shown us the contrary. By analyzing past elections many people have realized that electoral processes are only a trick played on the working class because they mean perpetuating the status and privilege of the exploiting classes.

Most important, elections do not transform or revolutionize the life of those men and women workers who have been convinced by the FMLN that the way to achieve a better life is through elections and not through communist revolution.

The International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP) and our newspaper *Red Flag* guide and organize the workers to put an end to the electoral circus. Our party shows the alternative of a communist world, without exploitation, money or bosses. We can win people to this, both those who vote and those who don’t.

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**THIS IS A
THREE
WEEK
ISSUE**

IMPERIALISTS PREPARE NUCLEAR WAR – LET'S PREPARE COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

“NATO and Russia have not fully resolved their fears about how a nuclear war might arise, or how it might be fought.” —Prof. Tom Nichols, US Naval War College, 2012.

“The new DF-41 ICBM ensures that China’s nuclear deterrent can reach the entire continental U.S. China is moving definitively toward a more robust, survivable second-strike capability.” —Robert Farley, *National Interest* (8/10/14).

Most of us don’t want to believe that imperialists would launch a nuclear World War III. But, as *Red Flag* has explained, the profit-driven logic of capitalist competition leads to world war. Whether we believe it or not, the imperialist powers are planning for it.

Inter-imperialist competition and war preparations are behind the attacks on workers’ standards of living everywhere. The international working class can win this class war by mobilizing to defeat capitalism-imperialism with communism.

Let’s understand how high the stakes are. In World War I, over 20 million people died, 40% of them civilians. Another 30 million died in the flu pandemic immediately afterward.

In World War II, at least 70 million died (perhaps 100 million). Over 60% were civilians. Probably 300,000 – almost all civilians – were

killed by two US nuclear bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Nobody anywhere would be safe from the far more massive casualties of World War III. This gives even greater urgency to our task of mobilizing for communism inside the military.

Start Your War – We Will Finish It

In 1955 Mao Zedong declared that “the Chinese people are not to be cowed by U.S. atomic blackmail.” One reason was nationalist: China was too large for the US to destroy. Whether true or not, this is not an argument communists make today.

More importantly, Mao said, “As a result of World War I, the tsar, the landlords and the capitalists in Russia were wiped out; as a result of World War II, Chiang Kai-shek and the landlords were overthrown in China.”

The result of World War III, Mao predicted, “would be the elimination of the ruling classes in the United States, Britain and the other accomplice countries ... the sooner they make war the sooner they will be wiped from the face of the earth.”

The socialism of Soviet Russia and Mao’s China led to the re-emergence of those countries as capitalist-imperialist powers. Workers today

must eliminate those nuclear-armed ruling classes too. We must fight for communism and nothing less, led by one mass International Communist Workers’ Party.

End of START: Start of the End?

“Strategic” nuclear weapons are the big ones that supposedly exist only to deter another government from using them. NATO (mainly the US) negotiated a “Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty” (START) with Russia in 1991.

START expired in 2009 and was replaced with “New START” in 2011. This was supposed to leave each side with 1550 deployed nuclear warheads in 2018, with more in reserve. So-called “non-strategic” (or

“tactical”) nuclear weapons are not regulated. Some of these are as powerful as the one dropped on Hiroshima.

In January 2015, *Russia Times* suggested that Russia might revise or withdraw from New START due to “growing US antagonism” particularly around Ukraine.

The Guardian (1/15/15) reported that US imperialism threatens to redeploy its own cruise missiles in Europe after a 23-year absence. This, says *The Guardian*, is in response to Russian development of a new cruise missile. Other reasons include the rebuilding of Russia’s nuclear-armed submarine fleet.

China, a growing nuclear power, has not been party to any strategic arms limitation talks. Its expanding nuclear program may influence nuclear-armed India and Pakistan to follow suit. The United Kingdom, France, Israel, and North Korea also have nuclear weapons.

US imperialists openly debate how best to spend their nuclear-war dollars in this period with their empire in decline. We will write more about this later. But all seem to agree that “the status quo is not an option.” (Blechman and Rumbaugh, *Foreign Affairs*, July/August 2014)

Some want to modernize the “tactical” nuclear arsenal: weapons that are meant to be used, and may have already been secretly used in Afghanistan. Others argue for retiring “tactical” nuclear weapons. They want to rely on a combination of conventional military superiority and huge “strategic” nuclear bombs.

The imperialists seemingly don’t question “whether” there will be nuclear war. They are discussing “when,” “where” and “how.” As Blechman and Rumbaugh state, US “strategic nuclear capabilities are intended to deter and, if necessary, respond to a nuclear attack on either the U.S. homeland itself or U.S. allies.”

We say there is no question about “whether” or “where” communist revolution is necessary: it is, everywhere! The discussion in workplaces, schools, neighborhoods and barracks must be about “how.” As for “when” – the sooner the better!



**OUR PAMPHLET:
SOLDIERS,
SAILORS,
MARINES:
CRUCIAL TO A
COMMUNIST
WORKERS’
REVOLUTION
IS AVAILABLE AT**

<http://icwpredflag.org/MIL/mpe.html>

EL SALVADOR ELECTIONS, from page 1

Dialectics and our communist literature show us that elections are part of the structure of the capitalist system. They are designed to elect our executioners and at the same time to keep us entertained and divided while the exploitation of wage slavery continues.

Our goal is to mobilize millions of people in the world to break with bourgeois philosophy and the politics of wage slavery, the source of the problems that we men and women workers of the world endure every day, like hunger, lack of medicine, housing, clothes, shoes, etc.

In Communism there will be no elections. People will naturally take leadership as part of collectivity, to drive projects forward that allow us to revolutionize our society and live with dignity. We will encourage millions of people to become leaders, that is, by **Fighting for**

Communism. Men and women workers will organize ourselves through Party clubs in the workplaces where we work and learn.

Work is the cornerstone of human society and development, seen from a dialectical materialist point of view. Decisions will be made collectively using methods of discussion and decision-making in groups and “round tables.”

We will take into account the principles and fundamentals of communist philosophy and political economy: from the smallest factory to the decisions that will be taken at the level of communes, regions and worldwide.

Organizing men and women workers for communism begins with discussions with our fellow workers, relatives, friends, members of the communist ICWP club to which we belong, about the reality that we confront as the daily product of the market economy.

It is not an easy task, but the experience of the past and the mistakes corrected from the old communist movement offer us ideas and actions to make decisions in large groups and give leadership to the masses of working men and women.

The struggle continues. The FMLN and ARENA are leading the struggle to keep capitalism alive. We in ICWP are fighting to destroy capitalism and build a communist society.

We must organize among all the workers, including in the base of the electoral parties, their unions and mass organizations, to work politically with the workers. They need to see that the only way to change their lives is joining and fighting together with ICWP for a communist revolution and not more capitalist farces.

Distributing *Red Flag* to organize and mobilize the masses for Communism is how we will win battles against capitalism and its electoral lies.



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INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST SOLIDARITY

Comrades in South Africa writes:

Greetings comrades!!! I am reading the latest issue of *Red Flag* and I am touched by the article on the refinery strike in the U.S.. This article has similarities with what is happening with workers at Transnet, Port Elizabeth harbour.

About a week ago, I was visited by a friend of mine who works at the harbour. He wanted advice and assistance on how best they can go about in tackling problems they are confronted with at their workplace. They are working for a labour broker who is sucking their blood.

I helped them by writing a notice advertising the general meeting that was held on the 27 of February. My friend was very excited and thankful for the assistance I gave them.

The demands that they were raising are a carbon copy of those of the striking refinery workers in the US.. These workers are working in excess of 275 hours in a month. The normal working hours are 180 hours in a month. They find themselves working long hours with fewer workers in a shift. They work in unsafe and dangerous working conditions. Because of the fatigue caused by the long hours of work they are subjected to, they sustain lot of injuries including those resulting in amputation of fingers.

They have lost confidence in their union and have decided to take up their demands to the employer on their own. Their goal is to work directly for Transnet, not the labour broker. This is a struggle they are pursuing.

As I am reading this article I could not help but identify similarities with the striking oil refinery workers in the US. It will take more than a strike to resolve this dispute, it will take a revolution. I am sensitizing these workers to that eventuality.

Harmony gold corporation mine

I was disgusted to learn that last week in one of the Harmony gold corporation mines, 483 miners were trapped underground because of a fire that broke out underground. They say the cause of the fire is unknown but this came as no surprise. I know the poor conditions the miners here in South Africa are made to work under by the greedy capitalist bosses. Yet

the ANC government is silent on the matter. I understand why: because to them the lives of the workers are not important. What are important to them are the capitalist bosses and their profits. So I would like to call on our brothers and sisters in the mining industry to unite under our party, the ICWP, for communist revolution. It's only communism that can bring an end to the tyranny of the capitalist bosses and their wage system.

Assistant Drivers' Strike

I had a great time yesterday and a pretty sad one too. I was amazed by how the youth of New Brighton are so fed up with wage slavery. As I went there to visit my father. I could not help but notice that two of my friends who were supposed to be at work by that time were not working. I couldn't help but ask why they were not at work.

One is a truck driver in a logistics company, Nampark. The other one is an assistant driver in the same company. They told me that they were on strike. In fact, it's the assistant drivers who are on strike but the truck drivers are on strike in solidarity with their coworkers. Their dispute with the bosses is that in that company the assistant drivers are paid half of the drivers' salary. Yet they do more work, double, than the drivers.

In South Africa there is a regulation which states that every driver on a long-distance trip must drive for 8 hours and then rest for 2 hours. But in this 2 hour rest, it's the assistant driver that must continue driving while the driver rests. And when they reach their destination the assistant must also help with the unloading of the cargo. Yet he/she is not paid for the unloading of the truck. They are paid only for those hours they drive when the driver is resting.

I told them that that's how the capitalist bosses operate. They exploit the working class for their profits regardless of your suffering. I told them that instead of fighting a narrow battle they should join with our party the ICWP in order to defeat capitalism because it's a universal thing, not just here in South Africa. They were very interested in our ideas. I promised them that the next time we meet I will bring them copies of *Red Flag*.



TAKING RED FLAG TO REFINERY WORKERS' PICKET LINE

Some comrades from the Seattle area recently made a trip north to Anacortes to visit with the workers on strike at the Tesoro oil refinery there. As we approached the plant, we were reminded of beauty of the area...fields of tulips and daffodils, and spectacular views of the San Juan Islands.

However, there is nothing beautiful about an oil refinery. Especially this one, where 5 workers were killed in 2010 and 6 killed in 1998 due to explosions and fires. As we walked the line with the strikers we were joined by a non-striking worker from the Shell refinery down the road. The strikers told us how they are forced to work 12 hour shifts, sometimes for 2 weeks straight. The refineries are old and they are poorly maintained and overworked. (see box below) The oil bosses push for more oil and bigger profits while government agencies look the other way. Most of these workers we met are also trained firefighters and paramedics. They take responsibility for the safety of their coworkers while the bosses take none.

We showed them the communist leaflet we have been handing out to Boeing and MTA workers and others. They thanked us for spreading the word about their strike. They were angry that while Tesoro was enjoying a huge increase in profits, they were being blamed for the recent increase in gas prices.

As they looked over the *Red Flag*, we talked about how these conditions mentioned above will not exist in communism. Resources like oil will not be owned by nations or corporations.

Workers will make the decisions about how resources will be used based on need, not profit.

Everyone listened and most took leaflets and copies of *Red Flag*. They told us to leave more literature in the picket truck, and to come back and bring our friends. One striker gave us his phone number to contact him.

On our way back to our car we met another worker who welcomed us. He told us that as a small boy he walked the same picket line when his dad was on strike. Now he works there and he is on strike, just like his dad. When he spoke, it was obvious that he was proud to carry on the good fight. This should inspire us to return soon to talk more about how fighting for a communist revolution is a better fight!

An article in *Forbes Magazine* (www.forbes.com) on 3/02/2015 states that "America's refineries are old and at full capacity. In fact, refinery fires and explosions are so common that they hardly make the news."

"After a small fire at BP's largest refinery last August, Daniel Horowitz, the spokesman for the U.S. Chemical Safety Board, said 'operational incidents, including small fires, at refineries are reasonably common.' So common that, if they don't involve fatalities or offsite damage, the Chemical Safety Board doesn't even bother to investigate."

And later, "What's critical is that, while we closed half our refineries over the last two decades, the productivity of the remaining refineries has almost doubled. According to the Energy Information Administration, 301 refineries processed over 6 billion barrels of oil in 1982. In 2014, only 149 refineries processed almost the same amount of oil. In 2015, these refineries will top 8 billion barrels."



Transnet strikers, South Africa, 2010

END RACIST COP ATTACKS ON OUR YOUTH WITH COMMUNIST REVOLUTION



LOS ANGELES--The recent distribution of *Red Flag* and a leaflet about the police shooting of Jamar Nicholson led to many interesting conversations with students and teachers. Jamar was walking to school with a group of friends. Some cops in an unmarked car saw the teenagers rapping in an alley and a boy with a toy gun. A cop shot, missed the boy with the gun and hit Jamar instead. Jamar has recovered, but this incident has sparked anger and confusion. It is one more in a long list of similar incidents where an unarmed male black youth is shot by a cop.

The leaflet explained how the attack on Jamar reflects concrete problems with the society in which we live. Our communist message was loud and clear: we need a communist revolution to end police brutality. However, our ideas were not adequately explained. The leaflet did not effectively make the connection between racism, racial profiling and communism. We should have also explained

how racism is a product of capitalism.

In a capitalist system, racism is used to divide and conquer workers. The stage on which the attack on Jamar took place is capitalist society. This is where racism plays a key role in the shooting. Jason Huerta, the only Latino boy in the group, said that a detective told him that the officers had misinterpreted the scene. They told him that they believed three African-Americans had cornered Jason. "Three black guys and a Hispanic—it looks wrong," Jason recalled the detective saying to him.

The capitalists fear the unity of black and Latino youth against their common oppressor. In fact, black and Latino young people in South L.A. have a whole lot in common and hang out together all the time.

The leaflet didn't adequately explain what communism is. We should do this whenever we introduce our politics to anyone, especially a group of students and teachers who are not clear what communism is. In a communist society, we will work hard to destroy the concept of race. Communities will not be racially and economically divided. Also, in a communist society, nothing will be produced for profit because money will not exist. The core principle of how a communist society will be structured is from each according to commitment, to each according to need.

This is a monumental task, but it is the only way that we can get rid of the horrors of capital-

ism. This system must be changed in its entirety. It needs to be overthrown. While it may seem extreme to say that we need a communist revolution, this is exactly what we mean. The capitalists make their money from exploiting us, and keep us divided by racism so that they can continue doing so. Capitalism has never worked for the working class, and it can't be improved by reforms, strikes, unions, or community control of the police. It's an illusion to demand "justice" for Jamar, or any of the other unarmed black males who have been shot. We must organize an international workers' party so large and so ideologically advanced that there is no stopping it from transforming the lives of workers around the world.

Even with its weaknesses, the leaflet produced a positive impact because it also introduced *Red Flag* to many students. One student said, "This is truly interesting." She agreed to read the article about the high school students building solidarity with workers from other countries. We'll talk to her again. Another student said that he had studied communism in class, and that it is always seen as wrong. Yet, he acknowledged that *Red Flag* offered a different perspective. We'll make sure these students get this issue.

We're glad Jamar Nicholson is alive and well. There are many lessons to learn from his experience and one harsh reality: incidents like this will play out with more tragic consequences as long as this capitalist system exists. That's why we must organize for a communist revolution. Taking our communist ideas to workers, soldiers and students is crucial to reaching this goal. *Red Flag* is one tool that we can use to reach out to everyone, and it has taken a positive presence at this high school.

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the victim, blaming him for his own death. After they threw him into the streets for being poor and mentally ill and after they killed him, now the bosses media are trying to justify this racist killing saying that Africa supposedly robbed a bank fifteen years ago, for which he went to prison. True or not, none of this justifies his racist murder!!!

The stress and alienation of capitalism contribute to more people suffering from mental illness. Starting in 1980, under Ronald Reagan's Presidency, the US government closed mental hospitals to save money. This kicked many mentally ill people into the streets (part of cutting back social services to all US workers), making their isolation and illness worse

Capitalism in general and US imperialism in particular has made unemployment and homelessness mass phenomena. Capitalism is incapable of providing useful jobs for all even in

"normal" times.

In a crisis like now, millions worldwide are unemployed. In the US more than 3.5 million are homeless. Many are veterans who fought for "their country" and have been tossed out like garbage.

Homeless people are our brothers and sisters. Unable to sell their labor power, they are chewed up by capitalism. The bosses see them as trash whose lives aren't valued.

Los Angeles is in the midst of a decade-long gentrification program in downtown LA, building high end restaurants and expensive loft apartments. As part of this, the LAPD is doing its job for the bosses by harassing, attacking and now killing homeless people on Skid Row, part of downtown. This increasing police attack includes forcing them to take down their tents every morning. Cops are trying to drive out homeless people, but they have



no other place to go.

This racist murder is an escalation of this attack, which is an attack on all workers. We need to spread *Red Flag* and expand the fight for communism where every worker will have useful work, a safe place to live, and be valued and cared for.



This is the paper of the working class.

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.

SUBSCRIBE TO RED FLAG - \$20/YEAR

Name _____ I want _____ copies per issue
Address _____

Send to P.M.B 362, 3006 S. Vermont Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90007

FUTURE VOTERS, OR FUTURE COMMUNISTS?

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 28— Liberal community groups tied to the Democratic Party mobilized hundreds of immigrant parents, their children and supporters to demonstrate against a Texas judge's ruling which halted Obama's latest executive order.

The order would put 5 million undocumented immigrants on a pathway to legalization. While immigrant workers, their families and supporters are furious at the Judge's sweeping decision. But the immigrant rights groups want to channel that anger toward voting.

That is the wrong road. The right road is communist revolution. Some of these demonstrators and workers on the street gladly took *Red Flag*. This included latino as well as black and white workers. Several black workers were especially impressed with *Red Flag's* attack on racist capitalism and call for communism. One black worker came back to give a donation.

The judge's decision shows that there is a fight between different sections of the US ruling class. One side sees immigrant workers as only wage slaves who must work for the lowest wages. The other also sees immigrant workers as an impor-



tant source of loyal, patriotic soldiers and workers to fight and slave for the interests of US imperialism in coming wars and WWII.

No matter which sides wins, undocumented workers, even if they become citizens, will continue to be super-exploited by capitalism's racist wage slavery, and victimized by

police terror and the use of the bosses' borders to divide the working class by skin color and national origin.

At the demonstration, many youth carried signs saying they are "future voters." The leaders of the immigrants' rights groups push the dangerous lie that voting for Democrats will solve the problem.

Voting Not the Answer—We Need Communist Revolution

Voting for one or another of the bosses' politicians diverts potential revolutionaries in the schools, factories and barracks from fighting to get rid of capitalism with communist revolution. Voting builds pacifism and the dangerous illusion that racist capitalism can be reformed to meet our needs. The capitalists want us to have buy-in to

their system of racist exploitation and war for profit.

Documented immigrant and native born workers, students and soldiers face the bosses' same increasing racist onslaught. This is the material basis for uniting with undocumented and all workers. We have the same need to get rid of this inhumane racist capitalist system and to build a communist world with no borders, racist police and migra terror, immigration laws or wage slavery.

In communism, in the areas that become communist first, borders and nations will be eliminated. As communist revolution spreads worldwide, borders and nations will be eliminated everywhere.

In a communist society, many workers will travel and live for a time in other areas of the world to help where they are most needed. That way we can build communist relationships among workers and learn from each others' rich experiences in fighting for and implementing a communist society. We will collectively plan, produce and share the products of our labor to meet everyone's needs.

Let's spread *Red Flag* worldwide to hasten communist revolution and a world of collectivity and sharing!

Teachers' Struggle:

CAPITALIST SCHOOLS CAN'T SERVE THE WORKING CLASS

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 26—Today ICWP participated in a demonstration of thousands called by United Teachers of Los Angeles (UTLA). The union is demanding higher wages and smaller class sizes. We were there to refocus the discussion, distributing 100 of the ICWP *Communist Education for a Classless Society* pamphlets and 200 *Red Flag* newspapers.

The last big school district that went on strike was Chicago in 2012. That contract dispute centered largely on the role of student test scores in teacher evaluations.

In contrast, the Los Angeles contract standoff has focused mostly on teacher salaries, class sizes and increasing the number of support staff members like nurses and counselors. The teachers have gone eight years without a salary increase or cost of living adjustment. UTLA is asking for an 8.5 percent pay increase, a demand the Los Angeles Unified School (LAUSD) says it cannot meet without significant layoffs. Whatever the outcome of this reform fight, capitalist education in the service of wage slavery will continue.

UTLA leaders contend the negotiations highlight an ongoing post-Great Recession concern: That while economic conditions have improved, cuts made during the height of the crisis have been disparately restored. They point to new pockets of money that could be used to finance their demands, including the governor's proposed budget, which would increase spending on K-12 education by at least 8 percent.

In a capitalist framework, LAUSD Superintendent Cortines, is projecting a \$160 million

deficit for the next school year. He is asking every department to reduce expenses by 8 to 15 percent. In a letter to UTLA president Alex Caputo-Pearl, Cortines warned that \$171 million is at risk if union leaders don't agree to evaluation requirements necessary for the district to receive its No Child Left Behind waiver.

Cortines and the ruling class he represents want more fascist education on the cheap. They are requiring more standardized tests at the same time as they propose cutbacks, layoffs, and what amounts to a wage freeze. As the crisis of capitalism sharpens and world war becomes inevitable, this is what the ruling class needs to have happen in the public schools.

Capitalist schools are important institutions of class dictatorship. They serve the interests of the ruling class just as much as the cops and the courts. Capitalist schools prepare the children of the rich to be bosses and most children of workers to be workers and soldiers. They teach the ideology, social behavior and skills required to play those roles and to make exploitation and imperialist war seem acceptable.

Some say that public schools are "our schools" that working people fought for and won, our hope for a better world. This is a deception, like the ideas that government is impartial and justice is blind. Government is an instrument of class rule.



In capitalist society, all schools serve the interests of the capitalist class.

Education is more than schooling. It includes all the ways we are socialized. All social institutions—family, the exercise of power, popular culture, and more—help shape children and youth.

Communist education will be completely different. It will not create doctors or dentists, but there will be understanding of medicine, health, and dental care. There won't be agronomists and engineers, but there will be knowledge of agriculture, agronomy and mechanics. In other words, there won't be professions, but there will be people who understand all aspects of these fields and more. These people will carry out different tasks in different areas, learning and teaching others, combining theory and practice.

In addition, communist education will help to build new human relations where we live, work, play and learn without wages or any form of money. The wellbeing of each collective, in the fullest sense of the word, will be the incentive for what all contribute according to their ability and commitment.

Communist education will help to create the better society that will be made up of hundreds of collectives in all spheres of human activity. We will no longer have to be subject to the tyranny of wage slavery, but rather be a free association of human beings organized around communist principles in a worldwide mass Party.



COMMUNIST EDUCATION FOR A CLASSLESS SOCIETY

Pamphlet available at
<http://icwpredflag.org/EDU/EdPamE.pdf>

Prison Labor is 21st Century Slavery

COMMUNISM WILL END EXPLOITATION AND PRISONS

“Work Shall Set You Free” read the sign at the entrance of many Nazi concentration labor camps. “El Hongo,” in Mexico, does not have such a sign. It is not a concentration camp. According to the Mexican government, it is not even a prison but a “center of social rehabilitation.”

In “El Hongo” there is a maquila (a garment sweat shop) where five international corporations and their Mexican capitalist partners give some 300 inmates the “opportunity” to rehabilitate themselves through work.

They work 40 hours a week producing garments for Disneyland, Forever 21, Aeropostale, Volcom and the US Army. At 72 US cents an hour, their monthly pay is \$110, or \$5.50 a day. After deducting 30 percent for the inmates’ prison costs, they are left with \$3.85 a day, of which 30 percent goes to their families, and 30 percent to their saving account. Their spending money is only 55 cents a day.

An inmate produces on the average 250 garments a day or about one garment every two minutes. Thus, he receives 17 cents for producing garments which are sold for \$30, \$40 or more each.

This slave labor is the inevitable result of the capitalists’ need to maximize their profits. Since only the worker’s labor power produces profits, maximum profits demand that the capitalists buy it at the lowest price possible or not pay for it at all like in the Nazi labor camps.

Prisons are profitable for the capitalists.

Communism will eliminate prisons.

Eliminating production for profits and the market will eliminate the material basis for “crime.” With nothing being sold or bought, much of the “petty crime” that the capitalists use to imprison workers will disappear.

The working class in neighborhoods, cities, and worldwide, if necessary, will mobilize to deal with any and all anti-social behavior. There won’t be any courts, judges, lawyers or police.

We won’t have prisons. Bars dehumanize both the prisoner and the guard. We will struggle with

those that participate in anti-social actions to change their behavior. Those that can’t or refuse to change after committing more serious deeds like sabotage, murder or rape will be banned from society.

They will be sent to isolated places, and given all the necessary tools for producing their basic needs. If they leave there to continue being a threat to society we might have to deal with them more severely.

Prison labor is the slave labor of the 21st century

The 21st century is witnessing one of the fiercest, if not the fiercest ever, capitalist-imperialist rivalry for market share: who produces the cheapest controls the market. That is why all major imperialist powers, and rising regional powers like Mexico, started using prison labor in the first decade of this millennium. The US dramatically increased its use since the 1990’s.

Chinese bosses, on the other hand, claim to have abolished their labor camps last year, releasing tens of thousands of prisoners. For now, “low paid Chinese manpower” is good enough for them. Their plan is to use this labor to produce and export more sophisticated products, and export their labor-intensive industries, like garment, to countries like Myanmar and Bangladesh. There the minimum wage is respectively \$2.50 and \$3.30 a day.

At these wages, capitalism is making it starkly clear that there is little difference between its wage slaves in prison and its wage slaves “free to commute from their dwellings to the plantation” as one MTA driver once said. The chain might be a little longer; giving the impression of



Over 4000 garment workers, mostly women, struck for almost a month in February demanding a \$30 wage increase over the \$50 a month that they now receive. The government offered \$12. Over 200,000 people work in Myanmar’s garment factories, mainly women. They typically work five days a week for 11-13 hours a day and half a day on Saturdays. These brave strikers have stood up to police attacks. They can give vital leadership to our class by mobilizing to destroy wage slavery with communist revolution.

“freedom,” but the prison outside is one of crushing poverty with all its accompanying evils. Only communism can put an end to this.

Crime in capitalist society mirrors that of the biggest criminals in history, the capitalists-imperialists. To rid the working class of its corrupting effects we must destroy them along with their wage slavery based on racism, sexism and borders.

Communism will mean a healthy, fulfilling life for masses of workers worldwide. We won’t have shackles on our bodies or minds. With protracted and sharp struggle, when necessary, we will eventually sweep away the remnants of capitalist ideology in ourselves and the whole working class.

Join our Party and help built it internationally, distributing *Red Flags* to your coworkers, family, and friends in schools, industries and the military.

LETTERS

LETTERS

LETTERS

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

Take Sides-- Become a Communist



Every morning at 5:30 a.m., at the beginning of our shift, there is a meeting in which the supervisors, the manager or sometimes the union representative communicate new instructions or comments about the work.

One morning, a couple of coworkers were talking when one of them, who works on the night shift, saw me. He greeted me and then asked, “Are you going to the meeting of the capitalists?” referring to the previously mentioned meeting.

Afterwards he said, “I am not a capitalist, nor am I a communist. But my son is becoming a communist since his girlfriend is one. But this doesn’t bother me, because in this country everyone has the right to think as they please.”

After listening to him, I walked away thinking about the inner content of his words, because this mechanic is not foreign to politics. He is a regular reader of *Red Flag*. We have written several very political articles for *Red Flag* with him. He is militant and has a lot of class consciousness. He attended a Party meeting and

left greatly impressed by the knowledge and application of communist ideas to life and daily struggle.

I have heard him invite other workers to meetings of the Party, saying that the communists are very intelligent. After thinking about all this I returned to him and told him, “You know what? I’m going to write about what you said, that you are neither a capitalist nor a communist.” He answered me that this was good, that he would like to read it.

What this worker says is not capitalist, I understand this very well. But although he says he is not a communist, he has many aspects that are communist. He himself makes me think that there still exists a little individualism in him, as he also assures me that in this country, everyone has the right to think as they want. This also shows me that there are still illusions in democracy.

I want to tell him that in this society, no one is just for himself. This is so because there are two great opposing philosophical currents, idealism and materialism. The idealist way of thinking represents a determinist conception of nature and its development. Its ideas are used by the bourgeoisie to justify their exploitation of the workers and to keep us politically ignorant.

The other philosophy is materialism: not the vulgar materialism of accumulating things or

properties, but dialectical materialism which studies nature in general in its movement and development. Its ideology is the guide so that the working class can one day be free, not only from physical chains but, even better, from ideological chains.

In this context, every human being, boss or worker, is part of one of these ideologies and in many cases, of both. No one can remain outside these areas or this struggle.

Individualism is the bosses’ ideology. Communism is the ideology of workers’ collectivity. I am sure that the assertion of this mechanic, about what he is, about his own being, is superficial.

Even though it is true that he is a person who is not afraid to confront a supervisor or a manager, he must understand that the struggle is much bigger. It is about confronting a whole system of exploitation, with its racist laws, its killer cops, the KKK, the Nazis, etc. This struggle can only be carried out collectively and armed with communist ideas.

It has been my fault, my political weakness, my ideological passivity which is the main reason that this co-worker didn’t say, “I am not a capitalist, I am a communist.” I will correct my mistake and will ask this comrade if he wants to join our Party, which is the force that will lead the unstoppable approach of a new red dawn.

—Los Angeles MTA transit worker



Fighting Revisionism

If anyone suggests that in communism, we will still have racism, pan-Africanism, patriotism, black nationalism and all other social ills, this is in fact naked revisionism. And it is anti-working class.

I want to suggest that this is nothing new. These tendencies must be defeated. They must be struggled against and be exposed wherever they exist. These tendencies are defeatist and reactionary. They have the potential of weakening and dividing the working class.

One can trace these centuries-old tendencies from, amongst others, Germany's Bernstein, the renegade Karl Kautsky, etc. These tendencies are a danger to the working class. They are in fact bourgeois tendencies. Once the working class begins to doubt its ability to change society, to change the world, then we are doomed.

But, no, the working class all over the world has woken up. Even in the remotest areas, the working class is taking up the fight against the bosses' tyranny. The working class as the motive force for change has a powerful engine to eliminate racism, sexism, and nationalism once and for all, never to come back, never to be seen again.

But these are not going to be wished away; they must be struggled against and be overcome. We urge all workers and the poor all over the world to join the International Communist Workers Party (ICWP) in building that society. We have a programme of mobilizing the masses for communism, not socialism which can be reversed to capitalism. Communist revolution will crush and sweep away all the remnants of capitalism.

There can never be a smooth transition from one system to the next. History abounds with these illusions, where we have seen the working class has been butchered by these capitalist schemes. Only the line practiced and struggled for by our party can guarantee the future of the international working class.

We must not deviate from our line but advance it to deeper understanding by putting it in practice now. This means recruiting to the party, leading struggle against our class enemy and spreading the **Red Flag**.

---Comrade in South Africa

Dear South Africa Comrade,

Thank you for your letter. It is a very helpful contribution to our discussion about the fight against racism and racist ideas, now and after we take power.

We fight directly for communism, not socialism with its wage-slavery half-way house, which history has proven is fatal to the revolutionary process. Our predecessors' lack of confidence that the working class can fight for communism was indeed defeatist and reactionary—the essence of revisionism.

We agree with your emphatic declaration that after a communist revolution there must be no concessions, and no compromise with racism, nationalism, or patriotism.

We also agree that racist, sexist, and nationalist ideas will not be wished away, but must be struggled against and overcome. It will take a protracted and principled struggle to sweep away all the remnants of capitalism. The

sharper the struggle before the revolution, the clearer will be the path of building a new communist society without classes or privilege.

We must be clear that we will eliminate, immediately and permanently, all social institutions based on racism, nationalism, or sexism, and will brook no compromise on this question. We will wage unceasing struggle against the remnants of racist, nationalist and sexist ideas and behavior. None of this will happen spontaneously.

--Red Flag Editorial Collective

Freeing Us from the Racism and Sexism of Professionalism

Twice a week I am confronted with undeniable proof that racism and sexism will be challenges even after the revolution.

I teach a math course for engineers, with over two hundred students. Two of them are black. There's not many women either – fortunately the international students provide some diversity.

Obviously revolution alone will not change this situation – it won't result in minorities or women getting engineering training. We are going to inherit a society with, among other problems, highly segregated professions. What will we do about it?

I suggest we can start by abolishing professions as such. Some professions (lawyers, investment bankers, stock brokers) will simply disappear because they do nothing that, under communism, is useful or even makes sense any more. Those that are still useful (engineers, doctors, professors) will be kept but de-professionalized. This means that the former professionals will still have their skills recognized but they won't be part of an elite, exclusive clique (such as "Professional Engineers"). And they will spend a significant part of their time working like everyone else – including physical labor.

And, most importantly, the work done by engineers, doctors, professors, etc., will be opened up to workers in general and especially to

minorities and women. Yes, affirmative action!

Affirmative action under communism will be very different from affirmative action under capitalism. It will mean unleashing the existing skills and willingness to learn of millions of workers.

Affirmative action under communism will not pit men against women, whites against minorities etc. Under communism we will no longer have any incentive to keep staffing to a minimum. So just the fact that, say, a woman gets to do engineering does not mean some man has to give up his dream of doing engineering. Communism will abolish capitalism's bizarre phenomenon of work itself being "scarce."

The other objection to affirmative action is that the new people being brought in will be untrained and therefore incompetent. It's true they won't have the formal certificates - but we'll

abolish them anyway. In fact, as anyone who has worked in a factory, hospital, or university knows, there are plenty of workers, nurses, or grad students who are already at some tasks better than their more "qualified" "superiors."

We can build on this and bring in programs to further train these people (and others). In fact one of the main purposes of professional societies is to prevent people from learning and practising the skills on which the profession is based. Communism will smash these artificial barriers and make integration possible within a relatively short time.

But none of this will happen spontaneously. Racism and sexism are tough weeds that will, even after the revolution, have to be ripped out by their roots. Only the masses can do this.

– Red Professor

FANON from page 8

that spontaneity had its limits, and claimed that peasant revolt "needs control and guidance" by a leadership that provided organization and ideology, which came from "militants" who had run away from the corrupt politics of the towns to the countryside. [WE, 86, 95-6]

The experience of the communist movements in Russia and China had already shown that peasants and rural workers can be a powerful revolutionary force, but they need leadership not just from the cities but from the working class and working class ideas, that is, Marxism. But Fanon was vague about what the ideas of the revolution should be, other than "national independence." He did not live to see the complete failure of national liberation movements to liberate the masses anywhere, from Algeria to Vietnam, despite the heroism and sacrifice by millions.

References: *WE: Wretched of the Earth*, R. Philcox, trans., New York, 2004; *TAR: Toward the African Revolution*, H. Chevalier, trans., New York, 1967.

Next column: Fanon on capitalism and the "national bourgeoisie"

THE FIGHT AGAINST SEXISM: THE FIGHT FOR A CLASSLESS SOCIETY

International Women's Day has been celebrated on March 8 since 1913, most significantly in 1917, when a mass demonstration by women workers in St. Petersburg helped start the Russian Revolution.

For more than a century, the old movement fought sexism by fighting for reforms, from voting to higher pay. But capitalism, by perpetuating class society, has also perpetuated the special oppression of women.

This year, in celebration of International Working Women's Day, we are initiating an occasional series of articles about the history of the fight against sexism. We hope these articles will lead to discussion and more writing. Please send us your letters, comments and articles about history, experiences, struggles, and how communism will abolish sexism.

Women's Work in Pre-Class Societies

How do we know what life was like in pre-class societies, before cities, ruling elites, and organized religion? This period is often called prehistoric, referring to the absence of written—historical—records. To understand what life was like we must use data provided by archaeological discoveries. This data can be combined with observations of societies like that of the !Kung people in southwest Africa who maintained an egalitarian hunter-gatherer society into the second half of the twentieth century. When we do this, we learn that the sexism we have always known is not basic to human nature, but a product of class society.

In the Paleolithic period, before the invention/discovery of agriculture and the domestication of animals, most people lived in small groups of less than 50 people. They were nomadic, following the migrations of animals and

the ripening of food plants on a yearly basis. Although these societies are usually called hunter-gatherer societies, it was the gathering of fruits, nuts and tubers—work done primarily by women—that provided the mainstay of the diet of the people. Later historians, looking back on these societies with the sexist bias of class society, called them hunter-gatherer—as if hunting was their most important feature.

This work, and the production of the earliest textiles such as string gathering bags, was compatible with nursing babies and toddlers—the one task that only women can do.

The earliest symbolic artifacts that we have of these societies are called “Venus figures.” They show women who are fat enough to be fertile, and indicate a reverence for women as the creators of new life. They also show some of the earliest woven garments—women's skirts and belts with fertility symbols.

Burial evidence also tells us how a society saw the worth or status of an individual. It is only after the beginnings of class society that we see differences in the way people are buried. The earliest societies adorned graves with flowers, and later beads, but without distinction between the graves of men and women.

Studying pre-class society teaches us that the division of labor along sexual lines, necessary for nursing mothers, did not result in differences in status. Women did necessary tasks, as did men, and their contributions were valued, as they will be in a communist society.

“All History Must be Studied Afresh”

In the 19th century, scholars knew very little about the social organization of prehistoric peoples. Archaeology was not well developed as a science. The treatment of pre-class society in En-



gels' *Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State* is largely based on Lewis H. Morgan's *Ancient Society, or Researches in the Lines of Human Progress from Savagery, through Barbarism to Civilization*, 1877. Engels' work suffers from an uncritical use of Morgan, including his use of racist terms such as “savagery” and “barbarism.”

This is not to dismiss Engels, who wrote this work as part of his and Marx's commitment to the emancipation of women in a communist society. But many communists since have taken Engels as the last word on the subject. In contrast, Engels himself wrote in 1890, “All history must be studied afresh, the conditions of the existence of the different formations of society must be individually examined before the attempt is made to deduce from them the... notions corresponding to them. Only a little has been done here up to now.”

We hope that readers will help us to study history afresh, and learn the lessons that can help us win the fight for a communist society that will free women and men workers from sexist divisions.

FRANTZ FANON

AND THE ILLUSIONS OF “NATIONAL LIBERATION”

Frantz Fanon (1925-1961) was a writer, psychiatrist and political activist. He defended revolutionary violence, advocated “national liberation” of colonies and wrote powerful descriptions of the lives of people suffering racist oppression. His writings had a significant influence in the mass anti-racist and anti-imperialist movements of the 1960s.

Advocates of Pan-Africanist politics or of “post-colonial” thinking appeal to his works today, without taking into account the complete historical failure of politics like Fanon's. This article is the first of a series that will summarize and criticize Fanon's often contradictory political ideas about racism, nationalism and capitalism from a communist point of view.

Biography

Fanon was born into a middle-class family in Martinique, a French colony in the Caribbean, dominated then and now by a small group of white landowners. In 1943 he left Martinique and fought with the Free French against Nazi Germany. After the war he studied psychiatry in France, and wrote a book attacking anti-black racism called *Black Skins, White Masks*.

In 1953 Fanon took a French government job as head of the psychiatric ward in a hospital in Blida, Algeria. In 1954 an uprising against French colonial rule began, led by the FLN (National Liberation Front), which was suppressed with great brutality by the French army. Fanon and some of his staff sympathized with the rebels.

As the intensity of the fighting increased, Fanon was put in the impossible position of treating Algerian patients who had been tortured by the French cops at the same time as he treated the cops who tortured them and wanted relief from the misery of being a torturer.

By 1956 Fanon, who could no longer stay in Algeria, moved to Tunisia. There he worked as a writer and editor for the FLN newspaper *El Moudjahid*, and wrote articles and books published in France. In 1959 he was appointed ambassador to Ghana by the provisional government of Algeria, where he was diagnosed with leukemia. While fighting the disease he wrote his most influential book, *The Wretched of the Earth*, published in France just before his death. He died in Washington D. C. in 1961.

Liberation of “Man”

Fanon saw the goal of anti-colonial rebellions as advancing toward the liberation of “man,” humanity in the abstract, of no particular class. He did, however, count some classes as allies in this struggle and others as obstacles or enemies.

The Working Class

Fanon thought that the European working class received “social advantages and wage increases” as a result of colonialism. He hoped, however, for support from European workers for anti-colonial struggles as part of the “general process of man's liberation,” despite their economic interests. [TAR, 145]

Fanon did not see the working class of the

colonies as a positive force in the struggle against colonialism. Instead, he wrote that “in colonial territories the proletariat is the kernel of the colonized people most pampered by the colonial regime.” They are “relatively privileged” and have “everything to lose.” [WE, 64] He did not expect them to support the “general process of man's liberation,” as he expected European workers to do. Instead of the working class, Fanon saw the revolutionary classes in the colonies as the peasantry and the “lumpenproletariat.”

“Lumpenproletariat”

Marx used this term to refer to pimps, thieves, swindlers, and other petty crooks. Fanon's lumpenproletariat, however, combines the crooks with the masses of unemployed workers living in shantytowns on the fringes of colonial cities. The “pimps, the hooligans, the unemployed, and the petty criminals,” he wrote, will devote “themselves to the liberation struggle.” [WE, 81-2]. This is both unscientific and insulting to workers. There is a world of difference in political thinking and power between workers who can't find work and the petty exploiters who prey on them.

The Peasantry

Fanon's picture of the peasants (a term which includes rich peasants and rural workers) was an idealized one, ignoring class divisions, although the main support for the anti-colonial struggle in Algeria came from poor peasants and rural workers. He saw peasants as spontaneously

See FANON, page 7