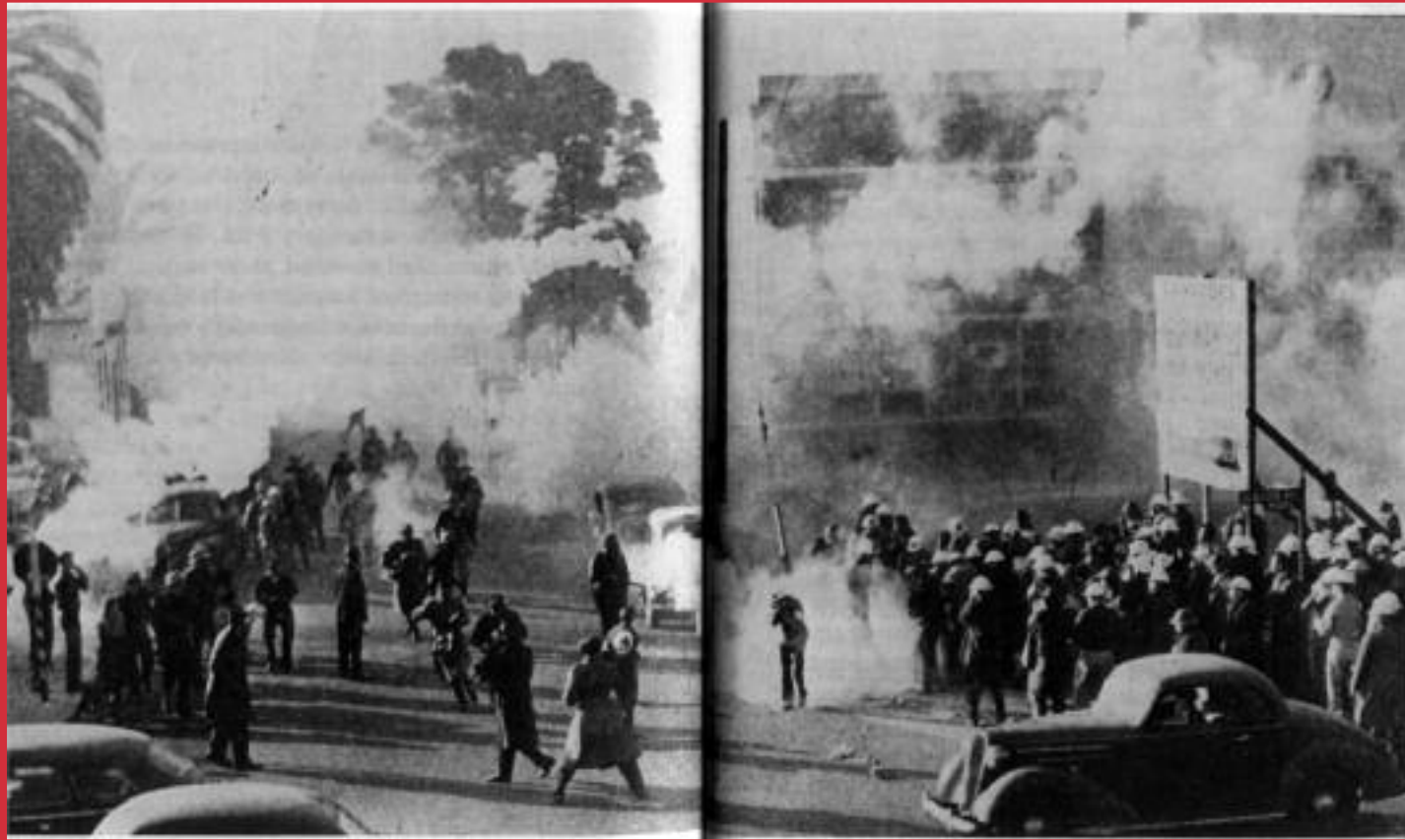


RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

**DETROIT
WORKERS
BATTLE
COPS, 1937.
(SEE PAGE 4)**

WANT INNOVATION THAT WORKS? TRY COMMUNISM!

SEATTLE, MARCH 15—Boeing commercial chief Ray Conner touted the company's "fix" for the lithium-ion battery fires that grounded the new Dreamliner since mid-January during an hours-long press conference in Tokyo.

"How can you call this a fix," asked an incredulous reporter, "when you admit you don't know the cause of the fires in the first place?"

This is no small matter. If the batteries explode, you will find yourself in a plane with no power and a hole in the fuselage. Hundreds could lose their lives.

The "fix," which the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has approved for testing, consists of more insulation between battery cells, a containment box of stainless steel instead of aluminum and a titanium tube to vent out any fumes.

The extra weight makes the battery assembly as heavy as the old nickel-cadmium batteries the new batteries were meant to replace. Even if this fix works it will still be a "wash" according to the chief engineer, saving no fuel whatsoever.

Capitalism: At Best, a Fiasco

"How was this fiasco allowed to happen?" asked a Machinist.

Ironically, the company was making us all take a course on protecting Boeing's "intellectual property" when the battery fiasco hit. The course talked about copyrights, patents and the maze of laws set up to protect the company's profits.

We learned that if a mechanic wants to fix a Boeing plane he or she has to call a special department to get airplane specs and any other pertinent information. Then the mechanic has to wait as his request goes through layers of legal bureaucracy--all to protect intellectual property.

An independent company in Japan makes the new batteries. An Arizona company makes the surrounding electrical systems. A French company designs the whole system. Each wants to protect its intellectual property and profits.

The right hand can't know what the left hand is doing in this system. Contracts and laws define temporary alliances like these.

Communist collectivity is something else entirely. "Obviously, there will be more eyeballs on these critical systems under communism because everyone won't be trying to defend their profits," commented another worker who learned on his own how these charging systems worked.

Communist collectivity fosters innovation. Profits and individual advancement stifle it.

Patent law arose with the dawn of capitalist society in 16th-century Europe. The idea of

"intellectual property" arose with the rise of U.S. imperialism in the 19th century.

At the very moments when science and technology began to soar, capitalism enchained them. It has become a shackle holding back the advancement of humankind.

Communism will mean no private property, intellectual or otherwise. All the creative potential of the masses will be developed to serve the masses.

We'll share our ideas publicly and evaluate them collectively through practice and an open process of criticism and self-criticism. Safety, not profit, will be our "bottom line."

Everyone will understand that ideas don't spring from the heads of a few isolated individuals. Even the most important new ideas arise from collective social practice.

Not only will there be "more eyeballs" on production, as the worker said, but there will be "more brainpower." All workers will know that their ideas to improve production will make life better and easier for all instead of being ignored or used to line the bosses' pockets at our expense.

Marx was right in more ways than one when he wrote, "Let the ruling classes tremble at a Communist revolution. The workers have nothing to lose but their chains." In breaking our chains we'll liberate humanity.

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HUGO CHÁVEZ: REVOLUTIONARY LEADER OR NATIONALIST CAPITALIST POLITICIAN?

“The United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV) will not take up the banners of Marxism-Leninism because it is a dogmatic thesis that is obsolete, and is not in accord with today’s reality.”

—Hugo Chávez (7/22/2007)

The international working class will prove how wrong and traitorous that statement is.

The 21st century will be ours. Within our reach is winning our emancipation from global capitalism-imperialism. The objective conditions for our revolution are rapidly maturing. And, even though still in its infancy, the decisive factor, a mass revolutionary communist party that will lead the masses to take power—the ICWP—exists already in several countries and is developing irrepressibly.

However, as important as the existence of the Party is its political line. Ending capitalist-imperialist exploitation demands ending wage slavery. That means eliminating money and implementing the slogan “from each according to their ability and commitment, to each according to their need.”

Our basic strategy—before, during and after the taking of power—must be the constant mobilization of the masses for communism. That is the only strategy that will guarantee our liberation and the building of a communist world. With this yardstick we measure Hugo Chávez and all the self-appointed revolutionaries.

21st-century socialism of Hugo Chávez: enshrines private property

Hugo Chávez was not a communist. His “21st Century Socialism” is nothing like the socialism for which the 20th-century communists fought in Russia and China. They did want to eliminate private property.

Instead, Chávez enshrined it in Article 115 of the 1999 Bolivarian Constitution of Venezuela. Chávez said, “This is not to nationalize the entire economy. Our socialism accepts private property.”

But the private ownership of the means of production is the basis of exploitation and class society. With this, the capitalists impose their wage slavery on us. By enshrining private property, Chávez condemned Venezuelan workers to the bosses’ vile exploitation.

Chávez’ anti-imperialism: another mirage

Despite his rabid anti-US rhetoric, the US imperialists continue to exploit the Venezuelan working class. Moreover, this exploitation has increased during the Chávez regime. The profits sent to the US in 2010 by the 500 US companies in Venezuela rose to \$2 billion. And, this exploitation is still increasing: the total US investment in 2011 was \$12.1 billion, 24% more than in 2010.

Moreover, the anti-imperialist rhetoric of Chávez only attacks the US. French, Spanish, Italian, Russian and especially Chinese imperialists have big investments in Venezuela. China is its second-largest trading partner after the US, and Venezuela is the largest recipient of Chinese investment in Latin America: 24 times more than in 2003.

Chávez’ social programs: tranquilizers for the working class

In 1989, the Caracazo occurred, a nationwide workers’ uprising against austerity. Although it was drowned in the blood of over three thousand workers, it made the bosses tremble. Fearing revolution, some bourgeois elements—including Gustavo Cisneros, the richest man in the country and the second richest in Latin America—supported the 1998 presidential campaign of Hugo Chávez.

Chávez used a big part of the oil revenues to finance massive social programs that improved in part the living conditions of the impoverished masses, calming their anger and hatred: the goal of the Venezuelan bosses, costing them little or nothing.

These crumbs come from the oil revenue, money that before went to the US. Now, without the threat of revolution, the Venezuelan capitalists continue exploiting and increasing their wealth.



The richest 3% own 70% of the land and the 31 richest families control capital of more than \$150 billion.

In addition, the Venezuelan bosses have stolen and sent to tax havens \$406 billion, 14 times the international reserves of the country, and more than half of the social investment by the Bolivarian government in the last 12 years.

Our struggle: not for socialism but for communism

“Revolutionaries” like Chávez, by declaring themselves anti-Marxists, reject basic and indispensable concepts of proletarian revolution: a communist party and the armed struggle to take power.

They don’t talk about communism because their goal is to reform capitalism. This blocks the revolutionary communist road to the masses who accept these crumbs while the capitalist dictatorship is maintained.

Socialism was never an option for the working class. It was an honest mistake of the 20th-century communists. Its failure, however, shows us that the only alternative is the direct struggle for communism. “Mobilize the masses for communism” is our strategy for the 21st Century.

We call on the working class of Venezuela and the world to advance revolutionary communist ideas and practice, distributing massively our paper Red Flag and joining our Party.



**Workers of the World, Unite
Fight for Communism
International Communist
Workers’ Party
Los Angeles, May Day, 2010**



**JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST
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“YOU HAVE TO EXPLAIN WHAT COMMUNIST EDUCATION LOOKS LIKE”

SEATTLE, WA, March 9— Teachers, students and workers gathered to discuss the movement against standardized tests at ICWP’s “Pizza and Politics” dinner. After a school worker opened the discussion, a H. S. teacher involved in the battle outlined the struggle as she saw it.

“The aim is to ‘de-professionalize’ teachers,” she began. “The idea is to have computers take over teaching, eliminating teacher jobs and benefits while lowering pay. Essentially, they want to make teachers glorified test proctors.”

Some added that standardized tests were part of a standardized curriculum to reproduce capitalism. Others talked about instilling patriotism.

The discussion didn’t really get going until someone said communists should “de-professionalize” teachers. Nobody should just teach their whole lives and everyone should teach at sometime during their lives.

We then began to question whether we should have individual tests, like the ones we’re used to. How do we evaluate progress?

“Don’t get me wrong,” said the teacher, “I don’t believe in tests.”

“You’ll have to explain to me what communist education would look like then,” interjected a college student.

“By the age of twelve, students can help pick what they want to learn about,” the teacher answered. “Why couldn’t they decide, for instance, that they wanted to learn about cars?”

They could go to a car factory and learn from the workers. Not just where this part or that goes, but the science behind it and the math. Teaching would be part of every worker’s duty and the student could produce something socially useful.

We won’t have to break up learning into artificial subjects and we could break the division between mental and manual labor.

“But couldn’t we have some of that collectivity under this system as well?” asked another college student.

“I don’t think you can have collective teaching and learning in this system,” answered a young worker and veteran. “We don’t have collectives today: we have alliances. You make an alliance to get ahead, then you break up.”

Even group projects are designed to get a grade. It would be different if the goal were to produce for the good of the masses, not a grade. Then it would not be so far-fetched that all would be motivated to make sure all learned.

Through this collective discussion, the outlook of those involved in the struggle changed. Self-critically, we waited too long to make the struggle for communist education and evaluation primary.

We would never have been able to clarify the issue if our comrades had held back from the battle around standardized testing. We will make any progress when we understand that what we have to offer is our communist vision. The struggle continues, but now there is light at the end of the tunnel.



FIGURING OUT HOW COMMUNISM WILL WORK

LOS ANGELES — Communism will be based on production of goods (“use values”) for the masses’ needs, not commodities (“exchange values”) to be sold to profit a few. No money, no markets. No bosses, no borders. No exploitation, no privilege. From each according to ability and commitment, to each according to need.

If that sounds good, you’ve got lots of company! We invite you to join the International Communist Workers’ Party and help make it happen.

If you have questions about how communism will work, you’ve also got lots of company! “Who decides what’s needed and who needs it?” “How are leaders chosen?” “How will we keep a few people from using power to oppress others?” “How can the masses be organized locally but united globally?”

Our Party club/study group has been discussing questions like these, raised by members and close friends who are considering joining. We are starting to write up some of our ideas. We hope that many of you will contribute to this discussion.

Short answer: mobilize the masses for communism.

Our manifesto Mobilize the Masses for Communism says that “communism will free the masses to make the decisions that affect us all. . . . Only their full and active participation can unleash their power and creativity. Mobilizing the masses for communism requires the degree of political clarity and organization that only a party can achieve.”

“We won’t rely on laws and cops. We’ll mobilize our class to protect each other from criminal behavior and to deal with those who persist in attacking their class brothers and sisters. Relying on the working class, through its Party, means a high degree of social organization. Everything...will require collective struggle.”

“Mobilizing workers for communism means, first of all, having them join the communist party – the ICWP. The Party’s primary job is to mobilize millions for communism, before, during, and after the seizure of power. These mobilizations enable the Party to grasp what is good for the working class as a whole and organize the struggle to make it happen.”

Here’s a contradiction: We need to mobilize many more people to help develop political clarity about how to organize communist power. But we need more clarity in order to convince them to become part of this process!

What is communist leadership?

One comrade spoke of growing up in a small town where a communist couple was widely respected as leaders: “Nobody elected them mayor or anything. People came to them because they listened. They would show up

for a meeting at the school, or put out a flyer about a racist cop. But eventually they burned out.”

“Maybe they burned out because they were constantly caught up in reformist fights,” someone suggested.

“People respected them and their ideas,” responded the first comrade. “Workers took the newspaper, hundreds of them, and came to May Day marches by the busload. The whole town should have been communists.”

“They mobilized people mainly to be militant anti-racists, and that’s what the whole town did,” said the second comrade. “If they’d mobilized the masses for communism, maybe all the workers would have become communists.”

Some criticisms

Then we questioned some comments recently published in Red Flag.

The article said communist leadership means “making sacrifices.” In contrast, several of us described mobilizing the masses for communism as a “privilege,” but one that is available to everybody. It’s an opportunity to connect deeply with others, to overcome the individualism that isolates us, and to accomplish something meaningful.

Also, we don’t think that leaders are “just workers with experience to share and know-how to teach.” We need to connect communist leadership with mobilizing the masses for communism. That couple had aspects of a communist political line to share, even though it was wrong in ways we understand better now. They got workers in motion around their line.

We agree that nobody, regardless of their assignment or leadership role, should live better than others or get special privileges. In communist society, that will prevent the kind of corruption that developed under socialism.

“This was a useful meeting,” a comrade concluded. “Let’s get more people here next time to continue it.”



After the Chinese Revolution, peasants met in each village to redistribute land according to need.

RISE AND FALL OF AUTO INDUSTRY EXPOSES FAILURE OF THE CAPITALIST PROFIT SYSTEM

Large areas of the city look as if they were devastated by war. Blocks of vacant houses, missing windows and doors, give the eerie look of a city in ruins. The houses where people still live also have the grim look of impending foreclosure: utilities shut down, streets littered with garbage, and broken lampposts. The population has declined over 50%, from 1.8 million in 1950 to 700,000 today. This is not a city in Pakistan; it's Detroit, USA.

The history of Detroit is one of spectacular growth of the US automobile industry and its dramatic decline. It includes the creation of \$billions for the capitalist auto bosses and despair for the working class. It exposes capitalism's crisis and how it inevitably leads to war.

It also includes the heroic struggle of auto workers led by communists when wildcat strikes shut down the entire industry in 1937, inspiring workers nationwide, and leading to general strikes. The bosses called Michigan "a dress rehearsal for Sovietizing the entire country." In 1967, thousands of anti-racist workers and youth fought pitched battles against the cops in the Detroit rebellion—the bosses had to send in troops from the Army's 82nd Airborne Division and the National Guard.

This history of Detroit can only be understood in terms of the laws of motion of capitalism and the absolute need to replace it with communist revolution, creating a society without private ownership of the factories and where nothing is produced for profit.

Rise and Fall of Motor City

The US commercial production of cars, mostly around Detroit, began in the early 1900's. Many auto manufacturers flocked to

the Detroit area to set up factories to make huge profit as transportation was revolutionized. The area grew rapidly in the 1910's, becoming the center of the automobile industry. In 1914, Ford Motors introduced automated assembly lines, giving management the control to speed workers up at will. This new way of making cars gave Ford huge profits: its market share increased from 6% to 48%.

Other capitalists had to retool their factories to compete with Ford. Those who could not raise the capital did not survive. By 1927 the industry had been consolidated into the hands of 12 major manufacturers, producing 74% of the world's cars. The entire industry was now automated, increasing production to 4 million cars a year, but requiring fewer workers. With fewer workers and huge capital required for automation, the rate of profit fell. During the Great Depression, factories became idle again as the market was flooded with unsold cars. During World War II, Detroit produced tanks, not cars.



The Dodge Revolutionary Union Movement brought the fight against racism into the factories in 1969.

After WWII, the US emerged as a major imperialist power, occupying Japan and large parts of Europe. Facing prospects of the working class embracing communism, the US bosses allied with the defeated German and Japanese bosses, allowing them to re-industrialize but not re-arm. Post-war low wages in Japan and Germany and super-exploiting immigrants meant that they started producing cheaper cars than the US. While the US imperialists were forced to invest heavily in defense to protect their empire, Germany and Japan retooled their industry. By the 1960's the US auto industry began to lose market share and has been in steady decline.

Since 1999, China's automobile industry has grown. It now produces 24% of the world's cars while the US share has declined to 8%. But imperialism requires markets and export of capital. US imperialism has less capital to export due to the falling rate of profit. The Chinese imperialists have capital to export but their movement is restricted by US imperialism's military superiority.

Capital cannot sit idle; it survives by extracting surplus from workers. The need for Chinese capital to expand comes into conflict with US imperialism. The auto industry is an example of developments that will inevitably lead to world war.

The heroic struggles of auto workers in the past show the potential for workers, mobilized for communist revolution, to turn world war into communist revolution. Only communist society without exploitation, money, or bosses can eliminate wars, racism, sexism, devastation, greed and despair.

In the next issue: *What are the bosses doing now in Detroit to prepare for World War III?*

Racist Immigration Laws from Braceros to Soldiers:

COMMUNIST REVOLUTION WILL MAKE BORDERS A DISTANT MEMORY

In 1942, the US and Mexican bosses set up what they called the Bracero ("strong arms") Program. Millions of Mexican citizens were promised jobs in the US but in reality were given nothing more than slavery to the US bosses' number-one goal, which was profit. This started during World War II with the excuse of relieving a labor shortage due to American workers being in the military. The bosses kept it going until 1964 because it allowed them to use the racist super-exploitive system to keep wages low and defeat worker organizing in the fields.

Although the Mexican Revolution had promised a better life for Mexicans, millions were barely scraping by. The Bracero Program gave them the illusion that they could earn money in the US to feed their families. Recruiters would go to the poorest villages, seeking people desperate to put up with the worst conditions, turning away those who could read, looking for people who were the most easily taken advantage of. At the border they would get a temporary work permit, and sign a promise to return to Mexico after the harvest. They got sprayed with pesticides, in-



Braceros at the US border, 1944

cluding DDT, leading to life-long health effects. Farm workers today are still exposed to these dangerous chemicals on the job.

The recent plans for immigration reform are a lot like the Bracero Program. The Republican plan, advocated by Presidential hopefuls Jeb Bush and Rand Paul, would keep undocumented workers who applied to regularize their status in some kind of legal never-never land. They could work legally and pay taxes, but they could never apply for citizenship, thus keeping them always in a second-class status. Bush argues that undocumented immigrants have broken the law, and that they should be punished, and that they can never be part of US society. The bosses are the biggest criminals. They have all made their money from the racist exploitation of workers, included those who Bush and Paul would condemn to second class status.

The Democrats are no better. Their plan says that immigrants have to take a US history class and learn English, all while they are working on a job. Immigrants would have to wait for thirteen years to apply for citizenship, and if they lost their job while they were going through this process, they could be deported. This is another form of indentured servitude: you have a job you can't quit, whatever the boss does to you, and you have to be constantly afraid of getting fired, so you'll obviously put up with whatever abuse the boss dishes out.

What the Democrats' plan does is build more patriotism. During World War II, braceros were brought in to substitute for

the men who had been drafted to fight. This time around, the bosses are hoping that immigrants and their kids will be the ones who go into the military when the next war comes around. Democrats are pushing their plan to do this.

What they—and we—don't always understand, is that immigrants, as well as working-class citizens of all "races," are politically up for grabs. It's our responsibility to organize them in their own class interests, rather than to fight for the bosses' interests. Then, with guns in their hands, working-class soldiers can play a key role in making communist revolution. We'll set up a society where there are no bosses to enslave us or profit off our labor, and no borders to divide us. We'll work together to build a new society, where we share and share alike and the borders that the bosses set up to separate us and pit us against each other will be a distant memory.



STUDENTS, TEACHERS HIT US DRONE KILLINGS

Last week about 50 students and faculty attended a forum at a California university on US drone strikes in the Middle East and Africa. Speakers presented material on the political and moral issues about drone strikes. The strikes are supposedly directed against “terrorists.” The US government claims that the number of civilian deaths is less than ten. They got this ridiculous number by defining every male of military age as a combatant. A British group has collected more accurate numbers by combing news reports for Pakistan, Yemen and Somalia, and estimates available for Afghanistan. Best estimates are that drone strikes have killed about 5000 people (US Senator Lindsay Graham admits to 4700). At least 1000 were not combatants of any kind and about 200 were children, ten times as many as the children murdered in Newtown, Connecticut.

Obama’s Kill List

Although the US government usually doesn’t have an accurate idea of who their drones kill, some strikes target those on a kill list personally approved by Obama, a list that includes US citizens (*NY Times*, 5/29/12). The forum discussed a recently leaked Department of Justice memo outlining the rationale for killing people on the list without admitting it or giving any reasons.

Under the Obama administration, the number of strikes is much higher than under Bush, especially in Afghanistan, where the UN Mission reported over 500 strikes in 2012. The US and NATO are losing in Afghanistan and have not been able to achieve their goal there, which isn’t fighting terrorism, but getting access to Central Asian oil and gas. They are now negotiating with the Taliban to try to save something before troops are reduced in 2014. Drone strikes are one of the last cards the US has to play.

Bosses’ Debate Over Drones

Drone strikes provoke tremendous anger and hatred. Some US big shots,

like General McCrystal, former US commander in Afghanistan, criticize the strikes as counter-productive, since outrage over them creates more enemies for the US empire (*Reuters*, 1/7/13). Since John Brennan, in charge of the drone program for years, was just appointed head of the CIA, it isn’t likely that the drone strikes will end, but some changes might be made for public relations purposes.

During the Bush administration, there was a similar debate about whether torture is counter-productive. Obama claimed that he banned torture in 2009 and shut down the CIA’s torture “black sites”. However, he didn’t ban sending people to other countries to be tortured (“rendition”). (*NY Times*, 5/29/12).

Imperialism Means Mass Murder

The Iraq and Afghan wars are largely failed efforts to maintain the US empire’s control in the Middle East. It might be possible for the US government to defend its empire without drone strikes, kill lists and torture, but it does use these, showing the bosses will stop at nothing in their struggle to keep their profits. It is the nature of capitalism for the big capitalist powers to spread their exploitation of workers’ labor and of natural resources into weaker countries, and to struggle against rival capitalist powers trying to do the same thing. This imperialist system produces

wars that kill millions and maintains mass poverty, starvation and misery, with or without drones.

US opinion polls show over 50% favor drone strikes. Partly this is because of US government lies that mass killings in Afghanistan and Pakistan are to protect people in the US, and US soldiers. Racism is a big factor the US bosses count on, getting people to accept the killing of Middle Eastern people that they might not accept if the victims were Europeans or from the US. Using racism is always part of the bosses’ strategy to try to make imperialist wars acceptable, as they tried to in Vietnam.

The Anti-Drone Campaign Needs Communist Solution

Anti-war activists are organizing a series of protests in San Diego for April 4th though 7th, targeting General Atomic, Northrup Grumman and other companies that build drones near San Diego. Red Flag readers who take part should struggle to make clear that drone strikes show that the vicious capitalist imperialist system has no regard for the lives of workers anywhere. We need to destroy this system and build a communist system. Only communism will nurture every worker in the world, give all a dignified life and develop our potential to its fullest.



ORGANIZE MASSIVELY IN THE AEROSPACE INDUSTRY IN MEXICO

In Mexico, 238 aerospace businesses operate in 16 states; more than 31 thousand new jobs have been created. At the same time, about 99 centers of specialized training have been created. They train supervisors, engineers, operators and inspectors. In other words, they are training “the necessary human capital” for the industry.

This has allowed the industry to meet its goals of placing itself in the top ten in the world, exporting \$12 billion of aerospace goods, creating 110 thousand jobs in aerospace (35% of which are engineering positions) and a national integration of 50% of the total manufacturing capital of the industry.

It is expected that by 2015, more than 350 businesses will be created, reaching over \$7.5 billion in exports, a 30% increase. At the same time the Mexican bosses want to implement a competitive industrial platform in less than 10 years. The estimated total domestic and foreign investment recently reached about \$15 billion.

The Mexican Federation of Aerospace Industries hopes for a cycle of industrial growth by controlling market standards. For example, Boeing and Airbus, Bombardier (Canada), Embraer (Brazil), Mitsubishi (Japan), Sukhoi and Irkut (Russia), Comac and Avic (China), have orders for the next five years. In private planes and helicopters there are orders for the next

three years; in addition, they want to widen their supplier base.

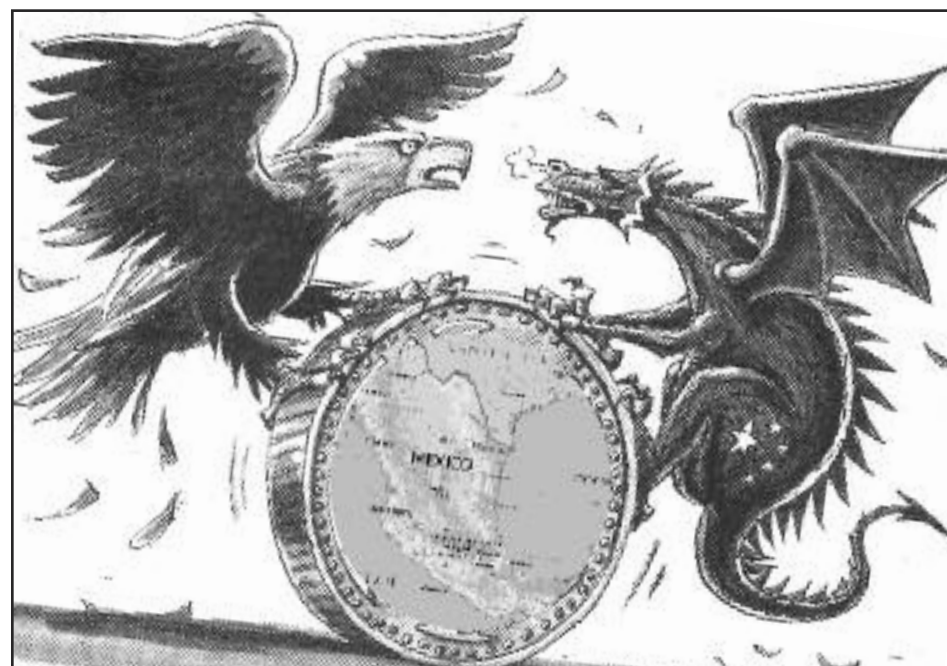
New levels have been established in the

manufacturing base since 2005. The defense market is 4 to 5 times larger than the commercial market, which is about \$620 billion. Government support for the industry is growing, as is the development of the educational system that the industry’s bosses require.

The working class in Mexico must prepare in the face of this scenario, politically developing workers who will be in the factories of other goods and/or aerospace to carry out communist political work.

A comrade who is very much convinced of the importance of this work is preparing in school to enter the industrial area with both urgency and patience, since these war factories will play a key role in the coming World War III. Above all, we have confidence that we can and will develop wide communist relations to win more communists and win the masses to communism.

--A Young Comrade in Mexico



The rivalry between the imperialists is sharpening as the US bosses bring manufacturing, especially for weapons, back to the US and also to Mexico, while rival imperialists also step up their aerospace production in Mexico and elsewhere. The international working class, led by ICWP, needs to mobilize masses of workers for communism in the face of the bosses’ super-exploitation and march to World War. Together, we’ll collectively produce all that our class needs—without competition or profit.

ARGENTINE CATHOLIC HIERARCH: SILENT SUPPORT FOR MASSACRES AND TORTURE

From the Spanish Inquisition to the modern era, the church has promoted systems that from their inception were created by the monarchy to increase political power, weaken the opposition, and reduce social tensions based on oppression, blood and death.

The oligarchy and the conclave elected a new representative of the Catholic Church, Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, now Pope Francisco. He is a Jesuit from Argentina and the first Latin American Pope in history. He is said to be humble, simple and with much compassion for the needs of the poor. However, as the old saying goes, "All that glitters is not gold." In 2005 the *Los Angeles Times* published an article with accusations made by two Jesuit priests accusing Cardinal Bergoglio of basically "turning them over" to the death squads during the military dictatorship in Argentina in 1976-1983.

From 1976 to 1983, the quartet of death: the Argentine bosses, US imperialism, the military and the Church, unleashed a massive repression against workers, students and priests who supported the workers who demonstrated against hunger and unemployment, accusing them of being leftists and revolutionaries. The toll of repression, death, torture and disappearances reached over 30,000.

The butcher, Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, representing the US empire in 1976, gave the order and the green light to the Argentine military to unleash the repression.

The role of the Catholic hierarchy was to di-

rectly support this repression, since it considered this a struggle against communism. In addition to the testimonies of workers, students and the same Jesuits, the journalist Horacio Verbitsky in his book *The Silence*, meticulously details this complicity.

There is documented evidence that Pope Francisco cooperated with the military dictatorship by giving information and being an accomplice to kidnappings. Capitalism has set a new time-table for changes within the Catholic Church and Pope Francisco for now is the ideal candidate to meet these goals, among which is to continue to keep the people submissive and passive.

As a result of scandal after scandal worldwide, the Catholic Church in recent years has lost members, mostly in Europe, the USA and other continents, which has caused alarm. Therefore they now feel forced to modernize certain areas to reestablish the faith of their parishioners. That's why they have engineered the exit of Benedict, forcing him to retire. With this they will try to divert attention from the scandals, including the implication of laundering money.

The work of our party is to work with our class brothers and sisters in the fields, the factories, the hospitals, the universities, the army and in all the corners of our lands and assure them that religion is a tool of the capitalist system that serves to protect the interests of the ruling classes. Therefore a change of Pope will not solve the problems of the workers,

much less do away with hunger or exploitation.

Shoulder to shoulder with Red Flag and ICWP, we can destroy all the enemies of the workers and, by making communist revolution, we can live in a better world of social equality!

--Red Flag reader



Catholic hierarchy blesses the murderous dictator General Jorge Videla, currently in prison for massive crimes against humanity during the "dirty war" in Argentina.

US Insourcing: Cost-Effectiveness or War Preparation?

US imperialism finds itself with a contradiction. In dialectical terms a contradiction has two opposing sides; one dominant, the other subordinate (a primary one and a secondary one), that interfere with each other. One side of this contradiction is the need to export capital and the other side is the need to secure an industrial war capacity.

Currently the main aspect of this contradiction, the dominant side, is the need to export capital. However there is an observable increasing shift toward "insourcing," or bringing back industrial capacity to the US. Thus the question is when will the latter become the dominant aspect of this contradiction, or will it ever?

In order to answer this question we must examine the context in which this contradiction is developing.

The current historical period is marked by a worldwide capitalist crisis whose two defining characteristics are the falling rate of profit and overproduction, not just of commodities but also of capital. The world's markets are saturated with commodities and capital; the fall of the rate of profit is generalized.

In the absence of world war, exporting capital is primary. However, on the eve of world war, securing military production becomes primary and exporting capital secondary. If the US wants to win a world war then it must assure the production of artillery, ammunitions, weapons, tanks, war planes, ships, electronics etc.).

As the world wide crisis deepens and as the inter-imperialist rivalry sharpens, the world's capitalists prepare for world war. For the US capitalists, bringing industrial capacity back to the United States is part of their preparation for

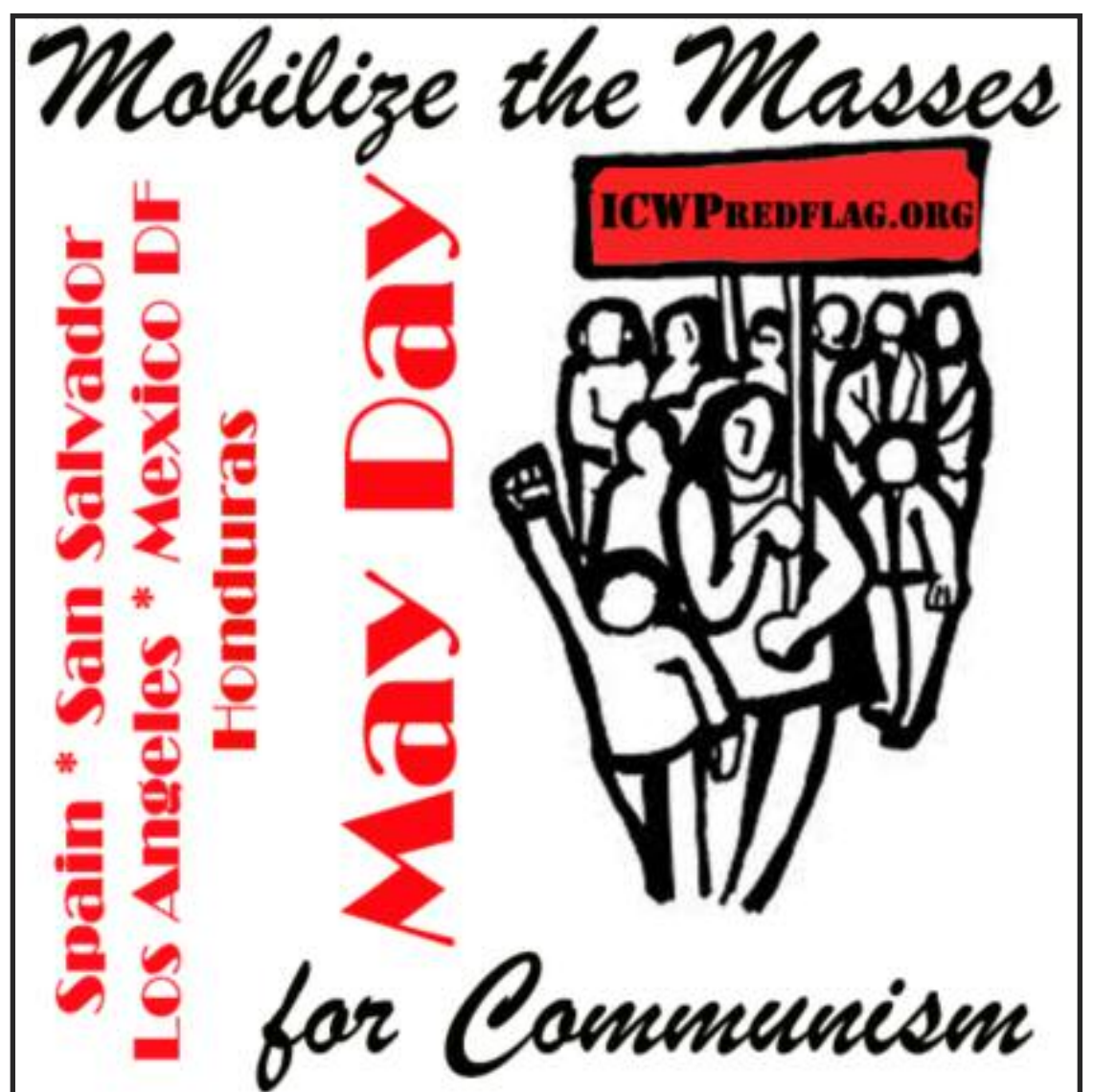
world war.

Bourgeois pundits explain the insourcing shift (bringing back industrial capacity) in solely economic terms; as cost effective and a higher profit margin return. There is, however, a political reason: to secure war production at the home front. Immigration reform and educational reform go hand in hand with this development. The U.S. ruling class is taking the necessary steps and developing the necessary programs

to guarantee the in-home military industrial complex.

The Party must step up efforts to organize military and industrial collectives in the barracks and factories and expand them as widely as possible. These Party collectives must mobilize the masses for communism the best way that they can.

—Comrade struggling to understand political economy



LETTERS

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CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

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



El Salvador: the Emergence of a New "Red" Bourgeoisie and How to Smash It

EL SALVADOR—FMLN/ALBA PETROLEOS, with social programs of health care and food is putting the old local bourgeoisie in check. Those who got used to living comfortably are finding it more difficult today to make the same profits.

In the education sector, what these new bosses have done is to give out crumbs like uniforms and school supplies. With food, it's the same. In health care, there is no free or discounted medicine for workers; they don't hire doctors; nothing is free in the hospitals. You have to pay for everything from exams to a patient's stay there. These so-called reforms haven't affected the capitalist system at all.

The new bourgeoisie passes itself off as leftists, as social fighters, and they use their influence with the workers to keep us from protesting of shutting down their streets. What they do is pass laws that hurt the working class.

They have "friendly" programs like Alba Oil of Venezuela which is promoting economic programs with loans at 1% interest for a 25-year term. But who is going to pay all those loans? The working class will have to pay.

Here capitalism is showing what it is capable of. Workers can't win anything in this bosses' system. You can see this, because the US bosses don't oppose these crumbs, since it isn't costing them anything.

With these socialist programs nothing is being taken away from the traditional capitalists. In this country their profits are intact and guaranteed by a government like the FMLN. These bourgeois groups are only interested in the electoral system because that's where they gain or recover economic power.

This new "red" bourgeoisie, like the old bourgeoisie that is supporting US programs like FOMILENIO 2, are being put in place as preparations for territorial expansion leading to WWII.

While ALBA prepares its strategy through social programs, the US bosses continue preparing for war, whether it is between the imperialists or to take over sources of energy.

Our class must be interested in sharpening

the revolutionary struggle and being more consistent and conscious with our class brothers and sisters. All out for the May Day March!

--Comrades in El Salvador

Angry Students Need Communism

At the high school that I attend we are not able to use the restroom where and when we need to. Restrooms are closed during passing periods and sometimes during lunch. During instruction, we have to ask like little children if we can go "pepee," as if we high school students are kindergartners. What kind of society do we live in that in our public school system they must control when and where we use the restroom? Everyone uses the restroom, it's nature! Yet we must be treated like a dog who is not potty trained.

Not being able to use the restroom is not the only problem. Our school is more like a jail or a prison. They have security and armed police officers inside and outside our school. They have random searches in the classroom, tardy sweeps and cameras. The police even give tickets to students for being late. They also handcuff students. "They had me on the floor handcuffed like a criminal," said my friend.

Students are treated badly and we are not listened to. Teachers, staff and police disrespect us sometimes because of our ethnicity. But what happens at my school happens in most public high schools.

All of this would not happen if we were in a communist world.

In a communist world education will be different. We will not be put in oppressive and controlling environments. We will not sit in a chair in a four-wall room all day long and do book-work and listen to a teacher talk. The difference between teacher and student will disappear, we will learn together.

Our knowledge will be based on combining theory and practice and on eliminating the division of mental and manual labor. We will all learn mathematics, agriculture and all the other sciences that will help humanity create a more just society.

We will all contribute. We will all be treated equal. No one will be higher or lower than anybody. We would all get what we need with communism.

Another friend said, "I think education will be more helpful in a communist world because education today is full of lies, and the teachers teach us that communism is bad, but I don't believe them."

This is why we study and discuss Red Flag, and distribute the paper widely to students, workers and soldiers. Let's march on May Day with the International Communist Workers' Party! .

—Red Student



BROOKLYN, NY, March 17—"There will be peace if we have justice," declared the mother of Kimani Gray, 16, who was murdered by cops on March 9th. Kimani's friends and other neighborhood youth rallied and marched for nearly a week, angrily confronting the racist cops and defying their martial law. "Justice" is an illusion in capitalist society. What we need is workers' power—communism.

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CAPITALIST CULTURE FROM A COMMUNIST PERSPECTIVE

Please send in drawings, photos, or written contributions (no more than 350 words)

Top 10 Lies We R Taught Capitalist Lies

1. Communism is dead.
2. We have "freedom" of speech, beliefs, expression
3. Cops are your friends/only bad people go to jail.
4. We have "equal opportunity"
5. The U.S. smashed the Nazis
6. Humans are inherently power hungry
7. We need to vote to change things
8. Capitalism runs on "supply and demand"
9. The government checks and balances ensures that nobody has too much power and our government works for the people
10. Lincoln ended slavery

CHINESE WORKERS NEED COMMUNISM, NOT CAPITALISM!

Like in the U.S. and many other countries, China faces an unemployment crisis, which includes millions of recent college graduates. Interestingly, there are also many unfilled job openings! However, because they're industrial sector jobs, and most are trained for professional careers, the grads find them undesirable, so they hold out hope of landing an office job. Out of options, the industrial bosses have sharply increased wages and improved working conditions to lure workers. These jobs often get filled by struggling rural migrants or desperate immigrants from Europe and elsewhere.

The crisis is taking its toll on Chinese students, as on students everywhere. Many unemployed graduates feel great shame at not finding suitable work and suicide is becoming more common. A female college student killed herself recently over the guilt brought on by few job prospects and thoughts of being unable to repay her rural farmer parents for her education. Instead of feeling guilty, workers need to understand that China is a capitalist-imperialist country and that they need to organize a communist revolution.

Under capitalism, the bosses teach us to value mental labor over manual labor and we're taught that increasingly expensive college is the only way to have a meaningful life. Students are encouraged to look down on physical labor and we become depressed when financial hardship and education cuts force us to drop out. We are dehumanized to the point that we blame ourselves and dehumanize others until our physical and mental health suffer.

Under communism, mental and manual labor are united and every member of society is valued. Physical and mental health is a priority and we'll finally have the meaningful lives we deserve. There will be no unemployment because more able hands will mean our work will get done faster, so we'll have more time to develop politically and creatively. We also won't have to worry about financial hardships because we'll abolish money and produce directly for our collective needs. Join ICWP and help win the world

The Truth of the Matter:

Schools teach that Lincoln freed the slaves with the Emancipation Proclamation, but he was no abolitionist. At the start of the civil war, Lincoln's primary goal was the preservation of the union. In 1862 Lincoln said, "My paramount aim in this struggle is to save the union, and is not either to save or destroy slavery. If I could save the union without freeing any slaves, I would do it, and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone I would also do that." But black and white abolitionists and almost everyone in the African American community wanted to turn the war for Union into a fight for freedom. Plus there were numerous revolts that preceded the civil war, for example:

1810 to 1863 Harriet Tubman and many others freed slaves through the Underground Railroad

1831 Nat Turner's revolt

1854 Bloody Kansas- a war between pro- and anti-slavery forces.

1859 John Brown led a raid on the Federal Armory at Harper's Ferry

These are a few of the primary reasons why the civil war became a war for freedom, and not only the preservation of the Union. The civil war lasted about 4 years. Over a half million lives were lost.

Almost 150 years after the civil war, we are still living in the same system. Although slavery is "illegal," globally we have wage slavery now. Internationally, workers are forced to work all our lives for pitiful, unlivable, wages. When workers are unable to work any more, they receive welfare or social security and the capitalist rich consider these "handouts." Workers produce all goods to be sold for profits, not to be used to support the needs of the working class.

We need to mobilize the masses all over the world to FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM: a system where there is no money and all goods produced are produced for the needs of our class. Not to be bought and sold to make profits for the rich to stay rich. RACISM WILL BE ELIMINATED. We are all human; therefore there is only one race, human race. We are taught that people have different races to keep people divided. Under capitalism the only true difference is between those who work and those who make profit off those who work.

Join us to fight for communism and the **EMANCIPATION OF THE WORKING CLASS!**

Karl Marx believed:
The class that rules determines a society's culture.

Oprah: Shield for the Ruling Class



The Oprah Winfrey Show aired for 25 years in the United States. **Winfrey has been called the person "who has more influence on culture than any university president, politician, or religious leader, except, perhaps, the Pope," by Vanity Fair.** Winfrey serves the ruling class while making billions!

Winfrey professes her mission is to "empower" her followers. She has endorsed a "self-help" program, *The Secret*, which claims that people can change their lives through "positive thoughts and vibrations" which will cause them to attract more positive vibrations that result in good things happening to them.

She trivializes workers' living conditions by denying the material basis for these conditions and **capitalizes on the working class' desire to change their situation of oppression.** Rather than change having a *material* basis, she convinces many that *ideas* will change their lives. Using Winfrey's assertion that positive thinking leads to good things would have us conclude that lack of money (or that some have an excess of money) really has nothing to do with our situation.

On her website she says, "The energy you put into the world both good and bad is exactly what comes back to you. This means you create the circumstances of your life with choices you make every day."

So if you lose your job, are about to be evicted, or are sick with no health care because you have no insurance, your "bad energy" or individual "poor choices" created these conditions? **We are bombarded by this ideology daily. The function of this ideology (BLAMING THE VICTIM) is to maintain and justify inequality.** It is very isolating to think that it's up to you, the individual, to change your circumstances because you have somehow created them with your bad energy or lack of smartness! It's no wonder the capitalist ruling class has paraded her around to spread her ideology.

Capitalism was designed to keep the capitalists rich while keeping the rest of us as wage slaves—with our allowance for sustenance! The change we need cannot happen in isolation. We need to unite/ORGANIZE to overthrow their system and not fall for their lies or allow them to divert our attention from **CAPITALISM, THE ROOT CAUSE OF INTERNATIONAL WORKING CLASS MISERY.**

The International Communist Workers' Party is organizing to get rid of capitalism and for communism, a society without money and based on workers' needs. **JOIN US; read and distribute Red Flag.**

