

# RED FLAG



NEWSPAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY \* [WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG](http://WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG)

**60,000 Striking Teachers in Honduras Must Fight for:**

## **COMMUNISM, NOT DEMOCRACY OR PUBLIC EDUCATION**

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS March 29—"They're killing us; they have us under siege. There are injured and choking teachers, because the police and military have launched an infinity of tear gas bombs," denounced a teacher who had taken refuge in the building of the National Institute of Teaching (INPREMAH in Spanish).

This attack on thousands of teachers and students is one more of many brutal attacks that the 60 thousand Honduran teachers entering their 5th week of a national strike have suffered, along with the thousands of students and other workers who support them.

Besides demanding 6 months of back wages that the government owes 6,000 of them, the teachers are fighting against the robbery of \$250 million of their pensions, the privatization of public education and they are defending the "Statute of the Teacher."

The teachers, students and workers who support them have resisted the onslaughts of the police and military, defending their demonstrations with huge battles, road blockages, and marches in the main cities of Honduras. Hundreds have been injured, dozens jailed, and one teacher, Isle Ivania, was killed on March 21.

President Lobo has declared the strike illegal and threatened to suspend and fire the strikers. However, they continue on a war footing, and the support they are getting is increasing every day. When they're chased by the police, the people protect them, opening up their homes.

Also, to support them, 14,000 health care workers of the Ministry of Health stopped work on Monday, March 28 for four hours. There is also a call for a

general strike for Wednesday, March 30.

### **Same Enemy! Same Fight! Workers of the World Unite!**

The teachers are fighting the decentralization of the administration of education, which would be transferred to the local areas with the participation of parents and churches. The goal is to control the teachers, who often carry out militant strikes and are the backbone of the mass movement against the government.

Education reform in the US has similar goals. They close public schools and privatize them, while still having the School Boards administer them. In some states teachers are fired and have to reapply for their jobs with lower wages, without a union, seniority, or their old benefits. But most important, the bosses want the educators to teach, without complaint, nationalism and patriotism to prepare the youth for World War III.

The US imperialists are putting all their lackey rulers in line to implement programs that benefit their imperial plans for world domination. They want submissive youth who don't have revolutionary ideas, much less communist ones. They'll need an army of 30 to 40 million soldiers to fight against the Chinese and Russian imperialists.

Many of these recruits will come from countries like Honduras, El Salvador, and Mexico. They'll need millions more to work in their war industries. That's why international solidarity and the fight for communist revolution worldwide are imperative.

### **Public Schools, Unionism, Socialism and Democracy Won't Liberate Any Worker! Only Communism Will!**

Education under capitalism, private or public, only serves the interests of the capitalists. Racism, patriotism, sexism, individualism, and many others, are ideologies that capitalist education pounds into us to divide and weaken us.

**See HONDURAS, page 4**



**Honduran Teachers Confront Cops**

## **LET'S ORGANIZE POLITICAL STRIKES AGAINST MTA BOSSES' AND CAPITALISM'S REIGN OF TERROR!**

LOS ANGELES-To force MTA workers to pay for the US bosses' deepening economic crisis and wars for oil and empire, MTA management has unleashed a reign of terror on its workers to ram down their throats the cutback-contract being negotiated by their pro-capitalist union officials. In particular they target high seniority workers to save money by eliminating these higher-paid workers and stealing their pensions.

*Red Flag* has published several articles and letters by MTA workers exposing these racist, fascist attacks. Below are two of the latest and most widespread:

MTA supervisors are writing up, suspending and firing workers for any violation of company's rules. Recently they've written up 32 drivers for not having maps of their routes and bus stops. According to management this is a serious violation. But drivers don't need those maps. They know them by heart.

The contract - over two years overdue - is also used to terrorize workers. This is intensified by CEO Leahy's announcement that by June he will cut

328 buses, eliminate 9 routes and cut back 11. Bus capacity is being hiked to 52 passengers.

### **To terrorize world's workers, US bosses must start at home**

Trillion\$ are squandered on US bosses' wars for oil, slaughtering millions of workers in the Middle East-Africa. Yet, there is no money for teachers here, public employee pensions, Social Security, or Medicare. The bosses wage war on us to get the money for their wars. For example:

Leahy's racist fascist plan will lay off about 900 MTA workers - 600 drivers and 300 mechanics. It will make life more unbearable for over 140,000 - mainly poor latino and black workers and students - who depend daily on those buses.

Leahy claims cutting 328 buses will save MTA \$23 million a year, or roughly \$70,000 per bus. Each US Tomahawk missile raining death and destruction on Libya cost \$1.5 million. 109 were launched the first day, costing \$163.5 million. This could have kept 2,350 buses running for one year. Instead, it killed 100 civilians and wounded 200.

**See MTA, page 2**



**Los Angeles, March 26  
Marchers Supports  
Honduran Teachers**

### **SEE INSIDE:**

**Bahrain Could Ignite Global War, Page 2**

**Students Mobilize Against Capitalism, Page 3**

**ICWP Grows in El Salvador, Page 3**

**Obama in Latin America, Page 4**

**LA, Wisconsin: Workers Fight Back, Page 13**

**Libya, Ivory Coast, Page 13**

**Workers Have No Rights, Page 14**

**History: Chinese Red Army, Page 16**



## US-SAUDI SQUABBLE OVER BAHRAIN COULD IGNITE REGIONAL OR GLOBAL WAR

The international working class is at a historical juncture. We must decide between communism and capitalism-imperialism. We must decide between a world run by our class for the benefit of the international working class and one run by the bosses for the benefit of the wealthy few.

We must decide between a society where human beings can reach their maximum potential and one where life is cheap, expendable and callously snuffed out. This is ever more crucial as capitalism lurches from war to greater wars. No peace movement can ever stop the bosses' wars for profits and empire. Only communist revolution can.

Although over 35 wars are raging in the world today, wider and deadlier ones lurk in the background. Bahrain is a case in point. As *Foreign Policy*, an influential US ruling class magazine puts it, "While US and international attention is focused largely elsewhere in the region, especially Libya, the violent crackdown against protestors in the tiny island kingdom of Bahrain may well pose a bigger threat to the entire region's stability." (3/23)

Bahrain is a 300-square mile archipelago in the Persian Gulf with 1.25 million people of whom only 500,000 are citizens, 70 % of them Shiites. The rest are foreign workers from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, The Philippines, African countries and others. It produces only 48,000 barrels of oil per day, and has dwindling oil reserves of only 124 million barrels. Why is it so important?

### Because it is not about Bahrain, it is about Saudi Arabia

Although tiny, Bahrain is strategi-

cally important. It hosts the US Fifth Naval Fleet which controls the US naval ships and aircraft operating in the Persian Gulf-Indian Ocean. It's also responsible for keeping the oil flowing through the Strait of Hormuz in case of a conflict with Iran

But in the Middle East, Saudi Arabia is the most important country for US imperialism. Sitting on 250 billion barrels of oil and pumping 8.5 million barrels a day, it is the basis of the US bosses' world domination since WWII. It will take WWII for the US to relinquish it.

### Because if Bahrain's government falls, Saudi Arabia's could be next

"If the pro-democracy movement succeeds in Bahrain, the next in line will certainly be the minority Shiites in the eastern oil provinces of Saudi Arabia." (*Asia Times on Line*, 3/16/11) The province is home to 2 million Shiites and produces 90% of the Saudis' oil.

But, even if that scenario didn't happen, the Saudis are nervous because the fall of the Bahrain's government could radically change the Middle East's strategic order, weakening the U.S. and strengthening Iran. "For now, Iran and Syria are emboldened. Qatar and Oman are tilting toward Iran, and Egypt, Tunisia, Bahrain and Yemen are in play." (*NY Times*, 2/23/11)

Iran's rulers are Shiites. Saudi Arabia's are Sunnis. Iran is taking advantage of Shiite unrest in the Persian Gulf and elsewhere to maximize its influence in its struggle against Saudi Arabia for the region's supremacy. In a move against Iran, the Saudis gambled on invading Bahrain.

### Bahrain crisis shows US declining power in the region

The US is seeking a quick political solution to the conflict in Bahrain. In this regard, Hilary Clinton said that Defense Secretary Gates had delivered a "very strong message to the Bahraini government." That was on Saturday, March 12. His message, however, must have fallen on deaf ears because, at the invitation of Bahrain, Saudi Arabia invaded the country on Monday the 14th.

On Wednesday, March 16, Obama called the kings of Saudi Arabia and Bahrain about quickly adopting political reforms. Their response: "The Saudis... warned both the United States and Iran not to interfere in Bahrain's affairs." (*Foreign Policy*, 3/23/11) The Saudis are questioning US bosses' ability or commitment to protect the House of Saud. They saw what happened to US old ally Mubarak in Egypt.

### Invasion could pit Saudi Arabia against Iran and draw in the US

The US wants to defuse the situation in Bahrain before it explodes. "The situation [in Bahrain] is exposing long simmering tensions and rivalries between Saudi Arabia and Iran and carries the danger that it

will trigger the next regional war. Such a scenario would likely draw in the United States..." (*Foreign Policy* 3/23/11)

Although the US bosses have been probing for an excuse to invade Iran, they can't take advantage of this golden opportunity. The massive uprising of the Arab masses makes it a very dangerous proposition for them. With their henchmen in the region being overthrown or threatened with it, they are scrambling to recoup their losses while working behind the scenes to get new ones in power.

Capitalism-imperialism can recover from anything except communist revolution. Let's commit to bury it forever by mobilizing the masses of workers, soldiers, students and others for communism. Join us! Read, distribute and support **Red Flag!** Help us build our communist May Day contingents!



## MTA from page 1

Leahy says the cuts are mandatory because MTA "cannot survive operating deficits that top \$100 million a year (actually \$180 million)." Obama's "good war" in Afghanistan cost \$100 billion a year – 100,000 US soldiers at \$1 million per soldier per year, enough to run the MTA with no deficits for 10 years.

### Capitalism's horror without end is not new

Capitalism began 500 years ago. It is the most murderous system in history. US capitalism was built on slaughtering 5 million Native Americans, enslaving 4 million black people and super-exploiting hundreds of thousands of indentured servants.

Modern capitalism, especially US imperialism, has turned the world into an ever-expanding house of horrors, where billions of our class live on less

than \$2.50 a day and tens of millions die yearly of inhuman living and working conditions. Now, competition is forcing the European-Japanese-US bosses to impose similar conditions on their workers at home.

### Only communism can end capitalism's horror without end

We need a communist revolution to end this racist super-exploitation, degradation and carnage. For this, we must defeat the bosses' ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism and patriotism that divide and weaken us. But most important, we must defeat their anti-communism which chains us to their electoral farce and reformist trade union politics.

Under communism there will be no money or privileges for anyone. We'll eliminate the bosses, their exploitation and wars for profit. We'll contribute to society according to our commitment.

Working will be made as enjoyable and fulfilling as possible – never fearing getting fired. And we'll receive from society according to our needs, never fearing losing our homes, health care, education or going hungry.

### We Need Communist Politics, Not Union Politics,

Today, one sector of the US rulers wants to destroy the unions. The other sector, led by the Rockefeller gang, wants to orchestrate a nation wide campaign to defend them. We should not fall into either of these deadly traps.

A union contract just sets the terms of our exploitation and wage slavery. As an MTA driver once said, "It only limits the size of the syringe and the amount of blood the bosses suck from us." We need to get rid of the blood suckers! We need to destroy the bosses' wage slavery, not legalize it!

We need to break with the unions' politics that we can reform capitalism

to meet our needs. That illusion destroyed the US Communist Party which in the 1930s led millions of workers to organize unions. Most of those unions are now history. Those that are left and the remnants of that Communist Party are now capitalist agents preaching pacifism, electoral politics and reformism.

In order not to commit this mistake, workers have to join and become leaders and organizers of ICWP. We need to organize political strikes against capitalism's and MTA's reign of terror—strikes that will strengthen our unity and understanding of the need for communist revolution—strikes that channel the workers' rising anger into the fight for communism.

**Join us! Read and spread Red Flag, our class' organizing tool.**

**March with us on May Day – Sunday May 1st.**



**JOIN THE  
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## STUDENTS WALK OUT AGAINST CAPITALISM

LOS ANGELES March 25th .“Walk out for our education! Walk out against capitalism!” read a leaflet written and distributed by high school students this week, denouncing the 4,500 teacher layoffs as a further attack of the worldwide capitalist economic crisis. The leaflet further stated that capitalists will never worry about the needs of the workers and students.

The leaflet ended with “We won’t be marching/walking out for student education only; we will be marching/walking out against capitalism that doesn’t work for us and for a new system. We must mobilize the masses of students and workers for Communism. We need lots and lots of students to participate.”

Students had talked about the cost of the Tomahawk missiles launched at installations in Libya. Each missile costs more than a million dollars, and there have been over 100. The absurdity of the capitalist system came into question. How can you be laying off thousands of teachers while you launch yet another war? These events show that such a system does not work for the international working class and that we need to fight for a different system.

Students took leadership, visiting classrooms to announce the upcoming action. Overnight they made signs and were ready for the day of action. They also came up with a list of chants. They rolled up poster boards to use as makeshift bullhorns. On the day of the walkout, students were texting back and forth on their cell phones about plans. In the end, there were two actions.

Students gathered before school and were met with blaring car horns in support. They marched to the local school district offices, where they questioned the officials about the layoffs and cutbacks. “I have nothing to do with that.

I am not responsible for it. It is out of my hands,” the official responded.

Later in the day, students staged a walkout. Some students went from room to room, pounding on doors, and shouting, “Walkout! Walkout!” School security in a fascist manner moved quickly to electronically lock all of the entrances and exits in the buildings, prompting students to say later, “This school is like a jail or a prison.” School security with pepper spray in hand chased a group of youth who were trying to escape. Close to 100 students managed to walk out and congregated in the school quad.

Some of the youth who led and participated in the student action are young communist revolutionaries in training. We are struggling with them to join the International Communist Workers’ Party and become organizers for the ICWP contingent in the May Day March

Only through a revolutionary communist party will the international working class liberate itself from the absurdity of the capitalist system. We must mobilize the masses of workers for a system of communist relationships, where education and work serve the needs of the international working class, a system in which we will all learn and work collectively for the enrichment of human kind.



The walkouts in high schools last week (see article this page) show that massive attacks on the schools are creating the conditions for fightback. Students, parents and teachers, faced with layoffs, cutbacks, union-busting and fascist controls are mobilizing and open to a communist analysis of the cause of these attacks—and the only solution: the fight for a communist system where education, like all other social institutions, serves the development of cooperative and fulfilling social relations, rather than corporate profit.

Schools in capitalist society are designed to meet the bosses’ needs. US capitalism in the 21st century is in crisis, moving towards World War III, with the urgent need to improve technical training to compete with its rivals and few resources to pay for it.

In a speech at Miramar Marine Corps Air Station near San Diego last week, US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan highlighted this contradiction: “Three out of four young adults are unqualified to join the armed forces, largely because of failures in the nation’s schools.”

And Melody Barnes, Obama’s Domestic Policy Adviser, and AT&T CEO Randall Stephenson wrote at the *Huffington Post* (3/22) that “America has fallen behind” in education, and “we need to challenge ourselves to improve

educational outcomes” in order to “win in the global marketplace.”

The emphasis on science, technology, engineering and math means that in New York City, for example, 4,600 teachers have been laid off while the district increases its spending on technology by \$542 million.

Because schools are funded on a state-by-state basis in the US, the attacks are uneven, but the funding crisis has created the opportunity for fascist attacks on teachers, accompanying the fascist conditions for students. Attacking tenure, tying teacher pay to student test scores, school “turnarounds” and reconstitutions, charter school takeovers, and “bottom-up” school reform are all ways to force teachers to accept cut-backs while they work harder to teach the bosses’ lies.

These attacks create the danger that our friends will be won to defending capitalist education--volunteering at a charter school in the hope of securing a decent education for our children, working for more militant candidates for union office in the hope of stopping the cutbacks and layoffs, writing our own “bottom-up” school reform plan where teachers do the bosses’ dirty work of enforcing teacher discipline, or getting swept up in “youth empowerment” groups that demand a student voice while supporting the bosses’ plans for fascist schools.

But the truth is that capitalist education can never meet our needs. In this mobilization we are fighting against those illusions, increasing the readership of *Red Flag*, building the ICWP and laying the basis for the communist revolution that will build a society where education is to serve the working class, not for profit and imperialist war.

## LIFE IN THE PARTY: WITH COMMUNIST IDEAS IN YOUR BACKPACK

EL SALVADOR--“We hope you can go to the meeting of the committee; we’re going to talk about why things are so expensive and about the gas subsidy,” said a *Red Flag* reader to a comrade from ICWP. “These are important topics. I would go and say what I think as a Communist,” said the comrade. The other responded that he should go.

The day of the meeting there were 15 people, youth and adults. Also another comrade went who distributes 10 papers in another community in which their political school is based.

“Listen, how is this about the subsidy they’re going to give for gas?” asked a worker. Another explained that the container of 25 pounds costs a little more than \$5, and it’s estimated that with the elimination of the subsidy, it will rise to about \$14.50. “The consumers of electricity received with the invoice a folder with the necessary steps to get help, directly and in cash.”

A member of the fmln sent to this type of meeting rapidly stated that this was a benefit of the government for the workers and that if the basic basket of food was too expensive it was due to

the previous governments of ARENA (rightwing party) and he wanted to explain how the procedures would be and how we would be “beneficiaries.”

The coordinator of the meeting asked, “And you, what do you think of the gas subsidy and how expensive everything is?” The comrade from ICWP started by asking, “How much do you think a 25-pound storage container of gas should cost?” A murmur was heard among everyone saying figures, and suddenly he said, “Do you know much it should cost? NOTHING!”

More murmurs, and why nothing? Because the capitalists and their government puppets take advantage of the resources of the earth and make us pay for them, when these natural resources of the earth must be for all without any cost. But the bosses make us think about populist subsidies when in truth what they do is rob the working class charging us and making us think they’re helping us.

And now why do you think there’s war in the Middle East and inter-imperialist struggles the world over? Do you

think that this has any relation with how expensive beans and corn are here in El Salvador? Why do the bosses fight these wars? “For the oil,” answered a youth.

Do you think that Venezuela through Chavez is helping us? NO, he’s making his business selling oil to the US empire and he doesn’t care that we in the third world need for them to not raise the prices of oil now, so that the basket of basic food doesn’t rise more. All the attention was centered on the comrade from International Communist Workers’ Party.

“Here’s a paper called *Red Flag*,” and the reader friend who had a packet of papers started to pass them out and told them to read an editorial that talked about the imperialist wars and all those present started to devour the information and ask where the paper had come from and how to get more for other friends.

The discussion lasted for 2 hours, talking about the international situation and how the bosses around the world exploit our working class and how they take advantage of our labor power and

about the need to fight for a Communist revolution.

The majority made the commitment to keep studying more deeply the political phenomena and not stay at the superficial level of the news that the bosses’ press and government give that only fight for reforms and give small crumbs to the working class.

These types of meetings have been occurring with groups of workers. They ask the comrade from ICWP to attend and to give a political school, because the analysis of the fmln is only based on taking care of voting urns on the day of the elections. These groups are in the poorest areas of the cities and it’s a very big risk to arrive almost in the middle of the night talking about Communism. But it’s a necessity of our class and we’re bringing working class literature Today this collective is distributing 40 *Red Flags* in several communities.

There are youth and adults in these committees, asking now how this May Day 2011 will be and saying that we have to come to commemorate this historic date for the working class, but with a vision of a Communist May Day.



## OBAMA'S LATIN AMERICA TRIP CAN'T REVERSE DECLINE OF US CAPITALISM-IMPERIALISM

### El Salvador:

### REJECT OBAMA AND THE "LESSER-EVIL" IMPERIALISTS

SAN SALVADOR, March 22—“Obama fascist, you’re the terrorist,” shouted hundreds of angry demonstrators as police dispersed their rally — one of many — against Obama’s visit. Honduran, Guatemalan, Nicaraguan, and Costa Rican workers joined workers from El Salvador these protests.

Salvadoran President Funes and the FMLN leadership called on workers to welcome Obama to El Salvador. Their prize for receiving fascist Obama is \$100 million: the government of Funes and the FMLN are exposed before the whole working class as lackeys of US imperialism.



FMLN leader Salvador Sanchez Ceren said, “Having the US President among us is good news; we’re delighted.” A disgusted student told a demonstration that this speech “embarrasses us as they now say that the US empire has changed and is better.”

Salvadoran workers, who suffer the worst poverty in their history, know very well that this visit will not benefit them.

US President Barack Obama’s visit to Brazil, Chile, and El Salvador was an attempt to fight against US decline in Latin America and the rise of Brazil and Venezuela, backed by Chinese and Russian imperialists. China has replaced the US as the main trading partner of both Chile and Brazil.

Obama’s visit also reaffirmed his interest in the neoliberal economic policies of the Funes government. He wants to guarantee a good political climate for US interventionist military policies in Central America. These include monitoring narco-trafficking, satellite surveillance of Colombian military bases in Colombia and the International Academy, successor to the School of the Americas which trained the death squads. In earthquake-prone

Chile, Obama also tried to negotiate a deal to build nuclear power plants.

### ICWP has broadcast to the four winds that the FMLN leadership has sold out.

Instead of fighting for communist revolution, they beg crumbs from the government. They didn’t think of the class struggle but of how to become administrators of the bosses’ system. The worldwide working class must fight against capitalism-imperialism come what may. A president like Obama who won the Nobel Peace Prize and at the same time massacres workers for control of oil is not a friend of the workers.

This kind of person and his lackeys are the workers’ hangmen.

Workers, increasingly angry and unable to live in the old way, can’t fall into the trap of supporting “lesser evil” bosses or imperialists in the coming war for world domination!

We need to reject both the declining US

imperialists and also the rising imperialists of China and Russia. We can’t trust leaders like Hugo Chavez, who recently bought \$15 billion of Russian weapons.

Instead, masses of workers need to mobilize for communism, to get rid of all the bosses and imperialists and their lying politicians. When workers take matters into our own hands, we’ll abolish the wage system, exploitation and national borders. We’ll produce everything for the needs of the international working class. Abolishing money, we’ll put an end to drug trafficking, and to all imperialists.

Join the struggle for workers’ revolution in the ICWP around the world. We must dramatically increase the circulation of *Red Flag*, the most important weapon in our hands. Join a political *Red Flag* readers’ circle today.



**About 500 people gathered in Santiago, Chile, to voice their opposition to visit of Barack Obama. Protesters shouted “down with capitalism” and held signs against imperialism. One group of demonstrators burned the US flag. Others denounced US involvement in the 1973 coup against the government of Salvador Allende. The march was dispersed by police.**

### Brazil:

### COMMUNISM WILL END RACISM, IMPERIALISM, EXPLOITATION

March 21—In a grotesquely racist display, Obama landed in one of the poorest, mainly black favelas (slums) of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, named “City of God.”

In November 2010, thousands of heavily-armed Brazilian police, attack helicopters and armed vehicles laid siege on Rio’s favelas under the pretext of fighting gangs and drugs. The entire population was deprived of electricity, food, sanitation and health care. Scores of black youth were killed. Hundreds were injured. Thousands lost their homes.

The US embassy noted that this racist assault “closely resembles the US counter-insurgency doctrine in Afghanistan and Iraq.”

In this same favela, over a thousand people died in mudslides just two months ago. The racist Brazilian government did very little to rescue workers.

Far from the favela, Obama was scheduled to speak at an open stadium. But angry and violent protests against US imperialism and its genocidal wars forced a last-minute change to Rio’s luxurious Opera Hall. There, over 2000 well-dressed Brazilians who own almost all of Brazil’s wealth eagerly awaited Obama who, just moments earlier, ordered war on Libya.

Brazilian capitalism has expanded dramatically in recent decades. It’s challenging the US bosses’ hegemony in Latin America.

The Brazilian bosses took massive help from the Chinese. Chinese capitalists have made huge investments in the mining and energy sectors, as well as



Brazil has huge offshore oil reserves. The state-owned Petrobras plans to invest over \$500 billion in offshore drilling. During Obama’s visit, the US government offered a \$2 billion loan for this. But the Chinese imperialists already have a \$35 billion investment and a guaranteed supply of Brazilian oil.

“The US has a problem,” said Sergio Gabrielli, chief executive of Petrobras. No wonder thousands of Brazilians are learning Mandarin.

Brazilian capitalist bosses plan to reap billions of dollars in profit from the upcoming world cup soccer and the Olympics. But a popular Brazilian saying is: “In Brazil there are only Brazilians and billionaires.”

Brazilian capitalism has created enormous wealth for a few, but the working class faces grinding poverty, a high cost of living, cramped housing, and intensified racism. The unemployment rate in the mainly-black favelas is 40%.

Obama praised Brazilian “democracy” but workers everywhere must understand that the capitalist bosses’ democracy is nothing but their own brutal dictatorship to maximize profit. It means genocidal wars for natural resources, racist police brutality and unending wage slavery. In capitalist society, everything workers produce is for the bosses’ benefit.

In contrast, communism means a workers’ dictatorship over all the means of production. Workers collectively will decide what we produce and how. Unemployment will disappear as we mobilize all the energy and talent of the workers to defend and extend the revolution, to destroy racism, and to build the world we need.

From London to Los Angeles, from Wisconsin to Egypt and Rio de Janeiro, more and more workers see the impossibility of capitalism. *Red Flag* readers must help them see the possibility and necessity of communism.

space technology and high-speed rail. Since 2009, China has replaced the US as Brazil’s biggest trading partner. Obama’s Brazil visit attempted to reverse the decline of US imperialism in Latin America.

### HONDURAS from page 1

Democracy is the mirage that the capitalists use to hide their class dictatorship. Participating in their electoral farce only perpetuates our wage slavery and gives us the “liberty” of choosing which capitalist hangman—Lobo or Zelaya—will put us in shackles.

Trade unionism blinds us to seeing

that capitalism can never be reformed to meet our needs. Unions conform to plucking some crumbs from capitalism. Wage increases and “political” victories—the so-called “rights,” like the “right” to unions and to assemble publicly—are crumbs that the bosses give and take away when they feel like it (see page 14).

### Mobilize the Masses for Communism

The Honduran working class has a long history of militant struggles, many led by the Honduran Communist Party. Unfortunately the CP mobilized the masses to fight for reformist crumbs, not for Communism. This party got stuck in reformism and ended in the garbage heap of history. We learn from

history. We won’t commit the same errors of fighting for democracy, union reforms or for the failed socialism that is state capitalism. Let’s mobilize the masses for communism under the communist line of the International Communist Workers’ Party. Join us and fight for COMMUNISM. Read and distribute our newspaper, *Red Flag* which is already circulating in Honduras.



## Wisconsin to LA:

# WORKERS CAN'T LIVE IN THE OLD WAY, BOSSES CAN'T RULE IN THE OLD WAY

March 26, LA— “Can I have more papers?” a grocery worker asked a *Red Flag* seller as over 10,000 workers and youth marched against attacks on jobs, benefits and wages. Many came expressing solidarity for the workers in Wisconsin and Egypt.

Two retired aerospace workers said they were marching for “the next generation.” One said his father had been a coal miner, working for a company owned by Andrew Carnegie. They had to live in company housing and shop at a company store. “Carnegie is considered a philanthropist but the money he gave away was all stolen from the labor of workers like your father,” another marcher commented. “That’s right,” said the retiree. He took *Red Flag*.

Over 850 workers gladly got *Red Flag*; 1000 got communist leaflets inviting them to “March for Communism on May Day.” Many donated money, took extra papers and leaflets, and some gave ICWP their names.

Marching workers were very mad at capitalism’s attacks. 19,000 teachers in California are getting pink slips, health benefits and pensions are cut. But the unions and Democratic Party politicians want to direct this anger into voting and reform.

Maria Elena Durazo, head of the LA AFL-CIO, said that unions were willing to give back workers’ benefits but Wall Street should too. As the capitalist crisis

and wars assault workers, Obama, the bosses and union leaders call for “shared sacrifice.” This budget crisis is caused by the bosses’ drive for maximum profits. The massive attacks on the working class are deeply racist. We need to get rid of the problem at its source, the capitalist wage system, not negotiate how much tighter the bosses turn the screws!

### Bosses Quarrel: Workers Pay

Wisconsin Governor Walker represents the wing of US capitalism that wants to shrink the role of government and use the capitalist crisis to increase short-term profits.

Walker’s “budget” bill would have let him sell state-owned power plants to his friends without competitive bidding. His legislature approved massive tax breaks for large corporations and wealthy individuals.

Walker’s heavy-handed attacks obstruct the plan of the main (imperialist) wing of the US ruling class to claim, “We’re all in this together. Let’s all tighten our belts.”

The wealth of Walker’s main backers, the multi-billionaire Koch brothers, comes from domestic oil refineries and manufacture, not Saudi Arabia. They oppose ExxonMobil on environmental and foreign policy issues.

Wisconsin public workers’ unions had already “given back” on furloughs

(pay cuts), health benefits, and pensions. The head of Wisconsin AFT says publicly that he called Walker, offering to give up more!

The Walker forces mainly want to politically weaken these unions so they won’t be able to mobilize a mass base for the Democratic Party and the US bosses.

That’s why the AFL-CIO is organizing massive demonstrations during the week of April 4th — not to defend workers, only their own bureaucracies and the Democratic Party.

These splits among US rulers aren’t new, but the capitalist crisis is much sharper. In this new era, the rulers are far less able to manage differences. They can’t rule in the old way. They

need to mobilize workers to resolve contradictions within their own class. This creates opportunities that communists should seize.

The Wisconsin rallies attracted tens of thousands of people, day after day, even when the unions didn’t call them. One drew 150,000 people in a city of under 250,000, including farmers, shopkeepers, and others who rarely join workers’ struggles.

The Wisconsin struggle has captured the imagination and enthusiasm of masses. Workers occupying the state capital building even got pizza donations from US troops in Afghanistan and from workers in Egypt!

These folks, and the LA marchers, aren’t all in the union leaders’ hip pockets. Neither unions nor reforms nor recall elections can meet their needs. Only communist revolution can.

This is a tremendous opportunity to inspire workers to fight for communism. We should take full advantage of it by increasing the circulation of this paper and building for a communist May Day everywhere.



## From Libya to the Ivory Coast

### INTER-IMPERIALIST RIVALRY SLAUGHTERS AFRICAN WORKERS

March 28. Obama’s speech defending US action in Libya said that the US is not “able to turn a blind eye to atrocities in other countries.” Immediately afterward, the Associated Press made an equally persuasive case for US intervention into the Ivory Coast. “More than 1 million people have fled the Ivory Coast, where the U.N. says forces loyal to the incumbent leader, Laurent Gbagbo, have used heavy weapons against the population and more than 460 killings have been confirmed of supporters of the internationally recognized president, Alassane Ouattara. The Obama administration says Gbagbo and Gadhafi have both lost their legitimacy to rule. But only one is under attack from the U.S.”

While the US has not yet bombed the



Ivory Coast as it has in Libya, when it happens, it won’t be because of “atrocities.” It will be about oil. The West African Gulf of Guinea region has huge oil reserves. The coastal waters of Ghana, Angola, Nigeria and the Ivory Coast have oil that is drilled off-shore, and easily accessible to the US East Coast oil refineries.

But China’s expanding need for oil, and increasing competition for oil, means that Africa is the next battleground for inter-imperialist rivalry between the US and its allies in Europe and its competitors China and Russia. Look closely at any of the wars in Africa, and you will see the hand of the imperialists.

In October, 2008, the US set up a new Africa command to carry out military exercises throughout Africa, and to coordinate US military partnerships the US has with every African nation except Eritrea, Sudan, Libya, Zimbabwe, and Ivory Coast.

**It is US weakness that has forced the military option, faced with the growth of Chinese investment in Africa..**

In October of 2009, China announced a new “Marshall Plan” for development of Africa, committing China to develop the infrastructure needed to extract Africa’s resources, especially oil.

Over the long run, this rivalry will

break out into world war. In the short run, it has already led to civil war in the Ivory Coast.

This war is in some ways a proxy war between France’s TotalFina and Russia’s Lukoil and China’s Sinopec oil companies. The Ivory Coast, a former French colony, is part of the West African franc zone, and its oil was traditionally sold to French oil giant TotalFina.

In elections held in November, 2010, President Laurent Gbagbo, who had granted multiple concessions for off-shore oil drilling to both Russia and China since 2004, confronted Alassane Ouattara, who has worked for the International Monetary Fund in France and counts French President Nicolas Sarkozy as one of his closest friends.

The election commission ruled that Ouattara had won, but the results were contested by the constitutional council controlled by the Gbagbo government.

Gbagbo, in power since 2000, controls the port and all-important cocoa exports, as well as the armed forces and most of Abidjan, the capital. Ouattara is holed up in an Abidjan hotel under a blockade of forces loyal to Gbagbo, protected by UN forces and the New Forces armed group, which controls the northern half of the country.

Obama has sided with Ouattara, leading calls from the United Nations, France, the European Union, the Afri-

can Union and West African bloc ECOWAS that Gbagbo accept the election commission outcome and step down.

The main obstacles to UN intervention in this conflict have been Russia, whose oil company Lukoil has been one of the main beneficiaries of the Gbagbo government’s policies, and South Africa, whose main trading partner is China, and which supports Chinese interests.

Meanwhile, civil war has begun, with a million refugees and hundreds of deaths.

Gbagbo has called this an “anti-imperialist struggle”—claiming that the only imperialists are the French, the UN, and the US. The truth is that the world is now a battle-ground with all combatants paid by one imperialist or another.

Increasing demand for oil as well as global instability has made the oil in the Gulf of Guinea more important than ever for each group of imperialists. All of this is part of the imperialist preparation for a third world war, where these rival imperialists will fight to the last drop of blood of the world’s working class, until we rise up against both sets of imperialists. Egypt showed the potential, as well as the limitations of a popular uprising. It is the task of the ICWP to mobilize the working class for communism.

## WORKERS HAVE NO RIGHTS--ONLY NEEDS

Under capitalism, in the workers sector, as in all spheres of social life, rights are the set of standards and rules of the ruling class erected as laws established and anchored in the bosses' State. Rights are inconceivable outside the State. The State says who has rights and who doesn't; what your wages should be, your standard of living, etc.

In a society divided into classes, when the contradictions sharpen between workers and bosses, the bosses, protect themselves with their laws and the shield of the State. They declare their property untouchable, and establish and reinforce their right to exploit someone else's labor power. In the agricultural sector in particular, in 1965 a boss in Delano, California brazenly robbed part of the wages of his workers.

The workers decided to go to the Labor Commission to complain, but the boss threatened to fire them if they did. Only one worker went to make the complaint. The day of the hearing the worker presented all the needed proof, but he couldn't present any witnesses. The boss stated that what the worker demanded wasn't part of his salary, that he didn't owe anything to any worker. He said that what he did, after paying the workers' entire salary, was to give a tip to each worker according to his work. And, in front of the Judge, he wrote a check for \$30 for this worker.

Since the worker refused this tip, the Judge said, "You workers should be grateful for having bosses who give you money without having earned it," pointing to the check that the worker had thrown on the floor. And he said the hearing was over, declaring as illegal the right of this worker to complain. And, as a punishment for having dared to look the boss in the eye, this worker was fired from his job and put on a special list so that no boss would give him a job.

Inside those four walls, where the hearing took place, the capitalist system was represented. There was the State represented by the Judge and the police. There was the ruling class represented by that boss; and there was the working class, symbolically represented by the worker. They were involved in a labor dispute in which the working class would obviously lose. There are two reasons for this: first, for not having been organized and second, because under capitalism the workers always stand to lose. This is only a small example of what constantly happens in the workers' lives.

The same thing happens in a strike. The bosses go through the courts (the State) and demand that the Judge declare the strike illegal, forcing the workers to return to work. That's how the State reinforces the right of the bosses to continue exploiting the workers'

labor. The bosses generalize the idea among workers that these laws and rights have always existed as an expression of the interests of all people, and that all the actions of the workers against the bosses' interests and the established order are illegal.

However, as the class struggle sharpens, to try to keep workers from opting for revolution, the bosses concede certain things to the workers that they call "rights," like the "right" to strike, the "right" to organize, etc. The workers constantly have to defend these "rights," struggling against the bosses' attempts to take them back by using extralegal means or laws with the blessing of the State.

An example: The workers of the Farm Workers' Union in Delano, California years ago lost the "right" to strike, a "right" they had won in their long struggles in the past. In the collective contract that the leaders of the Union signed with the company Jackson and Perkins from 2004 to 2007, article 10 says, among other things, that, "There will be no strikes, work stoppages, slow downs, boycotts... If any of these things occur, the officials and representatives of the Union and/or the Company, whichever the case, will do everything in their power to end or divert such activity." That's capitalism.

A communist society will be completely different. Under communism,

there won't be laws or rights. The concept of "right" arose with classes. Only the exploiters have had and continue to have rights: the right to private property and to exploit the working class. We exploited only have needs, which only communism can satisfy. The communist purpose and organization of the masses of workers will consolidate the means of production as social property and with that, exploitation will disappear. In a communist society, the best practices of human collectivity will be transformed into custom. That's how society will be run without the need for laws. The pressure on the working class to accept or do what is opposed to their interests will no longer exist.



### RED ARMY from page 16

and its imperialist allies forced the Red Army to retreat. Scattered armies of 310,000 men and women started the 1,800 mile march also known as the "Long March."

#### **CCP Takes Power**

The US imperialists were so afraid of the Red Army that after WWII, the US general staff hoped to send troops to fight along with the Kuomintang against what had now become the Peoples' Liberation Army. This fantasy was never realized because GI's who had just fought to smash fascism would be damned if they were going to go fight against anti-fascists. The local ruling

class was unable to stem the revolutionary tide and in 1949, with the Peoples' Liberation Army having grown to over 4,000,000 soldiers, the Chinese Communist Party took state power.

#### **Wage System Reverses Communist Relations**

Unfortunately due to revisionism and the fight for socialism, wages and rank instead of communism, the communist supply system was thrown out in the years following the revolution. Divisions, small at first, grew between soldiers and commanders. From the beginning, the CCP leadership followed the "United Front Against Fascism" line of the old communist movement, which meant uniting with, and making concessions to, the nationalist "lesser

evil" bosses against the imperialists rather than only relying on soldiers, worker, and peasants to build communism. This nationalist all class unity and re-introduction of wages and rank eventually turned the PLA into its opposite. It became an army led by reactionaries who crushed the Left forces during the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution in 1966. These Left forces were fighting to re-institute the communist supply system of the Red Army in the whole country.

At its best the Red Army was a standing Army like no other. Born out of the struggle against fascism and imperialism, the army was "a vast fighting organization, writing, speaking group..." who mobilized the Chinese people to

struggle. The army was the chief source of recruits to the Chinese Communist Party. 500,000 troops joined the CCP, one fourth of Red warriors were CCP members.

Mao said, "The task of the Red Army was not merely to fight; it was an armed body for carrying out the political tasks of the revolution." Today, ICWP is fighting to mobilize the masses directly for communism, to make the supply system the practice of all society, with no retreats! JOIN US.

**Next:** The fight for and against the Supply system, nationalism, socialism/capitalism

**WE NEED MONEY TO MAKE A REVOLUTION--AND PUT AN END TO MONEY ONCE AND FOR ALL! CONTRIBUTE TO RED FLAG!**

### GUATEMALA from page 15

ted against; only 12% are white, Asian or black Caribbean. The minimum wage for city workers and farm workers is \$ 273 a month and \$ 257 for textile workers, who are mostly indigenous. 58% of the population has in-

comes below the extreme poverty level, living mostly in rural areas.

The few who manage to excel in sports are considered national heroes, which doesn't save them from suffering discrimination because of the color of their skin. Compared to the average worker, the wages of professional soccer players are enor-

mous, even considering that in Guatemala players don't earn what they do the European leagues. That's why we need communism, that's the only way to achieve racial equality. There won't be wages that divide us because we'll abolish money and sport will only for relaxation and recreation.

--Red Flag Fan

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### My first experience at a demonstration was awesome.

One of the best things was actually seeing and feeling the positive energy from everyday workers. I was speaking to my mother and got emotional as I explained to her how great and motivating it was to see workers who agree with our newspaper *Red Flag*, how they were willing to take one knowing that it was a communist paper. It was great seeing some of the workers sing some protest songs and also reach out for our paper.

It amazed me to hear and see a father tell his young son, "This is a political newspaper. It's what I've been talking to you about." That just put a smile on my face and I looked over to the young boy and handed him a paper too. I saw that a lot of everyday workers do think like us, and agree with revolution.

Overall the experience was amazing. I walked away with so much more than I got there with.

--A young comrade

### Bus Driver Denounces MTA Attacks

I would like to share with the readers some of the things that are happening at MTA. Management is looking for any little excuse to suspend and fire workers. Recently, in division 15 for instance, three mechanics were suspended for using their cell phones while "driving." They were driving the buses inside of MTA to move them to where they could work on them. One of them was a lead man who was using his phone to deal with other mechanics about issues on the job.

Also on Monday, March 21st, MTA fired a driver with 20 years of service (2 as part-timer and 18 as a full-timer). He was fired for getting up out of his seat and for getting into an altercation with a passenger. The passenger was a 17 year-old high school student, who had been harassing the driver while on the bus. On his way out, he

stood in the door, keeping it open and preventing the driver from continuing his route.

The driver tried to talk him into getting off. The teenager refused, taunting the driver that he could not touch him because he was a minor. The driver lost his cool, got up and grabbed the teenager by the arm and took him off the bus. Now he is appealing his firing.

On hearing of the case, before his hearing with the company, drivers were mad and wanted to do something about it. The company got wind of it and changed his hearing date from Friday the 18th to the following Monday. Nevertheless, over the last week many workers at several divisions called in sick to protest the firing. It wasn't as effective as it should have been but it shows MTA workers are mad and willing to act.

*Red Flag* is well read and liked. You are doing a great job, keep it up.

--MTA bus driver.

### "Don't Tell Me You're In Favor of Communism?"

A few weeks ago I had a very gratifying experience. In a classroom. While we were waiting for everyone to come to start the topic, the teacher provoked a discussion about the current situation in Mexico.

For several minutes, points of view were expressed and corruption was talked about a little. The teacher said that when any person rises to power generally they forget where they came from and their ideals. I contradicted this point of view, saying that in these cases they respond to the interests of the most powerful.

The discussion continued and another student commented that he couldn't understand why Carlos Slim, being the richest man in the world, didn't have a limit. "What more does he want?" I gave the opinion that what was happening with him and others is the inevitable nature of the capitalist system; the need to compete before another dominates and eliminates him.

The discussion continued and for the first time I could feel a motivating adrenaline. Without hesitation I was able to speak knowing that they were listening to me and that I could leave an important idea with my classmates and with the teacher. I talked about what happens not as something normal to which we can become insensitive, like drug trafficking, the media, inequality, things that exist in our reality and that shouldn't be like they are even though the bosses want us to believe they should.

The teacher, a man with experience, rapidly deduced and openly

asked, don't tell me you're in favor of communism? At the same time, another classmate and I said, "yes," and another said, "no." The one who said "no" argued that communism is a utopia and that previous experiences in history show that it can't be like that, that it requires a previous transition period.

After that I commented that it requires a process of consciousness. Two things marked this day's satisfaction: 1) that I could express myself openly, excited and knowing that more people were listening to the ideas and 2) knowing that more people agree with communism and one more who will soon read *Red Flag* and that there's a possibility to make ICWP bigger, and someone more with whom to discuss fully that yes, communism is possible.

--Student Comrade

### ICWP the leader of my life

It's hard for me to write about this point. I hope it helps others like me who want to advance to be leaders. I work in the garment industry, in the city of El Monte, Ca. I'm a happy woman, a communist, in love with the working-class.

I remember one day when a comrade came to visit me in the factory. He noticed that I reviewed every piece that I finished to make sure it was okay. He suggested to me that I not do this because I was losing time, especially because the work is by the piece. But it's my fear of being wrong and having to make repairs, which obviously are not paid for, and the supervisors and bosses then blame you for everything that goes wrong. So I continue to review everything, although many times I know that I've done the work correctly. It's my insecurity

The important point here is that the same thing happens to me when I want to give *Red Flag* to my co-workers and friends. I become paralyzed and I don't know what to do. The same happens with other aspects of my life. I've begun to think that it's not only spontaneously that changes arise, that I have to prepare to face them. I can't go to war with my gun, know how to use it, and in the midst of the battle realize that I'm paralyzed, trembling with fear, not knowing what to do. I've fought with myself, and thanks to the party, I've made very valuable changes in my life, but I don't only want this, I want to be a leader who helps the working class make a communist revolution, I want to overcome my fears, my traumas, my insecurity, my low self-esteem, all products of this capitalist system. If anyone has suggestions, they are welcome.

Thanks .

--Communist garment worker.



### Fight Racism in Guatemala and All Over the World

"Here and throughout the world we have to end racism," wrote a reader to the *Prensa Libre (Free Press)* newspaper in Guatemala, after reading that from the stands of the stadium, "a group of mostly youth imitated the grunting of apes whenever a black player touched the ball. They were just a handful, but often were followed by other fans laughing and celebrating."

The player, Marvin Avila, is a black Garifuna, from the Guatemalan Caribbean. This racism had not been reported by the press, until the player himself denounced it and said it was not an isolated incident, and that it had been repeated with other players. The indigenous player Julio Stacuy also said he had been the victim of racist attacks by fans of his own club.

The few who have spoken about it say it's the work of social misfits, copying some racists in Europe and South America, because in Guatemala we are all equal.

It looks like a Kafkaesque scene. Most fans who shouted racist insults have dark skin and pronounced indigenous features, like the majority of the inhabitants of this country.

This is capitalism. Only Communism will end racism. The revisionists, the fake left, have not said anything either. They hide their racist prejudices behind their populist and nationalist arguments, behind these slogans that led to the deaths of hundreds of thousands of workers in the fascist onslaught of the bourgeoisie in the past 50 years.

Guatemala is a country of 14 million inhabitants, where more than 48%, are categorized as indigenous, 40% have left their customs and culture, and have "Ladino-ized" to get away from the stigma of being an Indian, which means feeling more discriminated.

**See GUATEMALA, page 14**

### QUESTIONS:

1. The article on page 14 says that workers have no rights, only needs. Do you agree with that? What would you say to people who want to "fight for their rights"?
2. If capitalist education serves the bosses, what do we say to parents, teachers and students who are fighting to defend public education?

## COMMUNISM IS WORKING CLASS IDEOLOGY

In the last column, we discussed the capitalists' ideology, the lies that express their point of view. The working class also has an ideology that expresses its material interests, the ideas of communism. Although our means for spreading working class ideas are very modest at this point, those ideas have a material basis in the life of the working class.

### Communist and Capitalist Ideology

Communist ideology is the opposite of capitalist ideology in many ways. For one thing, communist ideology is true or close to the truth, and communists always struggle to make our understanding better. ICWP knows that our winning weapon is the fullest possible understanding—by millions of workers—of the truth about capitalism and about communism.

Understanding capitalism leads the way to communism. Capitalism can no longer let us have what we need to live. Capitalism's imperialist wars and economic crises have already led to layoffs and firings, cutbacks, and lost savings, houses, and pensions. In the U. S. Congress, both Democrats and Republicans are determined to cut "entitlements" like Social Security and Medicare. State

governments are attacking public employees, cutting wages, benefits, and seniority. They are trying to destroy unions, even though the unions are already part of the bosses' state machinery. The world capitalist system has already created a planet of slums, and it is squeezing more out of the working class every day

### Communism or Fascism

As U. S. capitalism loses its grip on key oil-rich areas, it must fight more wars—it now has one more in Libya. Rivalry between capitalist powers, especially between the U. S. and China, is bound to lead to larger wars. The capitalists' ultimate response to these severe crises is fascism, a combination of racism, patriotism and repression. Every day, workers' only choice is becoming clearer: communism or fascism.

### Why Communism is Working Class Ideology

Communism is a society without privilege, ruled by the mass mobilization of the working class without bosses. So far, however, only a minority of workers are committed to this goal. How can we be confident that this will change? Or, speaking materialistically, what is the material basis for mass ac-

ceptance of communism? The answer has two main aspects: the miserable future that capitalism has to offer, and the collectivity of the working class.

### Working Class Collectivity

Collectivity has been a key feature of human life ever since humans evolved. It was the way all humans lived until social classes were created. Competition and conflict—the opposite of collectivity—are built into capitalism (even in its socialist form), and their unity is limited except when they have no choice, like facing a major war.

The life of the working class, however, teaches collectivity. Capitalist organization of labor forces workers to learn to work together and disciplines us, especially industrial workers. The practical life of the working class also teaches collectivity. If your car breaks down and you can't afford to fix it to get to work, you have to organize other workers to help. At a higher level, struggling against the bosses can teach us how to use the power of collectivity in practice.

Capitalism also limits how much collectivity can exist, even in the working class.

"What's in it for me", as well as racism, nationalism, and sexism are types

of boss thinking that are pushed everywhere under capitalism and undermine collectivity. But the working class has a potential for unity and collective action that the bosses cannot equal. More importantly, communist organization of society with mass participation and without privilege, is the highest expression of human collectivity, the ultimate development of the collectivity that workers learn in life.

### Learning to Win

The knowledge of how to win that ICWP has developed so far, based on a theoretical understanding of capitalism and the experience of past revolutions, is critical for communist victory. We must, however, improve that understanding by taking up the collective experience of the working class, and mobilizing the creativity and determination of millions of workers. Only the party can make possible both the correct analysis of our collective experience and the mobilization of the working class that will carry us through to victory, but it can do this only because communism is the true working class ideology.

## THE CHINESE RED ARMY AND THE COMMUNIST SUPPLY SYSTEM

Enemies whispered that they were "invincible." Known by those who hated them as the "red bandits" and by those who adored them and joined the fight for liberation as the "poor man's army," the Chinese Red Army was forged in the flames of fascism. The first

army of its kind, their victory would come despite the odds. From 1927 to 1949 they fought long and hard to make a revolution in China.

### Communist Supply System

Soldiers in the Red Army lived according to the communist "supply system." They had very few possessions. Leaders and rank and file soldiers lived in equality, often marching over treacherous terrain and fighting battles in the same day. There were no wages, only food and a little "pocket money." Instead of working and fighting for wages, soldiers worked and fought for the liberation of their class.

Some Red Army soldiers grew their own food, and gladly shared their small portions with those who didn't have any. Food was distributed according to need...according to age and physical condition. Leaders often asked for less. Collectivity and revolutionary motivation made them brave, committed fighters. Where ever they went they recruited peasants and white army sol-

diers to the Red Army and its communist life style. However, the Red Army leadership had fatal flaws which eventually turned it into its opposite.

### Five Mass Campaigns

The Chinese Red Army was founded in 1927 after splitting from the capitalist led Kuomintang. In 1928 this band of 1,200 led by Chu Teh met up with Mao Tse Tung's band to create the Workers' Red Army, which would eventually become an army unparalleled in history by being steeled in battle. Their first battle, known as the "first annihilation campaign", came in 1930 when Chiang Kai-shek, leader of the capitalist Kuomintang Army, sent 100,000 troops against the Workers' Red Army. The Red Army routed the Kuomintang troops and managed to capture 9,000 rifles.

Four months later was the "second annihilation campaign." This time, the Red Army defeated 200,000 soldiers.

Pressured by the imperialists, Chiang

led "the final extermination of the red bandits" in July of 1931. This battle was nearly the end of Chiang and his Kuomintang because key soldiers mutinied and joined the Red Army, which again defeated Chiang.

Chiang launched his "fourth annihilation campaign" in April 1933 despite the Japanese invasion of China. It was as unsuccessful as the previous ones. By this time, the Red Army base areas numbered over 12 million people. The main force of the Red Army, the first front, had 180,000 warriors, 100,000 rifles and an auxiliary of 200,000 partisans—a huge increase from the fewer who 2,000 soldiers that started the Red Army.

For the "Fifth Annihilation campaign" not only did Chiang sign a treaty with the Japanese, which conceded huge chunks of China to them, but also brought in the former Nazi Chief of Staff, General Van Seeckt, to plan the campaign. This time the Kuomintang

led 300,000 troops in what he ca- [See RED ARMY, page 14](#)



**Mobilize the Masses for Communism!**

**Smash Racism, and all Borders!**

**Put an End to Fascism and Imperialist War!**

**Workers of the World Unite!**

**Join the ICWP Contingent on May Day!**

**Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>**