

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

GARMENT WORKERS SAY, "LET'S MARCH ON MAY DAY FOR A WORLD WITHOUT CHAINS"



I am a garment worker and a comrade of the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP).

We've been hearing in the last few years that the Republican and Democratic Party politicians are fighting among themselves to enact an immigration reform that will benefit their economic and political interests. It's like when a farmer feeds his chickens, not to keep them healthy, but because soon he will send them to the slaughterhouse.

In the factory, we have discussed the "benefits" and obstacles of the reform. A co-worker said, "If they don't give us the reform this year, at least they should give us licenses and work permits." He expressed his desperation to be with his family in Guatemala; the lack of legal documents has forced him to delay his return to his loved ones.

"Who will give us papers (legal documents) to live legally in this country, and at what price?" asked a co-worker without much confidence in the politicians. He believes that there is little chance that they will give us a reform.

Some of my co-workers and friends think that the fight between the political parties is very aggressive and that if they give the reform, it will cost us many dollars. It will be almost impossible to pay these amounts due to the economic crisis and unemployment.

Another doesn't know anything about it and says that she isn't interested.

Some are willing to pay whatever they have to get legal documents. I have been waiting for this moment. I haven't visited my family in Mexico for over 21 years. When my parents died, I could not go. Also, a few years ago, one of my brothers died and I had to say goodbye by telephone.

I think that, yes, they will give us crumbs, and

I understand that we are wage slaves and that after the reform, we will continue to be chained to this sewing machine. My daughter thinks that they will give us the reform and that before they do that they'll require us to sign up for the "draft" (forced recruitment to the army) and that this is one of the motives for the reform, because they need us in their wars. She thinks they will pass laws to force our children and young workers to serve as cannon fodder in the constant bosses' wars.

The immediate needs of many workers will make us accept anything, but this doesn't change the situation. A friend who is an unemployed garment worker waited 21 years for her daughter, who is a citizen, to be able to request to fix her legal status. But with the economic crisis and unemployment so high, it seems far off to be able to fix her papers, since the cost of fines is so high, and what the vampire lawyers charge will be impossible.

In capitalism all the reforms lead us to live chained to wage exploitation and to serve the interest of the rich. That's why, with reform or without reform, my goal is to continue fighting for a world where borders, money and exploitation don't exist.

We need a communist world where all workers live as class brothers and sisters. Even though it is not easy, I try to take these ideas to my co-workers through *Red Flag*. At the same time I want to invite my co-workers, friends, and all workers, especially garment workers, to march this May 1st with the communist contingent of the International Communist Workers' Party in downtown Los Angeles.

--Comrade Garment Worker in Los Angeles

MTA PENSIONS?

COUNT ON COMMUNISM INSTEAD!

"What's happening with our pensions?" a bus operator from Division 15 asked a *Red Flag* distributor.

"What pension?" responded another bus operator sarcastically when asked the same question. "Most of us who started after 1991 will never see one."

"Why?" we asked.

"For two reasons," he responded. "One is that the way MTA is imposing its work rules and regulations will force many of us to quit or be fired before completing the 23 years of service required for retirement. The other is our health plan." (See box, p. 3)

He continued to explain: "The ones most affected by this are operators hired after September 7, 1991 who were/are between 21 and 31 years of age when hired. If they retire after 23 years of service, they will be less than 55 years old and MTA will not contribute a penny for their health plan. For full coverage, they would have to work another 8 to 18 years!"

"But what does that have to do with pensions?" we inquired.

"After 23 years, you can retire and get your pension in a lump sum, but MTA won't rehire you. You are therefore left with no health insurance when you need it the most. Health insur-

SEE MTA Pensions, page 3

**THIS IS A
3-WEEK
ISSUE.**

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“WHEN THE LEADERS SPEAK OF PEACE THE COMMON FOLK KNOW THAT WAR IS COMING.”—BERTOLT BRECHT

Headlines celebrating Obama’s Israel trip sound like he’s finally earned his Nobel Peace Prize.

Don’t believe it.

His real purpose was to keep the Israeli government in line with US capitalist-imperialist policy in the energy-rich eastern Mediterranean region.

That means trying to defuse the most explosive crises there: the Palestinian issue (see box this page), tensions with Turkey, civil war in Syria, and increasingly powerful Israeli “hawks” who press for a war with Iran that the US doesn’t want.

If Obama’s diplomacy “works” (not a sure thing!) the US will be better able to “pivot to Asia” preparing to confront China and raising the specter of World War III.

At Obama’s urging, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu phoned Turkish President Erdogan to “apologize” for murdering nine Turkish citizens on a boat carrying humanitarian aid to Gaza in 2010. The Israeli activist Uri Avnery claims that the Israeli army (recipient of over \$100 billion in US military aid since World War II) begged Netanyahu to apologize to its longstanding Turkish ally.

That doesn’t mean peace. Instead, it allows “Israel and Turkey to begin sharing intelligence and strategies for managing the common threat they face from Syria — and to increase the pressure on Tehran [Iran].” (*Washington Post*, 3/28/13)

Obama’s speech took a hard line against Iran’s nuclear program and Syrian President Assad’s chemical weapons. The US capitalist-imperialists hope that Israel and Turkey will take the lead against Iran and Syria while taking orders from the US.

They’d better not count on it.

“THOSE AT THE TOP SAY:

PEACE AND WAR

Are of different substance.

But their peace and their war

Are like wind and storm.”

According to a 2011 Congressional report, the United States may need Turkey more than Turkey needs the US. But, Turkey seems to be tilting

away from the US.

Its leading trading partner is Russia, in spite of disagreements about Syria. Turkey’s rulers encourage Chinese investments in Turkish industry and finance and have considered joining the China-led Shanghai Cooperation Group. They have conducted joint military exercises with China since 2010.

Even Israel is “sleeping with the enemy.” Since 2010, Chinese capitalists have invested directly in Israel’s chemical, high-tech, and biotechnology industries. This relationship is expanding.

“Their war kills

Whatever their peace

Has left over.”

Sarwar Kashmeri, of the influential Atlantic Council, says that Obama’s visit “is part of a planned redesign of U.S. foreign policy ... in an age where the basic equation of geopolitics, that superpower = ultimately getting one’s way, no longer holds.” (3/25/13)

Kashmeri considers Syria, Iran, North Korea, the Israeli-Palestinian dispute, and Afghanistan all to be “ticking time-bomb(s) loaded with unforeseen consequences for U.S. national interests around the world, for America’s fragile economic recovery, and for a military still recovering after a decade of non-stop wars.”

He states that all five issues “require the support and active cooperation of Russia, China, Israel, and Turkey.” Instead, Russia and China joined other BRICS leaders at the Durban summit (see article, p. 8) in sharply criticizing the US and its allies.

**“Those who lead the country into
the abyss**

Call ruling too difficult

For ordinary men.”

Obama’s dubious policy of US “energy independence” means rapidly-expanding (and dangerous) “fracking” and offshore oil production. Even if ultimately not profitable, these ventures would be crucial during a world war.

Meanwhile, China’s thirst for Mideast oil and natural gas continues to grow. China has already overtaken the US as the world’s largest net oil importer. Industry analyst Robin Mills calls this “a shift as momentous as the US eclipse of the British Royal Navy, or the American economy’s surpassing of the British economy in the late 19th century”. (*Foreign Policy*, 3/8/13)

No major power wants (or is ready) for world war right now. Looking ahead a few decades, though, it’s hard to see how they can avoid it.

The powerful Hart-Rudman Commission stated in 2001 that “If the United States mismanages its current global position, it could leave us more isolated



“Jews and Arabs building power for the workers” -- May Day 2010, Haifa, Israel

than isolationist [and] major wars involving weapons of mass destruction are possible.”

We are on the edge of the abyss, and only the masses – the ordinary men and women – can save us.

Red Flag insists that ordinary men and women like you, our readers, can and must prepare ourselves to rule. The masses are in motion, from Tegucigalpa to Johannesburg, from Athens to Alexandria. When these masses grasp communist ideas as their weapon, nothing is impossible!

**“WHEN IT COMES TO MARCHING
MANY DO NOT KNOW**

That their enemy is marching at their head.”

Obama greeted Israelis in English and Hebrew — but not in Arabic. He mouthed support for a Palestinian state alongside Israel (the “two-state solution”) even though the US vigorously opposed a UN resolution last fall that gave Palestine “observer state” status in the General Assembly.

Obama had the nerve to tell Palestinians and their Arab allies that “now’s the time for normalizing relationships” when Netanyahu just formed the most racist, reactionary government in Israel’s history! The very day he arrived, the Israeli human rights group B’Tselem released a video of Israeli soldiers arresting dozens of Palestinian children on their way to school.

Of course Obama said nothing about the Israeli “settlers” in the West Bank, heart of the intended “Palestinian state.” The number of settlers has doubled since the 1993 Oslo accords. Netanyahu recently authorized another huge expansion right around Jerusalem. As the Israeli occupation consolidates itself, some say, Israel increasingly resembles its former ally, Apartheid South Africa.

The liberal Israeli dream of a “democratic
SEE Palestine, page 4



“Uniting against privatization, exploitation, and capitalistic rule.” May Day 2010, Haifa, Israel



**JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST
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L.A. TRANSIT WORKERS RAISE MONEY, BUILD FOR MAY DAY

“Comrade, here is the other half of the sustainer I owe, to maintain the Party (ICWP) and communist revolution,” said M. He thus showed his political consciousness and class loyalty, but mainly his revolutionary discipline and conviction. To triumph, it is essential that our ideas and words are supported by facts and acts that show the rest of the working class our seriousness and capacity for sacrifice in the process of advancing and consolidating ICWP and **Red Flag**.

Pleasantly surprised by this show of deep communist principles, I decided to investigate how they grew, what motivates them and what feeds them. This is why I dared to ask M the main reason for his political strength.

This was his answer:

“I, like Karl Marx, believe that the exploitation of man by man must have an end; that this must disappear.

“Let me tell you, comrade, I grew up in a village of indigenous sugar cane cutters where the Communist Party of Mexico had a broad base of members, who participated actively in reform struggles, that supposedly would lead us to socialist revolution and that from there we would gradually reach communism.

“I strongly believed that it was the correct road, I found no reason to doubt it, since the Russian and Chinese Revolutions were still the inspiration of millions of workers. As the years passed, I discovered the weaknesses of the struggles for reforms, and of socialism, the mother of all reforms. I have come to understand that the struggle has to continue, but by a different route.

“And I believe strongly that ICWP represents the best and most advanced continuation of the process of development of Marxist-Leninist theory. The sell-outs who say that communism is obsolete can go to hell.

“Communism is alive and strong in the pages of Red Flag. And I would like to ask all the members, base and friends of ICWP to spare no effort to support, help and join our forces to ensure that a movement that has so courageously raised the red flag of communism triumphs, because this represents the liberation of so many, many families who

today live in the most brutal and cruel poverty.

“I wish I could give more, but I don’t have more and that’s why we have to involve more co-workers so that they donate to the party. If they lack confidence about where their money goes, then they should get more involved and they’ll realize what it costs to put out the newspaper, the international political schools, the local expenses for workers’ celebrations, the May Day dinner and other things that I don’t remember.”

This conversation with M has given me more confidence in the validity of our ideas. Together we promise that we will struggle for more co-workers to come to the May Day dinner this year. We’ll also ask them for economic donations, because in the majority of cases, it’s not the workers who refuse to give money, but we members who don’t see the importance of asking them.

Arise, all comrades, so that in the cities, the fields, the schools, and the army, the battle-cry of our class is heard and spread through our communist literature. Let’s involve our base, family, and friends so that they invite their friends and so that all of us united are present on International Workers’ Day, bringing the message of the new communist society of which millions of human beings dream world wide.

—Red MTA worker

NEW YOUNG COMRADE ADVANCES WITH RED FLAG

The sale and distribution of **Red Flag** in the center of Mexico City was motivating. For the first time, we invited a youth who is joining ICWP and another active comrade. For the first time four members of the Party went to distribute newspapers and talk with students; usually two of us go to this university. This time, we didn’t go into the classrooms. We stood at the four entrances of the dining room, one at each corner, with 65 newspapers each. The task was to distribute the newspaper and make contacts.

The more experienced members finished at about the same time. And the surprise was that the new comrade didn’t finish, because he was talking excitedly with the students. Also, he was the one who collected the most money for **Red Flag**. We are very motivated by this comrade’s integration into the Party. It strengthens our enthusiasm to advance and to expand our limits.

The questions that we are asked the most are “Where is this Party? Who writes the newspaper? Where can I buy this newspaper?” We answer them immediately that we are an international party. The working class

in different parts of the world writes the newspaper. We are not financed by capitalists, and workers’ contributions help us to continue spreading communist ideas. We tell them that we can bring them the newspaper if they want, or they can get it on the internet.

We continue working to spread the political line of ICWP. We are convinced that communism is the only solution to capitalism and that we will achieve it.

--Comrade in Mexico



MTA PENSIONS from page 1

ance companies may not want to insure you. Yes, you may be young but you gave 23 years of your life and what you are going to get is the boot. If you take money from your lump sum to survive, since you are not 59½ years old, the government will tax you at a 30% rate.”

“So, MTA has you between a rock and a hard place!” we commented.

“Exactly! If you decide to continue working for MTA, you have to sign one of the several pension distribution plans which will give you a monthly check. If you choose this option, MTA invests your pension money to get interest to make those payments. But, even then, if you quit or get fired before age 55, you will still be left with no affordable health insurance.

“Many of us look forward to our retirement, but how long can we enjoy it, when the average MTA bus operator lives on the average SEVEN YEARS LESS upon retiring than the average retiree?” he concluded.

This is brutal inhumane capitalism. Its economic crisis, fascism and future wars will increase this brutality and inhumanity a lot, and fast. We must destroy it and replace it with a com-

munist system administered by the working class – the majority of humanity.

Only then will we cease to be wage slaves to be discarded when no longer capable of producing maximum profits for the capitalists. In a communist society that eliminates money, we will all have creative useful work throughout our lives.

Today, most of us have boring, tedious, stressful jobs, in spite of all the technological advances. Actually, it’s because of them, because science and technology today only serve the capitalists.

Under communism, instead of machinery replacing workers, many more workers will work with the machines, reducing the working hours for everyone. We will then have more time for studying, traveling and enjoying life.

Furthermore, there are over one billion members of our class worldwide who are unemployed or underem-

ployed because capitalism can’t exploit them profitably enough. Integrating them into our society as creative, productive human beings will further reduce the working hours for everyone.

Pensions? We won’t need pensions! They will be history in a society where all our needs will be met from cradle to grave, no matter how little or how much we contribute to society. We will, however, strive to be as useful to the collective as much and as long as possible.

Join the struggle for Communism!

MTA Bus Operators Contract (signed 4/11/2012)

ARTICLE 46 HEALTH PLAN

SECTION 2. AUTHORITY RESPONSIBILITY FOR PAYMENT

(8) For full-time employees who were hired on or after September 7, 1991, and who retire with twenty-three (23) years or more of service, the Authority agrees to pay to the Trust Fund referred to in Section 1b monthly payments as specified below until age sixty-five (65):

Employees Retiring:

At Age:	Authority Contributions:
62 +	100% of the amounts specified in Section 1b
58 - 61	75% of the amounts specified in Section 1b
55 - 57	50% of the amounts specified in Section 1b
less than 55	0% of the amount specified in Section 1b

Destruction of Detroit:

BOSSES' RACIST ATTACK DEMANDS COMMUNIST MOBILIZATION

In the previous issue, we summed up the growth of the US automobile industry in its birthplace, Detroit, and its dramatic fall, which has sped up since China's auto industry took off in 1999. The worldwide financial crisis hit Detroit harder than most cities. In many areas, half the homes are in foreclosure. Thousands of houses have been abandoned and stripped of copper wires, light fixtures, anything that can be sold. There are dozens of blocks with only one inhabited house in a virtual ghost town. The population has declined by over 50%, from 1.8 million in 1950 to 700,000 today.

The city that produced millions of cars and created enormous wealth is today on the verge of bankruptcy. Thousands of workers and their families are bearing the brunt of this crisis, and the ruling class's decision to abandon Detroit, the largest majority-black city outside of Africa.

The Obama administration has granted the city \$40 million to expel poor people from desolate neighborhoods and cut off services to anyone who stays. This shows what the bosses can do whenever they want. It is a vicious, racist campaign to drive black workers out of the city.

This comes on top of the influx of crack cocaine into the cities in the 1980s and the upsurge of prison construction at the same time. It reflects the ruling class's fears of organized, militant black workers like those who rocked Detroit in the 1960s.

This year, the governor of Michigan appointed an Emergency Manager with sweeping powers to "revive" the city with fascist decrees. This has generated even more anger at the banks and the government.

According to a spokesperson for the Moratorium NOW Coalition against Foreclosures, "The Emergency Manager Law's sole purpose is to guarantee the city's debt payments to the same racist banks which drove 250,000 people out of Detroit through predatory lending and foreclosures, at the expense of necessary services for the people. Detroit paid \$600 million in debt to the

banks last year."

Thus capitalism guarantees that the banks get paid first. If elected officials can't do the job, they will be replaced by the Emergency Manager, who can abolish any union contract, bypass local elected officials, shut down services, and take over school administrations. The pay and pensions of public sector workers like teachers and bus drivers will be slashed.

This austerity program is like those imposed in Greece and Cyprus by the Eurozone. It is being imposed by US banks in cities and school districts throughout Michigan.

The US auto industry will be rebuilt for world war.

The Obama administration poured \$34 billion into the US auto industry bailout in 2008 so it could retool the US auto industry. However, the growth in automobile factories in the US is not taking place in Detroit. While US cars are still being made in the Rust Belt, the industry is increasingly building automobile factories in the historically lower-wage areas of the South and West.

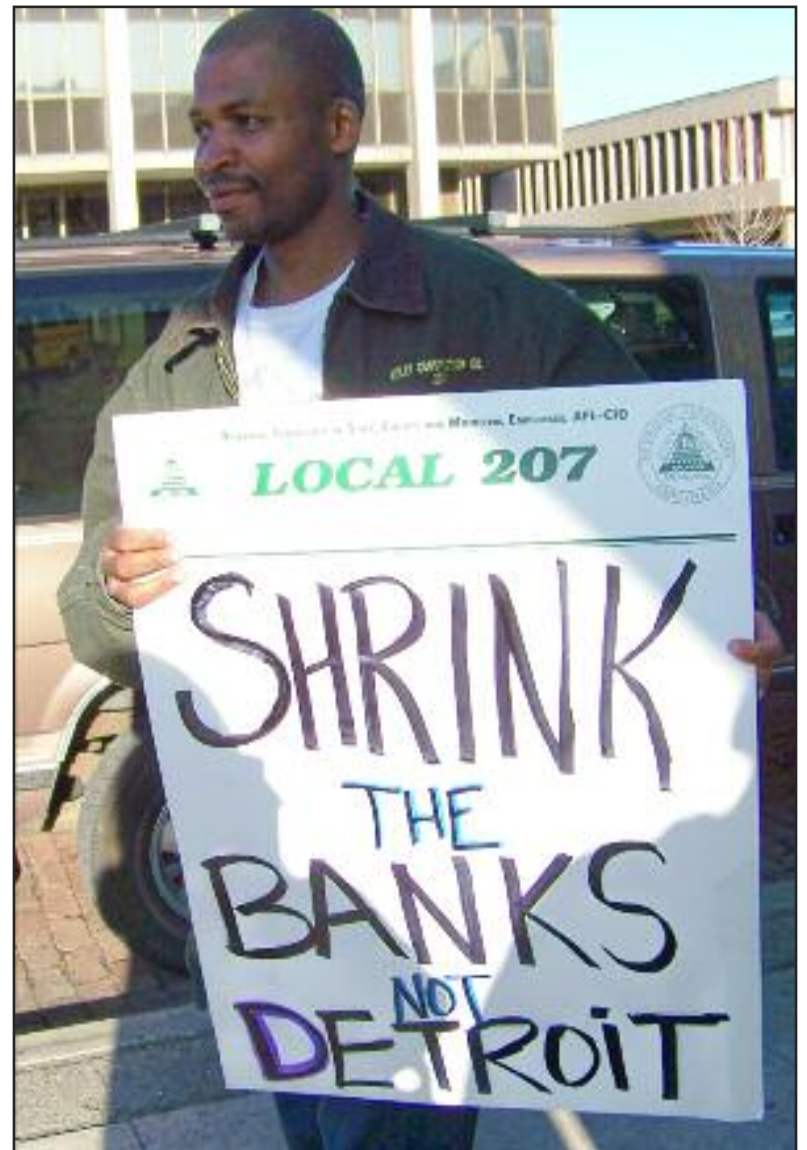
While the bailout and huge cuts in workers' wages and benefits have resulted in windfall profits for the US auto industry, its market share is still in decline. Even with these fascist attacks on workers, the US automobile industry can't compete economically with China, which has double the productive capacity and a market that is growing twice as fast as the US market.

Thus, the only way out for the US bosses is world war. Their retooling of auto factories is largely for the long term, so they can convert them to tanks when world war does break out. (See below)

The usual capitalist mouthpieces,

like Al Sharpton, are in Detroit, filing lawsuits and trying to channel the anger at the Emergency Manager into demands to restore "democracy." But capitalism is in a one-way downward spiral, going from crisis to crisis, increasingly fascist and heading towards world war.

Fighting to reform capitalism only perpetuated wage slavery even when capitalism was growing. It's a fool's errand today. The anger created by these attacks must be channeled into an increased commitment to mobilize the masses for communist revolution, for only society without exploitation, money, or bosses can eliminate wars, racism, sexism, devastation, greed and despair.



Detroit, 1942: Only One Consumer and One Boss

Six weeks after Japan bombed Pearl Harbor in December, 1941, the last Ford car rolled out of the largest auto factory in the world. GM, Chrysler, Studebaker and the rest of the auto industry ended production of passenger cars.

As *Life* magazine reported in 1942, "Now the \$4 billion dollar a year auto industry had only one consumer and one boss – the US government at war." Miles and miles of conveyor belts were retooled to manufacture tanks, bombers, armored vehicles and jeeps.

*Ford Motors started producing one B-24 bomber every hour instead of its popular V-8 cars

*GM countered Ford by producing thousands of aircraft

*Chrysler converted to making fuselages

*Packard, the leading producer of luxury cars, switched to producing engines for fighter bombers

*Detroit Arsenal Tank Plant, operated by Chrysler, became the largest in the world producing thousands of tanks

PALESTINE from page 2

Jewish state" is also rapidly being exposed as an utter impossibility. An Israeli Arab student interrupted Obama, demanding to know "How can you be democratic and support a Jewish country?" He was referring to the fact that twenty percent of the Israeli people are Arabs.

If Israel admits the fundamental humanitarian "right of return" for Palestinians whose families were driven out in 1948, it will cease to be a "Jewish state." But in denying basic bourgeois "rights" to Palestinians, it has become increasingly fascist. Ironically, tens of thousands (mainly youths) have chosen to leave Israel and

settle in Germany.

"I refused to be a victim of the terror the leadership imposes on citizens," one declared. "When things escalate, people can give in or rise up against the regime, - which is what is happening now, fortunately," he continued. (*Haaretz*, 9/6/11)

Israel, Turkey and the US – and China and Russia too —are capitalist dictatorships. Democracy and nationalism have always been cruel lies. In this period of global capitalist crisis, moreover, open fascism is the inevitable face of capitalist dictatorship.

Masses of Jewish Israelis, along with their

Palestinian sisters and brothers, are disgusted with the Israeli government and the Jewish Taliban that increasingly controls social life there. Many Palestinians are turning away, too, from the nationalist so-called "leaders." Many of Obama's former supporters in the US are disillusioned as he increasingly exposes himself as just another capitalist-imperialist war-maker.

Only a united working-class, mobilized for communism now, can solve the problems of the masses in the Middle East and world-wide. Instead of hollow talk of "rights," we'll organize "from each according to ability and commitment" to produce and share what we really need.

Bosses' Courts Show Workers:**OUR LIVES MEAN NOTHING TO THEM**

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA—Last year, *Red Flag* reported on two racist police attacks on young workers: 19-year-old Kendrec McDade and 25-year-old Manuel Diaz. Both were unarmed and both were shot and killed by racist cops. The week of March 23, the bodies investigating each murder cleared all involved officers of wrongdoing.

Courageous, angry, multi-racial masses of workers responded to each murder with days of rebellion, as the masses have for so many others around the world.

Kendrec McDade was killed by Pasadena police a year ago. Cop Griffin shot McDade from inside his police car. Cop Newlen fired as he

chased him. Protests followed, with calls for punishing the racist police who killed him.

But last week the Pasadena Police Department announced that their internal investigation had concluded that the officers “acted within the agency’s policy.” Last December the LA County District Attorney’s office refused to file criminal charges against the cops.

The same week, the Orange County DA announced that the Anaheim cop who shot and killed unarmed Manuel Diaz last summer was “justified.” The police shot and killed Diaz as he raised his hands in the air. There were many days of mass protests and demands for “justice.”

“The police always turn it around to their favor,” said Diaz’s mother.

The one cop who was convicted of a racist murder, that of Oscar Grant in Oakland, served less than a year in jail.

It’s not just the police, or even the District Attorney’s office. It’s the whole capitalist system that is, at its core, a dictatorship of the bosses over the working class. We should be angry, but not surprised, at this whitewash of racist murder.

Capitalist Rulers Do Not Value Workers’ Lives

For them, we are merely an expendable – and occasionally troublesome – source of labor. They fear the might of an international working-class fighting force, united around the vision of smashing capitalism to build a communist world.

Therefore they must attack us in different ways: ideologically, as well as with the weapons of the police. They try to divide us with racism, sexism, nationalism, reli-

gion, etc. When we cast these artificial divisions aside and start to target their system, the bosses must act in a more heavy-handed way.

They often use their courts to lock us away with absurd sentences for trivial offenses. A single conviction can make finding a job doubly difficult, adding further insult to the injury of mass unemployment. Murder is another weapon in their arsenal. When not funneling us into the courts and prisons, the police fill their role as the rulers’ boot-licking attack dogs, by mowing us down in the streets!

Let’s Build the Revolutionary Communist Road!

Our class’s anger and rebellion are justified, here as well as in South Africa, Bangladesh, El Salvador, Honduras, Spain, and elsewhere. Workers are valiantly fighting back with every means at our disposal. However, many mistakenly call for various reforms to capitalism, like for killer cops to be investigated by the same bosses’ government that they work for and obey.

Workers have pursued this dead-end path for too long. Now is the time to turn our collective anger and unmet human need into a mass mobilization for communist revolution! We deserve a world where we work directly to meet society’s needs, not to slave away for someone’s profits and to be terrorized and killed by racist police.

As long as we value our class brothers’ and sisters’ needs as our own, we don’t need police, courts, or bosses! In this same line of thinking, we will fight any last remnants of racism, sexism, nationalism, etc. after a communist revolution.

Join the International Communist Workers’ Party and march with us on May Day, International Workers’ Day – our day!

**Immigration Reform, Bracero Program:****RACIST EXPLOITATION FOR PROFITS AND WAR**

While the final version of the US immigration reform bill isn’t yet complete, the heads of the US bosses’ Chamber of Commerce and the AFL-CIO have agreed to clauses that will subject tens of thousands of Braceros, or “Guest workers” to the most racist vicious exploitation.

The last issue of *Red Flag* described how the racist and dehumanizing Bracero (“strong arms”) program started during World War II and continued until 1964. Through it the US bosses callously “imported” workers from Mexico, without their families, super-exploited them intensively for short periods and then “shipped” them back to Mexico.

US capitalists enacted a similar program in 1986, called the H2A that brings agricultural workers from Mexico to be super-exploited in the fields. A North Carolina shopkeeper commented, “Once the harvest season starts, you hardly ever see them. They work seven days a week from the time they come to the day they leave. I would love to see them have a normal life.” (LA Times, 3/30).

The current proposal would greatly expand the H2A program, allowing between 20,000 to 200,000 “guest workers” annually to work in farming, construction, housekeeping, landscaping and restaurants. It is supposed to adjust the influx of workers to “satisfy labor shortages while protecting workers’ rights.”

This is complete hypocrisy. The US bosses hope to reap super profits from the labor of desperate Mexican workers struggling to escape from the high unemployment, low wages and crushing poverty that US and Mexican bosses have imposed on them. Families will still be di-

vided.

This program attacks the wages and the working conditions of all US workers. The union officials are loyally goose stepping behind their capitalist masters. They prattle about protecting US workers’ interests but are negotiating the miserable terms of immigrant workers’ wage slavery. Instead of accepting these negotiated terms of our exploitation, citizen and immigrant workers must unite to get rid of the wage system by dumping capitalism with communist revolution.

The bosses’ borders create the illusion that we workers belong to “countries” that we should defend. Defending “our country” is really defending the bosses, their profits and empires.

We workers worldwide have no country or nation. Our needs demand that we smash the bosses’ borders and build a communist world where we can travel and live where our collective needs are served best.

Today, the US bosses are preparing for wider wars and world war to defend their declining empire. They need masses of low paid workers, immigrant and citizen, in their factories and fields to work in slave-like conditions without rebelling. They need youth to patriotically fight in their military.

The rulers hope that the very long path to citizenship for over 11 million undocumented people living in the US will also provide a controlled, loyal, low-paid work force. But these same workers can become the backbone of the revolutionary fight for commu-

nism—from the factories, to the fields to the barracks and schools.

All workers, immigrants and citizens, need to join the International Communist Workers’ Party to fight shoulder to shoulder to eliminate racist capitalism and its borders. In a communist world, all workers will be welcome everywhere to help build a society to meet the needs of all, to teach and learn from each other and to build international communist relations of collectivity.

This May Day, the US bosses are using their racist immigration reform to build patriotism for exploitation and war. *Red Flag* readers need to mobilize our friends and families, co-workers, soldiers and youth to march to smash all borders, wage slavery and imperialist war with communist revolution. This is the only way forward for our class.



UNCLE SAM WANTS YOU, TOO!

“In our nation’s capital, I felt an overwhelming sense of patriotism,” announced a student who testified before Congress in favor of same-sex marriage.

Increasing numbers of young people, especially, think that discrimination against gay people is mean and stupid. A Supreme Court decision recognizing gay marriages would be useful to the U.S. ruling class, in line with accepting openly gay enlisted personnel in the military.

As the student said, overturning the so-called “Defense of Marriage Act” (DOMA) would help build patriotism. The Army wants more young adults, gay and straight, to enlist now and to accept a draft later.

Overturning DOMA would allow gay men and lesbians in long-term committed relationships to enjoy over 1000 federal benefits, including health benefits for partners of military personnel. Most of these benefits are only needed because we live in capitalism, not communism. For example, the lead plaintiff in the DOMA case is a woman who had to pay an extra \$300,000 in inheritance tax when her wife died.

(How many *Red Flag* readers have enough property to owe \$300,000 in taxes?!)

In communist society, everyone will have health care. There won’t be money or taxes, or private property to inherit. Children will not be treated as private property to be fought over when parents split up. They, like everyone else, will have their needs met by our collective work and ethic.

Marriage as we know it is a contractual relationship enforced, like other contracts, by capitalist law. Marriage contracts originated with the private-property relationships of class society and the patriarchal religions that justified them. Communist society will eliminate contracts and private property. Thus, the material basis of sexism will be destroyed.

Communists respect long-term commitments built on mutual affection and principled struggle. In communist society, such relationships will be freed from the inducements and stresses of the capitalist money system.

Nobody will enter into or remain in an unhealthy relationship for economic reasons. We will end the production of commodities, a sys-

tem that trains us to think of ourselves and other people also as commodities.

A society based on collectivity and mutual interdependence will foster healthier relationships than are typical in the selfish, what’s-in-it-for-me world we inhabit now. Instead of building sexism through music, movies, fashion and other cultural modes, communism will actively fight the sexist ideology that poisons so many relationships.

We will be better prepared to struggle with each other to strengthen and deepen relationships. Some couples may choose to publicly celebrate their commitment (including religious rites for those who may still want them). However, “marriage” and “divorce” won’t exist.

We know that many workers or their friends have an immediate interest in legalizing gay marriage. But as with any reform, this must not blind us to the even more urgent need to mobilize the masses for communism now. We must struggle hard against the patriotism that the ruling-class builds through reform movements to win our support for their long-term preparations for world war. (See page 2).

LETTERS

Raise Your Fist High This May Day

Comrades in struggle, May Day is coming soon, a day of demanding rights and commemorating the struggle of the working class, a day of workers’ demands.

So I call for us to unite and accompany the worldwide workers’ movement; not with the vulgar electoral propaganda like those so-called representatives of the people, who don’t really belong to the people.

This call is for us to inform the masses about the reality of this petty and unjust capitalist system and to advance our communist ideas of the International Communist Workers’ Party. Inform the workers of the mobilization of the masses to communism!

May Day is the time that the streets, the parks, the plazas become effervescent scenes of fists held high, of rebellious chants and banners with subversive messages that invite the working class to join the struggle of all, of the working class, our class.

I hope that, wherever you are, you join the cry and the raised fist of all the oppressed and know that after May Day you should write to *Red Flag* about the experiences you lived this great day. Forever onward, comrades!

--Young Poet

LETTERS

LETTERS

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS



Young Comrade Inspired by Growth of ICWP

A day in March was very important because I participated in a meeting of a club of ICWP. It took place in the north of the country, in an area where there were huge confrontations in the past between free men and women against the fascist army.

We arrived at five in the afternoon on the dot. As expected, the punctual farmworkers were already waiting for us. We began the meeting and a young comrade like me analyzed the international situation, how the conditions for a

possible world war are developing. He also commented about people who say they are apolitical, when what affects them economically is the cause of their political decisions.

Then another comrade spoke. He said he felt outraged because there were people in a place nearby who lived in extreme poverty and that no one did anything for them. The only exception was when they had elections: the electoral parties used them, coming up to visit them but afterwards forgetting about them.

Another comrade made a very important comment. He said that everything we were saying about theory was very good, but he was tired of working every day for a pittance. It was time to put into practice the whole theory that we were talking about in the meeting because theory without practice was useless. They already have a plan to collectivize the land and the harvest. It is very inspiring to see how the comrades are organizing

around communist ideas.

The last thing we discussed was the May Day mobilization, including transportation to the capital, how literature would be distributed, and who would provide security during the march. Criticisms and self criticisms were made about the participation in previous years and we discussed how to overcome past weaknesses this year.

I returned very happy, knowing that every day there are more of us in the struggle for communism through our party, ICWP.

--Excited youth

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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.

Teacher's Ideas about Communist Education

I have read the article about explaining what communist education looks like. I was not at the meeting so I am sure the article in the last *Red Flag* was a good account of it.

I think Communist education will be nothing like what we know now. It is a bit futile to compare.

The present education is designed to serve and promote capitalism, divide us etc.

Since the society will be totally different, education will serve very different purposes. For example, can you imagine how university would change if they would not train for all these parasitic jobs? We would not need lawyers, bankers, businessmen, insurance brokers, publicists, human resources consultants and probably a few more, so we don't need a faculty of business, law, or media.

I don't think there would be universities or colleges at all. I would see that doctors would be trained and taught in hospitals or clinics.

They would participate in every job of the clinic, cleaning, doing dishes, cafeteria and, of course, jobs of nurses.

A computer scientist in a computer sciences factory and so on...

We would still need tests, but only tests of competency. Tests now have nothing to do with being educated or proficient. It is just about dividing people and making them compete among themselves for a job to serve capitalism. So under communism nothing would be like that.

Of course, where and how would we study history, music, literature?

There would not be a need for a lot of teachers since a lot of learning would be practical (even as social being) and many different people would do it.

Teaching would be another challenge. Even under communism there would be kids who don't like to learn. So the task of teaching would be to discover what would motivate every child to apply himself to be productive.

This is not a critique of the article but what I would have contributed if I were at the meeting.

Anyway in the meantime the teacher I am must go and mark papers.

Take care.

--A Teacher Comrade

Political Economy of Communism

Capitalist theory and education separate Economics from Politics, and both from Sociology, Psychology, History, and Culture. This hides the nature of Capitalism as a social system.

For example, it leads many to think we could somehow "get money out of politics." It tells us that movies are "just entertainment," so we shouldn't try to analyze their politics.

Capitalism's appearance is that most economic decisions (production and distribution) are "market-driven," not "political." But the power to make and enforce decisions is concentrated in a very few hands. Decision-making is very political!

Communism is also a social system. To understand how it will work, we must study its "political economy" (the interrelationship of production with power) along with psychology and culture.

Without money, all decisions, including production and distribution, will be openly political. The Party's main task will be to involve increasing numbers – eventually, everyone – in making and enforcing these decisions.

"How can we know how communism will work when no communist country exists?"

A better question is: "How will we make it work?" An honest answer: We don't exactly know. We need to mobilize the masses into the process of figuring it out, especially through practice.

That means building the International Communist Workers' Party into a mass party, linked through its members to even broader masses, potential future members. Eventually, "the International Party will be the human race," in the original words of the communist anthem *The International*.

We learn from the errors and the successes of past communist movements.

For example, Mao Zedong and the Communist Party of China (CPC) developed the "mass line." They said that party policy had to develop "from the masses, to the masses." One of their greatest strengths was their insistence that communists must not isolate themselves from the masses. Communists had to be "like fish in the sea of the people."

Wait! Drops of seawater don't become fish! This famous slogan was a "mass line" only in appearance. The CPC was huge, but not a mass party as we understand it.

The CPC didn't have to be a mass party because its leadership built socialism, not communism. Socialism was a form of capitalism that portrayed economic decisions mainly as "technical" rather than political.

We must expose how historical forms of communist organization and power were (or weren't) tied to the mistaken economic program of socialism. We need to develop new ideas tied to mobilizing the masses for communism.

—LA Comrade

International Women's Day and the Russian Revolution

March 8th recalls the movement led by Russian women workers who took to the streets of Petrograd in 1917 demanding food for thousands of families who no longer had anything to eat. The Czar had confiscated all the food to feed his army, his police and his family, without caring about the lives of men and women workers or their children.

The women who took to the streets on International Working Women's Day (March 8; February 23 on the Russian calendar) were led by Bolshevik (Russian Communist) women. Their militant actions led to workers organizing a general strike in Petrograd, which became a workers' and soldiers' uprising against the Czar.

Starting with the outbreak of World War I in 1914, and gathering force after nearly three years of war and defeats for the Czar's army, the Red Army arose, led by the Bolsheviks. This same Red Army defeated the Nazis and their accomplices during World War II.

Petrograd was the capital of Russia, where the needs of the workers' families were the greatest. The landowners demanded that the Czar garrison the troops there. So Petrograd was occupied by the Czarist army. Red soldiers joined the Czarist army and won fellow soldiers to overthrow the Czar. The women leaders of the International Women's Day March called on the soldiers to join with the workers in overthrowing the Czar, and the soldiers responded.

The day the Bolsheviks won soldiers in the Czarist army to turn their guns around to defeat the Czar was the beginning of the Russian Revolution. In March, 1917, the Czar fell, overthrown by workers and soldiers, with the important leadership of Bolshevik women workers.

Once the Czar was replaced by the capitalist Kerensky government, the struggle for workers' power continued, led by the Bolsheviks, leading to the revolution in October, 1917.

International Women's Day was proclaimed in August, 1910, by the 2nd International Conference of Socialist Women, meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark. They demanded universal suffrage for women and other reforms to capitalism.

On March 25, 1911, in the Triangle Shirtwaist garment factory in New York, 146 workers died and 71 were injured in a fire caused by the factory owner. This led to mass protests and reform demands for unionization and safe conditions, linked to International Women's Day.

But the most important accomplishment that fixed the celebration of March 8 as International Working Women's Day was the demonstration staged by women workers in St.

Petersburg, Russia, which called for revolution and which helped initiate the Russian Revolution. The celebration of International Working Women's Day should call and build massively for communist revolution to free all women and men workers from the yoke of capitalism!

TO ALL MILITANT WOMEN WORKERS.

TO THE WOMEN WHO ARE EXAMPLES OF STRUGGLE

A NEW DAWN IS COMING!!!

—Male construction worker



Christian peace walk, March, 2013—Communist ideas can become mass ideas!

Note: The New Testament depicts Mammon as an evil spirit of material wealth and greed.

BRICS Summit:**TEMPORARY DEAL ATTACKS WORKERS, CHALLENGES IMF**

“Say what’s the word? Tell me brother/sister, have you heard from Johannesburg” --Gil Scott-Heron’s signature chorus sung during the height of the anti-racist apartheid struggle.

The word seems to be in Chinese these days. Chinese products and investment are everywhere in South Africa. This point was driven home when the five key emerging capitalist powers met in Africa for the first time last week.

Brazil, Russia and India joined China and South Africa in Durban, South Africa for the fifth annual BRICS conference. Fifteen other African presidents attended the summit as observers, along with 2000 delegates.

China is the acknowledged leader. It hopes to shift from a mercantile foreign policy to a more conventional imperialist one through a new BRICS architecture.

China is Africa’s largest trading partner, reaching \$198 billion last year, 19% percent more than in 2011. U.S. trade barely exceeded \$100 billion.

Even so, the export of capital, not trade, defines imperialism. France and the United States still have the highest rate of foreign investment in Africa (*New York Times* 3/26), but China and other BRICS countries are catching up.

China’s new president Xi Jinping promised \$20 billion in loans for African infrastructure development, farming and business. He announced a plan to train 30,000 African workers over the next three years, including 18,000 scholarships for study in China. More than 2,000 Chinese companies have set up shop in Africa.

China has focused investment in South Africa, which accounts for 30% of the economic activity in sub-Saharan countries. The Chinese government owns 25% of Shanduka Group, a major South African investment firm founded by ANC vice-president Cyril Ramaphosa.

The International and Commercial Bank of China owns 20% of Johannesburg based Standard Bank; Africa’s largest, with branches in

more than 30 countries. Standard has been helping Chinese bosses set up production throughout Africa, drawing on its contacts across the continent.

New Racist Imperialist, Same as the Old Racist Imperialist

Imperialists must make sure the countries in which they set up factories and banks are compliant. Politics and armed force become more important than in a mere trade relationship.

During summit preparations, the Director of the China Center for International Development addressed Chinese imperialism’s weakness and a possible solution:

“China is now exerting more influence on world economic affairs, but a much smaller role in global politics and international diplomacy. In order to be the leader of BRICS, China should deliberately merge its own interests into the group’s ... while the group still lacks a core.” (*China Daily* 3/27)

Three proposals were presented to do just that. The first created a reserve fund to defend members’ currencies.

The second was a series of bilateral free trade agreements, the first to be negotiated between South Africa and China.

Finally, they wanted to set up a \$4.5 trillion development bank. This bank would challenge the US- and European-led International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank. The IMF and World Bank are key instruments of US imperialism, set up immediately after WWII while the then-new imperialist architecture “still lacked a core.”

Although the BRICS leaders agreed they needed this new bank, they couldn’t agree on how to fund it. China would be untidably powerful if

each country contributed according to its wealth, like the original IMF agreement.

Nobody doubts China will be the most important player, but these thieves can’t resist fighting over potential spoils.

Any temporary deal they may cobble together will be nothing less than a declaration of war against the working class. And it will be as deadly as an actual war, the other inevitable result of financial fights between imperialist blocs.

The BRICS leaders have capital to fund this imperialist bank because they stole the fruits of workers’ labor in their home countries. Ironically, most of these exploited laborers are past victims of racist imperialists in Europe and the US. This new crop of BRICS bosses stands ready to expand their homegrown super-exploitation to the world stage.

Last fall, over a hundred thousand South African industrial workers rose up against the tyranny of imperialism (see ICWP’s pamphlet: *South African Strikes Call Us to Mobilize the Masses for Communism*, available at www.ICWP-RedFlag.org). South African president Jacob Zuma spit on the graves of the murdered working-class heroes of this rebellion when he offered to host this new imperialist bank in Johannesburg.

Communism will put an end to summits like these. Our international meetings will figure out how to produce for the needs of our class, not which boss can steal the most from our labor.

Brother/sister have you heard the word? Communism will smash imperialist banks in Johannesburg--and everywhere.



STRIKING PLATINUM MINERS
August-September, 2012
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MARCH WITH ICWP ON MAY DAY, MAY 1ST.

BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY AND YOUR OWN SIGNS, LIKE:

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CALL US IF YOU NEED MATERIALS AND TO SHARE YOUR IDEAS ON HOW TO MOBILIZE FOR COMMUNISM ON MAY DAY

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