

RED FLAG

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



MOBILIZE THE WORKERS FOR COMMUNISM MARCH ON MAY DAY

Life In the Party:

A TALE OF TWO WORKERS

SEATTLE, WA — Two of the workers I asked to our pre-May Day dinner stand out. One is older: the other just starting out. One is African-American: the other Native-American. One has a steady job in a key war industry. The other, an Iraq War vet, is enrolled in a job-training program with iffy prospects for a permanent job. The veteran worker had to work overtime. The army veteran came with his 3-year old daughter.

Both need a communist prospective and the International Communist Workers Party (ICWP). Both are reading our party's draft manifesto, "Mobilize the Masses for Communism."

My workmate has been reading *Red Flag* for over a year. First he got it from another reader. I finally met him at a BBQ we had during last year's summer project to reach Boeing workers and soldiers.

While building for the May Day dinner I had an hour and a half discussion with him about many aspects of our

party. He wasn't sure about unions. Initially, he thought that unions represented "what little means of defense working people had under capitalism."

He came to agree that the ideology of reformist trade unions unacceptably bound us to the system. He saw the strategy of the IAM at Boeing as more than a sellout, but as an attempt to shackle us to a system in crisis.

He wondered what a revolution would accomplish. "There's always been the exploited and the exploiters," he said.

We talked about Marx's *Communist Manifesto*. The particular nature of exploitation--slavery, feudalism or capitalism--is a concrete result of the nature of society. We have a chance for the first time to build a non-exploitive society based on the power of the masses of workers.

At first I thought he was just pulling ideas from everywhere, without rhyme or reason. I soon learned there was more to it: he was fighting with the

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MTA Drivers Under Attack:

WORKERS FACE 2 ENEMIES: THE COMPANY AND UNION LEADERS

LOS ANGELES, CA--Recent events at MTA confirm that, as MTA drivers are under severe attacks, they have to contend with two enemies. The enemy within, the union leaders, are even more dangerous than the company.

After nearly two years of "secret negotiations," "our fearless union leaders" finally agreed on a contract with the MTA management. This tentative agreement was submitted to the MTA Board of Supervisors who rejected it. Why? We don't know.

What we do know is that it practically eliminates the old contract's wage increase clauses, substituting them with the "merit wage increase." According to this scheme, wage increases would be granted or denied based on how many MTA rules workers obey or disobey. The more rules we "break," the smaller our wage increase or perhaps no increase at all.

It might even mean getting fired, be-

cause MTA will be free to add more rules at will. Besides literally eliminating our wage increases, this will open the gates for increased harassment and massive firings of operators – those who speak up and those with higher seniority; wages, pensions and more benefits.

Like the bosses' electoral circus, union elections are deadly racist traps

Recently there were elections for the Chairpersons of the five LACs (Local Committee of Adjustment). These five Chairpersons make up the General Committee. This Committee elects the General Committee Chairman, a high ranking official.

The current General Chairman is James Williams, a corrupt sellout hated by most workers. Many operators launched a campaign to get rid of him by electing at least three of the five-member General Committee. They

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Era of Massive Uprisings and Looming World War:

WORKERS WILL TRIUMPH WITH COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

Although the world situation is very complicated, it is imperative for us - the masses of workers, soldiers, students and others - to analyze world events to understand what is happening. Not doing this will have lethal consequences for our class. We won't fight effectively for our interests and we will end up supporting one gang of capitalists-imperialists against another gang in their fight for world domination.

In spite of our many heroic efforts - the Russian and Chinese Revolutions being our most successful - the capitalists-imperialists still rule the world and decide our future. Burying our revolutionary history, the bosses would have us believe that we are passive objects of history. Nevertheless, our revolutionary past and current world events prove that when in motion we have the power to change history.

We are in a period of potential working class revolutions and looming world war. Our class is fighting heroically worldwide against intensifying capitalist-imperialist oppression. Unfortunately, the fight is not yet for communism but for democracy, national liberation, socialism, religion. These will never get us the world to which we aspire. They represent capitalist dictatorships - anchored with money and wage slavery.

Regardless of how many defeats we suffer, our class will fight until we triumph. As capitalism sinks deeper into crises and wars, our class, "unable to live in the old way," will fight even harder and more massively. With audacity, perseverance and determination, communists can take advantage of these opportunities to spread our ideas massively and build a massive International Communist Workers' Party to lead the fight for a communist world.

History is on our side. "From each according to commitment and to each according to need" will rule the world without bosses, their money, racism, sexism, borders and imperialist wars. That's our one and only goal and we will never lose sight of it.

Now, let's take a brief look at world events.

Bosses use their media's smoke and mirrors to try to derail us from our goal

The situation in Africa-Middle East is an example. The US imperialists, pretending to be humanitarian, are trying to use the massive uprisings there to overthrow enemy regimes in Libya, Syria and Iran. Some of these uprisings, however, have forced the ouster of US backed dictators in Tunisia and Egypt, with Yemen the next possibility. They are also threatening US authoritarian allies in Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Bahrain, limiting US bosses' options in the region.

The bosses' agents are also encouraging the protesters to demand democracy and publicize this widely, trying to make democracy the rallying cry of the world's oppressed masses. They also hope to convince our class that the masses will never embrace communism. But we know that capitalism can never meet our needs. Democracy is just a fig leaf to cover the brutal dictatorship of the rich. This is being proven in Egypt where the "liberating" Egyptian army recently shot protesters in Tahrir Square, killing two.

Bosses' media hides the real war that's brewing: World War III

The US bosses' media portray Libya and, lately, the Ivory Coast as the most important events in the world. But, behind the scenes, in the secrecy of their board rooms, the US imperialists are

planning war against Iran or against China.

Reporting on a White House meeting about Libya, *The New York Times* (4/2/11) wrote, "The Obama team holds no illusions about Colonel Qaddafi's long-term importance. Containing Iran's power remains their central goal in the Middle East." It explains, furthermore, that every decision Washington makes is shaped by the US regional strategy to deal with Iran's nuclear ambitions and bring about a regime change there.

Robert D. Kaplan, a major US imperialist strategist, writing in the *Wall Street Journal* (3/26/11), also stressed that the Middle Eastern states are more important than Libya because "they constitute Saudi Arabia's critical near-abroad." He argues that the US' main concern is "whether Saudi Arabia's regime will outlive Iran's, because, if Iran's theocracy prevails, it will signal a fundamental eclipse of American influence in the Middle East."

This is a major threat to the US bosses' 65-year old world domination—dependent on controlling this strategic

oil-rich area. But, as Kaplan explains, US imperialism also faces other serious challenges, like China's rising naval power in the western Pacific "...the center of the world's economic and naval activity—which the Chinese military seeks eventually to dominate."

These articles also show that some US rulers want to defend their empire piecemeal, targeting Iran next; while some are for targeting China directly. Speaking for the latter, Kaplan argues that every US intervention somewhere "... quickens the pace at which China ... closes the gap with us ... China is spending much less to acquire an overseas maritime empire than we are spending, with all our interventions, merely to maintain ours."

The clash of these imperialists is inevitable. As they accelerate their drive to world war, let's intensify our efforts to mobilize the masses to fight for a communist world. Join the ICWP and help in this task. Organize for and march with us on May Day! Read, distribute and support *Red Flag!*



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wanted Gonzalez to be the new General Chairman.

Their three chairmen got elected, but Williams is still General Chairman because he bribed John Ellis, with only 3 months of experience as chairman, by making him Vice-General Chairman. Ellis cast his decisive vote for Williams, not for Gonzales, with 12 years experience as chairman.

Gonzalez, however, wouldn't have made any difference. Union leaders and politicians - regardless of their nationality, color of the skin or gender - represent the interest of the capitalists. In normal times they can't even negotiate "tolerable" terms of our exploitation and wage slavery. Now, in times of deep capitalist economic crisis, they openly help impose capitalism's reign

of terror to make us pay for the bosses' crisis, wars for oil and preparations for world war.

Trade Unionism part of the problem -It must be smashed along with capitalism

The reality is that we do not need unions or union elections that divide and weaken us by propagating the bosses' racism and sexism. We need to get rid of the trade unions' reformist ideology that deludes workers into thinking that capitalism can be reformed to meet our needs. We need communist ideology to destroy capitalism which forces us to slave for a pay check.

We need to forge the international and multiracial unity of women and men to build a mass International Communist Workers' Party to mobilize masses of workers, soldiers, students and

others to fight for communism. Under communism, transportation, like everything else, will be planned and administered by workers. The goal will be safe, efficient collective mass transportation that eliminates the need for individual forms of transportation.

In a society without money, transportation, like everything else, will be free. Bus drivers won't have the burden of being the bosses' money collectors, which stresses them out and gets them fired when dealing with passengers who can't afford or refuse to pay. Passengers won't fear being harassed, arrested or shot by racist fascist cops for not having paid - like a Red Line passenger killed about two years ago by a racist sherriff.

Millions of workers, unemployed under capitalism, will be given useful

and needed work in all industries and services. This will tremendously shorten our working hours, leaving more time for family, leisure, study and travel. Working less hours and eliminating difficult to keep route schedules, operators will be less stressed out. Passengers won't be stressed out by the threat of being fired because of getting late to work. Under communism no one will ever be fired.

Today, the capitalists' need to maximize profits determines every aspect of our lives. Eliminating the profit system and building a communist world will be the greatest advance in human history. We have the need and the power to do it. That's our class' historical task. Join the struggle! March on May Day for Communism! Join ICWP, read, write, distribute and support *Red Flag!*



**JOIN THE
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RED FLAG READERS FIGHT FOR FIRED WORKER'S JOB

CALIFORNIA—In a meeting at the company where some *Red Flag* readers work, the boss said, “Last year we grew by 30%, and this year we want to grow another 30%.” The workers know what that means through bitter experience. To achieve their goal, the company is bringing in more workers from a temporary agency, paying them less, and making them work hard with the false hope of getting hired on regularly, while they lay-off and speed-up the permanent workers.

After one of a group of three workers was fired, the others met with the general manager of the company to ask her why he had been fired, since he was a very responsible and conscientious worker. The manager answered that there were things that couldn't be discussed in a meeting. This made the workers angry, and they began to insist on a concrete explanation.

Then the manager said, “Pablo quit.” Nobody believed her. A worker said, “If Pablo did something wrong, he deserves a second chance. We've all seen how hard he works.” Another worker said, “We want Pablo back.” The manager, seeing the anger of the workers, was scared, almost crying, and said, “The lead-man knows what happened with Pablo.” And that same lead-man answered, “They fired Pablo because he tells the truth, just like you,” pointing out a reader of *Red Flag*. Then the other worker said to the lead-man, “You shut up, because people say that you were involved in this. They also said that it was because of two gossips.”

When this happened, the manager, seeing that the workers were arguing among themselves, started to feel like

the pressure was off her. Then the *Red Flag* reader said, “An injury to one is an injury to all. Today it's him; tomorrow it could be you or me. We have to stay united.”

After the meeting, there were a lot of comments among this group of workers, including a group of black workers with whom we've had a lot of conversations about the need for multi-racial unity and the fight for communism to end the bosses' attacks. We emphasized the fear that the bosses have when workers break racial barriers and we brought up as an example the case of the rebellion in Los Angeles against the Rodney King verdict when the bosses and the cops were terrorized by the mass participation of black and latino workers. A black-worker also mentioned the case of Oscar Grant in Oakland and used it as a clear example of what racism is about.

In a communist society, we'll cooperate to produce the necessities for our class. There won't be individual goals making one person sacrifice others for his own survival. More and more workers in this factory are reading and discussing *Red Flag*. There are different kinds of political discussions among the workers in the factory, and the people who read *Red Flag* most avidly are the black workers.

The job of our party is to recruit these black and latino workers, who have experienced the racism of the capitalist system. They will be a huge help in organizing to destroy this rotten system and to build a new system without wages, exploitation or racism. Their participation at May Day will help advance this vital process.

I HAVE TO BUY DIRT?

SEATTLE, WA--Can communists immediately abolish money once we take power? This was the main question discussed at our modest pre-May Day dinner.

One young worker described the first time he realized that under capitalism, everything has a price. When he was 10 years old, he decided to plant a garden for his mother in the playground he and his friends had used their whole life. A cop told him to stop digging because it wasn't his dirt. If he wanted dirt, said the cop, he'd have to pay for it.

“I have to buy dirt?” asked the 10-year old incredulously. “What do you mean it's not ours? We're here nearly every day.”

The cop told him he had to buy dirt and plant a garden on land he owned. But his family rented. He's now grown, living on friends' couches after a tour of duty in Iraq. He still doesn't see the logic of money.

“When I talk to people on the street, they all say they need money to buy food and a roof over their heads for themselves and their families,” he said, referring to his 20-something friends. “That's why I joined the army. I was working three jobs and still I couldn't meet these necessities.”

“If you want to mobilize for communism, you have to convince people that they can have some “security.” By that he meant that they could get some food, a roof over their heads and the basics of life.

“There's plenty of food at the Safeway around the corner,” offered another comrade. “But it's under heavy guard. If you're hungry and go there, take some food off the shelf, and try to leave the store without offering any money,

discuss beforehand. One idea is to keep the supermarkets open, but as distribution centers. All the people whose jobs currently involve collecting, guarding, and transporting money would be freed to do useful things, like delivering food to older people who can't come in to collect it.

One problem we would have to overcome is hoarding. People who have spent their whole lives worrying about having enough to eat might be tempted to stock up on basics, cleaning out the shelves. Similarly, some people might be tempted to take lots of scarcer foods, like steak. Some simple guidelines would help, but the main solution is to rely on workers' communist consciousness.

How do we build communist consciousness?

Hoarding and cherry-picking mean some have plenty while others go without, a basic violation of communist egalitarianism.

When the Bolsheviks (Russian communists) took over in 1917, they did not intend to establish communism. They instituted socialism, which retained money and wages. Food was still guarded and given out in exchange for money. Inevitably some people didn't have money and went hungry, while others had lots of money and stocked up on food and ate a lot of steak.

We in the ICWP will not repeat the mistake of retaining the basic features of capitalism, which means we must start preparing now for communism. This means figuring out how the working class, by organizing on communist principles, can ensure its own security. A woman teacher at the dinner suggested that workers who read *Red Flag* discuss and make proposals about how food, clothing, shelter, healthcare etc could be distributed on communist principles. (See article page 5, “The Workers are the Experts.”)

We ended the dinner discussing how we can build this movement now. We collectively raised the money (still a necessity under capitalism) for the young veteran's trip to ICWP's May Day weekend in Los Angeles.

May Day should help mold the communist consciousness we need and lead to bigger events as we build for our summer project.

**MARCH ON
MAY DAY!**



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ted us. ideology he had picked up from the bosses' media and from fake leftists.

“The ICWP is different than the usual communist parties,” he concluded. We mobilize the masses for communism now, not trade unionism, not socialism. Past communist parties wanted to get to communism, but unwittingly shot themselves in the foot by compromising with capitalism. He wanted to know more about how our strategy would work, but a boss that wanted us to go back to work interrup-

The younger worker had been reading *Red Flag* for only a few issues. He was really interested in our take on the uprisings shaking the Mid-east and North Africa.

He worked for a while at a recycle outfit as a temp: twelve-hour days at minimum wage. He watched the boss leave the worksite early every day in his Mercedes, admonishing them to work harder.

One day his friend got stuck with a bloody needle as they were digging

through the trash to find recyclables. He ended up HIV positive and jobless, while the boss ended up with millions. Nobody had to tell this young veteran that capitalism sucked.

But as he continued to talk at the dinner it became obvious that he had more to contribute than a justified hatred of the bosses. For a while now, he had been questioning the foundations of capitalism: money, exploitation, the need for bosses and imperialism. (See “I Have to Buy Dirt?” this page)

He soon began to think about how

we could spread revolutionary ideas. What about the temp workers or his army buddies? He began reading a pamphlet on anti-racist communist work we did among soldiers.

Both these workers have seen racist exploitation. The times have pushed them to seek communist answers. Marching and building for May Day will help develop these potential communist organizers. Workers like these are the lifeblood of communist revolution.

War on Capitalism

FOR A COMMUNIST WORLD WITHOUT DRUGS OR UNEMPLOYMENT

MEXICO—In the last few weeks thousands of people have marched for peace in different cities in Mexico, as well as in Los Angeles, Buenos Aires, and Barcelona, protesting the more than 40 thousand deaths in the Mexican and US governments' war against drugs.

One of the leaders of this campaign is the poet Javier Cecilia, who, after the murder of his son, has created a wave of protests and requests for the government to create a national pact on security, drugs, jobs, education and culture that would lead to peace and justice. He asked the military officials to defend the nation and the drug dealers to retake their code of honor.

These marches against violence and for peace and to improve this system so it can give us peace, are a dangerous illusion for workers. The only peace the bosses and their capitalist system will give us is the peace of the cemetery. A group of bosses promote these marches. However, they benefit the whole capitalist system that keeps millions of workers in Mexico drugged, sick and malnourished, surviving with a poverty wage while keeping millions of others unemployed, and while many die from preventable causes.

Now is the time to make war against capitalism and its drugs!

Throughout history, drugs have been used to keep the oppressed classes under control, ignoring the root cause of their extreme poverty, to keep us from seeing the causes of our poverty

and even more important that there is only one solution: to organize to make a communist revolution.

The drugs make a few rich and benefit the other bosses also. In Mexico it's calculated that \$40 billion come in annually from drugs to give life to industry, commerce and banks. On the other hand, the militarization of Mexico through Plan Mérida guarantees the security of products and resources, especially of oil, to the US imperialists.

In a communist society, drugs won't be needed to escape hunger, anguish, or the loneliness that the capitalist system, based on robbery, lies and the murder of our class, makes us feel. An example that shows that drugs can be eliminated from our lives, took place in the 1950's when the communists in China got rid of the distribution of opium that the land-owners spread among the workers to keep them oppressed so that they would work long and exhausting hours.

Under a new society, all our labor power and brains will have to work to their maximum capacity to build a better world, without having to escape reality or without the need to search for money, because reality will be completely different than the one we know today. Money won't exist.

Millions of us workers need to participate in this struggle and to keep up our physical and mental wellbeing, as we fight for that of future generations. Let's organize ICWP and participate in spreading *Red Flag*.



Mexico City, April 2011--Workers fired from Central Power and Light who demand their jobs back face riot squad cops, the protectors of capitalism.

The revolution will come, I know it will.

We just need to unite, and hold each other still.
Capitalism will end, thanks to World War III.
Then everything will be the way it has to be.
A world where no one's above nor below.
Capitalism will end, and communism will grow.
The workers will take a stand to be heard.
We will let the imperialists know—word for word.
That we hate their racist system with all our might.
To bring them down, we are willing to fight.
We are willing to go through blood and pain.
To flaunt our RED, without any shame.
We will take a stand with our heads held high.
We will show them our Communist pride.
The revolution will come; I don't know what day.
But what I do know, is we workers will have it our way.
Forever 'til victory, we'll be red and proud.
Communism will be heard...very clear and very loud.
---Communist High School Student

Japan Nuclear Power Plant: Capitalism is the Main Disaster

ONLY COMMUNISM WILL BUILD A WORLD SAFE FOR WORKERS

April 13, 2011. The Japanese nuclear regulators have increased the danger rating of the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant crisis to a 7, the same level as the Chernobyl disaster. They were forced to admit that much more radioactive material was released into the air than they had admitted. It's also clear that they don't have control of the crisis. Capitalism created this monster and can't control its results!

As the crisis continues, tons of radioactive water have been dumped into the Pacific Ocean. Some water with higher levels of radiation—some over 5 millions times more than legal limits—has leaked into the sea. The water and the air are being polluted with iodine, cesium and plutonium, which can all cause cancer.

Radiation Kills Workers

The fifty workers who stayed in the plant to try to prevent a full meltdown after the disaster say they expect to die—either from radiation poisoning or cancer. Radiation has been found in fish in the local area and beyond and higher than normal radiation levels have been found in deer, fish and air samples in the US.

According to Japanese-American physicist Michio Kaku, interviewed by *Science News*, plutonium is “the most toxic chemical known to science. A speck of plutonium a millionth of a

gram could cause cancer if it is ingested.” Plutonium, with a half life of 24,000 years, is a by-product of nuclear fission and is found in the fuel mixture at reactor number 3.

The radiation from the Fukushima Plant, radiation in the atmosphere, and in the Pacific Ocean can kill many in Japan and all around the world! This callous capitalist nuclear war on the workers of Japan and the world cries out for the destruction of capitalism with communist revolution!

Nuclear Energy Raises Bosses' Profits

The capitalists use nuclear energy knowing it's so dangerous because they are driven by competition for maximum profits. While it's expensive to build a nuclear power plant, keeping it around for 40 years means low-cost energy for the bosses' industrial production. The Fukushima plant produced one kilowatt of electricity for about 1.5 cents. Electricity produced by using oil in the US costs about 17 cents per kilowatt. Japanese and all bosses use nuclear power to reduce production costs to make their products competitive in the world capitalist market—putting workers' lives at risk for their profits.

Nuclear energy grew out of the development of nuclear weapons in the US, the Manhattan Project, which produced the atom bomb which the US bosses

used to murder over 240,000 Japanese people in 1945. Shortly thereafter, in 1967, General Electric began building the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant along with Japanese companies.

Industrial society can't exist without energy. Capitalism is incapable of planning for the needs of the working class. The organization of capitalist industry and its wars for profit demands more and more energy produced at as low a cost to the capitalists as possible—no matter how much it costs in workers' lives and health. Coal and nuclear power are both dangerous energy sources.

Capitalist-imperialist competition over control of oil has made it a more and more dangerous energy source too. Japan and France, two of the biggest users of nuclear power, rely heavily on it so they can be less dependent on the US imperialists for oil, to save oil for war, and to produce energy as cheaply as possible, especially in older plants.

Communism: Workers Will Only Allow Safe Energy

In a communist society, we will not use nuclear power at all because it's too dangerous. According to the *Global Network*, “Wind, water and solar technologies can provide 100% of the world's energy needs.” However, the anarchy of production under capitalism, with its deepening crises and wars

means that we have the urgent need to destroy the profit system. Communist revolution is the only way to have a society with a safe energy supply. After the revolution in the Soviet Union, which has the world's second largest coal reserves, coal was not used as an energy source because it was considered too dangerous for workers' health.

Workers Can't Entrust Our Security to the Capitalists

In a communist society, millions of workers will be free to help develop and build safe, efficient sources of energy, mass transit, and cities that minimize the need for huge energy expenditure. Communism won't endanger workers' lives for energy. A communist working class will produce alternative energy to meet the needs of the world's working class.

On April 10, over 5000 people marched in Tokyo to demand closing all nuclear power plants and to condemn the government for lying and hiding the facts. These angry marchers need *Red Flag* and the fight for communist revolution—because there's no way we workers can entrust our security to the capitalists. We need to depend on the growing communist understanding and power of the international working class to destroy capitalism and build a communist world to guarantee our safety.

Who Needs the Bosses?**THE WORKERS ARE THE EXPERTS**

One of the biggest lies of the bosses is that workers need capitalist expertise and leadership in order to survive. Of course, nothing is further from the truth.

Capitalism brings only poverty and misery to workers. If we consider the latest disasters (financial meltdown, nuclear crisis in Japan, the pollution of the Gulf of Mexico), capitalism was at the root of it all. And the obscenely paid CEOs were of no use. Their incompetence and corruption were there for all to see.

Moreover, who risked their health and sacrificed their lives to stop the nuclear reactor overheating in Fukushima?

Most people in the world know that capitalism is rotten to the core and many got very angry recently but they do nothing about it because they don't believe it can be changed. They also know that there must be a better way but it seems an impossible dream.

We communists know that we can create a better world.

Under communism, everybody will be healthily fed because providing abundant and healthy food will be the only reason to grow food--not to find a profitable cash crop (ethanol) or to compete with a rival company.

Under communism, nobody will sleep on the street while mansions stand empty. This will be because land will have no monetary value. The land will not belong to individuals. The value of a house will be as shelter and will be the fruit of the labor of building workers, not as investment or exchange for a realtor or a mortgage broker.

Under communism, everybody will have access to the best healthcare because medical workers will only be concerned about their patients. Committees of workers will decide what is the best health policy, not a highly paid paper pusher whose task is to boost the profits for his HMO, insurance company or pharmaceutical trusts. Moreover prevention will play a greater part and workers committees will strive to protect workers and public from dangerous conditions.

Under communism, our environ-

ment will be healthier. We'll reduce our dependence on energy because transport won't be organized to protect the interests of the automobile industry or of the oil barons. Committees of riders, truckers, bus and train drivers will organize practical and comfortable transport for everyone.

Under communism, education will be for everyone. It will be a real education and schooling won't be organized to select the future managers who exploit workers for the benefits of their capitalist bosses.

A communist society will strive to give all workers food, shelter, education, healthcare without conditions and without restrictions. We won't need money or insurance. Jobs as CEO, marketing, advertising and production managers, realtors, financiers and insurers will all disappear and the people involved will be free to perform constructive labor. Workers will lead a more gratifying life, rid of worries about everyday survival and their life will have a meaning: contributing to the well-being of all.

Communists know this can happen. Our task is to convince workers in a meaningful and concrete way which relates to their everyday experience. We don't know everything or exactly how to do it yet but we know it will be better because it won't be organized for profits. To govern the world for profit is the aberration. It will be better because committees of workers will take their destiny in their hands.

Comrades in various sectors should organize committees/think tanks which would imagine what would happen if, for example, we were in a situation like Egypt and how, in their own sector, they would start to organize a communist society. One of the specters brandished by the bosses if we smashed the capitalist system is famine. The input of farmworkers would be invaluable to convince workers that the predictions of bosses are rubbish.

So comrades, get together. You know better than the bosses. Your expertise is invaluable. We want to know, because communism is the only way.

Comrades, unite to defend the working class.

Object to every racist disgusting capitalist act.

Money isn't everything, but for them it is.

Making workers work for a boss; screw this.

Uniting workers, our rights and voices will be heard.

Never let them win; never listen to their brain-washing words.

Instead of helping the ones who work hard, they don't.

Stand up to those pigs; don't let them slide; we sure won't.

Make them pay for what they've done to our class...

Come on workers, it's time to kick some ass.

-----Communist High School Student

Qui a Besoin des Patrons?**LES TRAVAILLEURS SONT LES EXPERTS**

Les capitalistes n'arrêtent pas de nous répéter que sans leur leadership et leur expertise les travailleurs ne peuvent survivre. Ceci, bien sûr, est un mensonge phénoménal.

Le capitalisme n'apporte aux travailleurs que malheur et pauvreté. Considérons les dernières catastrophes: Le crash financier de 2008, le désastre nucléaire de Fukushima, la pollution pétrolière du golfe du Mexique. Il est évident que le capitalisme et sa recherche de profits toujours plus élevés en est la première cause.

Durant ces crises, les P.D.G. aux salaires astronomiques ont démontré leur corruption et leur totale incompétence et bien sûr ce ne sont pas eux qui ont sacrifié leur santé voire leur vie pour sauver le monde de dangers encore plus étendus.

Pour beaucoup et dans le monde entier, il ne fait aucun doute que le capitalisme est un système néfaste et pourri. Néanmoins, beaucoup se résignent en pensant qu'ils n'y peuvent rien et qu'un monde meilleur tient du rêve irréalisable. Nous communistes croyons que c'est possible.

Nous communistes savons que nous pouvons créer un monde meilleur.

Dans un monde communiste, tout le monde mangera à sa faim. Des comités de travailleurs agricoles y veilleront. Leur seul but sera de produire une nourriture saine et abondante pour tous non pas de rechercher des cultures à haut rendement qui épuisent la terre (éthanol, gaspillage de la politique agricole européenne).

Dans un monde communiste, il n'y aura plus de sans-abris alors que des immeubles entiers sont vides. Cela sera parce que la terre n'aura aucune valeur monétaire. La terre n'appartient à personne. Les travailleurs du bâtiment construiront des abris pour tous et ce sera la seule valeur d'une maison. Nul n'aura besoin de prêts hypothécaires ou d'agents immobiliers.

Dans un monde communiste, tous auront accès aux meilleurs soins parce que le seul souci des travailleurs médicaux sera de soigner leurs patients. Les services de santé ne seront pas organisés par un gratte-papier hautement rémunéré dont les ordres sont d'augmenter les profits des compagnies d'assurance, des hôpitaux privés ou des cartels pharmaceutiques. Des comités établiront des politiques de santé dans laquelle la prévention jouera un rôle important. Éviter des conditions

dangereuses dans les lieux de travail et les lieux publics sera une priorité.

Dans un monde communiste, l'environnement sera respecté. La dépendance en ressources énergétiques diminuera parce que les transports ne seront pas organisés pour que les entreprises automobiles et les cartels pétroliers fassent des profits exorbitants. Travailleurs des transports et usagers organiseront des transports pratiques et confortables pour tous.

Dans un monde communiste, tous recevront une vraie éducation. Cette éducation ne visera pas à sélectionner les futurs directeurs qui exploitent les travailleurs pour le profit de leurs patrons capitalistes.

Une société communiste s'efforcera de satisfaire tous les besoins élémentaires des travailleurs (nourriture, abri, éducation) sans conditions et sans restrictions. Nous n'aurons plus besoin d'argent ou d'assurance. Tous les P.D.G., les directeurs de marketing, les agents publicitaires, banquiers, agents immobiliers ou d'assurance, financiers deviendront inutiles et disparaîtront comme les parasites qu'ils sont. La vie des travailleurs, débarrassés des soucis pour la survivance quotidienne – aura finalement un sens: contribuer au bien de tous.

Nous communistes savons que nous pouvons créer un monde meilleur. Nous savons que gouverner le monde pour la recherche du profit est une aberration. Nous devons en convaincre les travailleurs d'une manière concrète qui les interpelle dans leur expérience quotidienne. Nous ne savons pas tout ni comment procéder exactement.

Par contre, les travailleurs et nos camarades dans leurs secteurs respectifs sont les experts et peuvent travailler en comité pour imaginer leur rôle dans une société communiste. Les capitalistes agitent souvent le spectre de la famine. La contribution de nos camarades travailleurs agricoles serait la plus urgente pour démontrer que les prédictions des capitalistes ne sont que des mensonges.

Camarades! Imaginez que nous sommes en Egypte il y a deux mois. Votre expertise est inestimable. Nous voulons savoir parce que nous savons que l'organisation communiste est la seule qui ait un sens.

Luttons pour le communisme!

Questions for *Red Flag* Study-Action**Discussion Groups:**

1. The article about the Paris Commune (Pg. 14) discusses Marx's conclusion that "workers should not take over the bosses' state but rather smash it". Do you agree with this conclusion? Can the bosses' state be smashed? What will be substituted for it?

2. The article "Workers will triumph..." (Pg. 2) says that we are living in a period of potential working class revolutions and looming world war. What do you think about these two points?

3. How will your work be carried out under communism? Please send us the results of your discussion.

Paris Commune, 1871:

FIRST WORKERS' STATE

"Workers, for the first time you have carried out the revolution of labor, by labor, and for labor." – Gustave Paul Cluseret, April 7, 1871

One hundred forty years ago, as the Franco-Prussian war ended, the French masses rose up and took power. The French National Guard rebelled and armed Parisian workers. Together they chased the French bosses' government out of Paris. From March 18 to May 28, 1871, they began to build a new society amidst a bloody civil war.

It was the red dawn of a new era. It was the beginning of the end of capitalism.

The Commune proved the possibility of the Dictatorship of the Working Class.

The Commune was a desperate upsurge of the war-weary Parisian masses. It was motivated partly by outraged patriotism and a widespread belief that the people were being betrayed by the Government of National Defense, representing capitalist interests.

But it was more. It was the working-class reaching, without knowing exactly how, for the social revolution that would liberate it from wage-slavery.

The Commune included anarchists, socialists, democrats and nationalists from the small-business class. Several dozen worker-leaders belonged to Marx's International. This was a loose coalition, not a party. In the *Communist Manifesto* (1848) Marx had opposed having communists form separate parties. The Paris Commune exposed this as a fatal error.

The Commune attacked nationalism.

It destroyed the Vendôme Column, a monument to Napoleonic conquest. It seated delegates from Germany and elsewhere. They were members of the 1st



International, which had fought for class solidarity among French and German workers during the war.

Socialists went to the masses for ways to transform economic life. They even helped widows of soldiers who had fought against the Commune. "The Republic has bread for every misery and care for all the orphans."

The Commune "expropriated the expropriators."

It turned factories over to the workers. The model was anarchist, not communist. Workers controlled factories, but markets (not the collective good) determined production. Anarchism couldn't free labor from wage slavery.

The Commune began to reshape education, freeing it from religion. It vowed "to teach children to love and respect their fellow-creatures, to inspire them with a love of justice, to teach them that they must instruct themselves in the interests of all."

The Commune struggled to mobilize other French workers.

Flyers to the peasants declared: "Our interests are the same. What I ask for, you wish it too." With Paris besieged, the Commune used balloons to send flyers into the countryside.

Uprisings shook small towns and the French countryside. National Guardsmen and civilians marched with *Red Flags*, chanting "Long Live the Commune!"

In Grenoble, 600 men, women, and children blocked troops and munitions from leaving for Versailles. Elsewhere, workers stopped the transport of cannon and tried to run munition trains off the lines. Railway workers seized machine-guns.

Much of this support was pacifist and nationalist, urging the capitalists to negotiate with the Commune as a "democratic republic." Mistakenly, the Commune did negotiate. The capitalists dragged out negotiations while rebuilding their army, aided by the Prussian government.

On May 24, the Commune told soldiers marching on Paris: "If you fire on the people today your sons will curse you like we curse the soldiers who ripped the guts of the people in June 1848 and December 1851.

"Two months ago, on March 18, your brothers of the army of Paris ... fraternized with the people. Imitate them. ... When the order is unspeakable, disobedience is an obligation."

But it was too late. The Parisian masses fought valiantly but their revolution

LETTERS

LETTERS

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On March 30th, in a forum in a school in which I work, the neo Zapatista position and the supporters of Obrador came face to face. The Obrador supporters demanded support for their social democratic or state capitalist project in which they contrast "savage" capitalism with the free market.

The neo Zapatistas held that the world was in a situation of social explosions like those in North Africa and that we should discuss where we're going, so that the current disputes don't lead to supporting other oppressors who would be substituted for the current ones.

They clearly said that they don't accept the social democratic governments that have been installed in Latin America, above all after our intervention criticizing them for only making superficial changes to capitalism. They advocated for a regime "like the Paris Commune" so admired by Lenin. (See article this page.)

However, the followers of Obrador claimed that in Chiapas they are developing productive capitalist projects.

When we insisted on the need to eliminate wage labor, the neo Zapatistas said that they had this goal.

The discussion didn't advance much, however it gave us the opportunity to present some of our ideas. What was missing was the presentation of the necessity of building a working class party like ICWP, as well as taking on the idea of "self management" and their demands of "free municipalities" taken from capitalist political maneuvering.

Facing the upcoming Presidential campaign the followers of Obrador are more active. It's up to us to show the workers that what they advocate is the continuity of capitalism, giving it the appearance of democracy, promoting the use of the "internal market" (buying from Mexican companies), which the neo Zapatistas also criticized.

Some students are already reading *Red Flag* and we'll work better so that soon they join the Party.

--Comrades in Mexico

From the country of the capitalist wonders

I'll start with a sentence: El Salvador will be...

From a poor poet who wasn't me

Fine, yes, exaggerate the convenient capitalist strategy of the government,

Tie hands, silence voices and put chains on the social movement

Comrades, unionists: You cannot retreat

Much less for petty interests alien from the wellbeing and needs

Of our workers

The sun burns on our faces

To see that they want to negotiate our rights

Rights that we've won with permanent struggles

In demonstrations, strikes, protests...

This May Day

Join the March of the Proletariat

ICWP is present

We unionists are Communists

--a comrade from El Salvador

was drowned in the blood of 25,000 workers.

Marx and other communists quickly drew important lessons from the heroic struggle of the Paris Commune:

Workers shouldn't try to take over the bosses' state. It must be smashed.

Bosses worldwide denounced the "bloodthirsty" Commune, but it was not resolute enough in crushing the old regime. The capitalists regrouped in "a slaveholders' rebellion protected by foreign invasion." (Marx)

The masses fought valiantly, but they didn't directly attack capital. They failed to expropriate the Bank of France, letting the French bosses finance their counterrevolution. The lesson we draw today is a different one:

The masses must immediately abolish money itself.

The Commune showed clearly the need for a revolutionary communist party.

Only a party could give political and strategic leadership. Only a party could recognize, correct, and learn from its errors. And, we now know, only a party could mobilize the masses to reorganize production on communist lines.

Thirty years after the Commune, the Russian revolutionary leader Lenin acted on this new understanding. The "party of a new type" that he helped to found would crush the Russian capitalist state. This Bolshevik revolution would mark the next huge advance for the communist movement.

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Roberto C. and Carlos Slim

Roberto C, works in a juice bottling plant in the City of Industry, CA. He gets the minimum wage of \$320 dollars a week, and during the weekends, he works part-time in the garment industry. Sometimes in the bottling factory, they give him overtime, with which according to him, he can make “up to \$ 400 a week.”

When asked, “Why do you work so much?”, the answer is dry, immediate, almost annoyed by the question. “I have three little kids, and with the two salaries, my wife’s and mine, its not enough to live, not decently as they say, but as we can. The apartment rent, food, clothing for the kids, everything, it all has gone up.” Robert is right, with rising oil prices, natural disasters, etc., the bosses have raised prices on everything so that they can keep their profits, but they’re not raising wages.

“Did you know that Carlos Slim’s fortune grew to \$74 billion dollars in 2011, and that he’s considered the world’s richest man, and has been for two consecutive years? His fortune increased by \$20.5 billion in 2010. Did you know that in Mexico, 44 of every 100 people live in poverty and of those, more than 3 million live in extreme poverty on a dollar a day, while a group of 11 Mexicans accumulated a fortune of \$125.1 billion?” - “Yeah, I heard,” I responded and he continued, “But I got more pissed off with the statements of the Secretary of Economy, Bruno Ferrari, ‘Mexico – meaning Mexico’s poor— should rejoice that there are Mexicans on the list of the richest in the world,’ he said.”

That’s how the bosses are, using nationalism so that we support them while what they want is to exploit us more.

Roberto continued to show his disappointment, “Every time we talk on the phone with our families in Mexico, we enrich Slim more, because he’s the one who controls all the phones there.”

Don’t get frustrated. On the contrary, if we workers understand the nature of capitalism, that while you and billions of workers around the world must live as we can with a little money, there are a few people in the world who get most of the wealth produced, then we will see how important and necessary is a communist revolution.

Roberto has, as many still do, hope that everything will change with putting in little or no effort. Their desires to return to Mexico and work in their own businesses, are still there, but little by little those dreams are crumbling. They are realizing that because of the economic crisis, the situation is becoming more difficult each time.

“Before I saved a little bit, but for two years, nothing. What I had saved, I spent on rent and food when I was out of work, and I told myself that later

I would put it back, and so far, nothing. The only thing left is to do what you say, a revolution.” He didn’t look very convinced, but he took Red Flag.

Read it, Roberto, you’ll learn a lot in our newspaper. He raised his arm, made a fist and, clutching the paper, he said goodbye, almost shouting, “Although sometimes I deny it, I know you’re right, you and your party, we must fight for something.” I would have liked if he had said Communism, instead of something, maybe next time.

--Roberto’s friend

Anti-Capitalist Mass Consciousness Sparked 1909-1919 Strike Wave in Garment, Textiles

“Why does the pleasure of some have to create misery for many?” asked the young textile worker Maria Roda in 1901. Roda had been an “anarcho-socialist” (her words) as a teenager in Italy. She migrated to the Paterson (NJ) textile mills in 1893. There she began organizing women workers into anti-capitalist study circles.

Clara Lemlich arrived in New York in 1903 as a fifteen-year-old. She had been reading revolutionary literature in the Ukraine for five years.

Lemlich and Roda were among the many Italian and Jewish immigrant workers who brought anti-capitalist consciousness from Europe to the US at the turn of the 20th century.

A journalist wrote in 1909 that “most of the Jews of the East Side ... are strongly inclined toward socialism.” This was mainly the socialism of the Jewish Bund in eastern Europe. The Bund was in the right –wing faction of the Russian Social-Democratic Labor Party. But among the half-dozen daily Jewish-language socialist papers in New York, some offered a more left analysis.

By 1910, most Italian neighborhoods in NY/NJ had at least one anarchist club. Most supported the “organizzatori.” They mobilized the masses against capitalism, unlike the terrorist “Galleanisti.” Nine thousand Paterson workers belonged to the anarchist IWW. Left-wing Italian newspapers brought anti-racist and internationalist ideas to many more.

Left-wing workers ran bookstores, fraternal organizations, social clubs, festivals, theatrical and musical events, and much more. They followed international developments like the Mexican Revolution of 1910.

By the time of the Triangle Shirtwaist fire in 1911, wrote historian Jennifer Guglielmo, “The radical subculture had become a part of the daily lives of... hundreds of thousands.”

Years of anti-capitalist agitation and basebuilding prepared masses of young immigrant workers, many of them women, to fight reformism and narrow trade-unionism in their battles

against sweatshop bosses.

When workers in Russia rose in revolution, immigrant workers— Italian, Jewish, Caribbean and others — formed the core of the new US communist movement. Garment workers Angela Bambace, Albina Delfino, Frances Ribeau, and Clara Lemlich were among those communist pioneers.

Inspired by the Soviets, they organized “workers’ councils” in NY garment locals. More garment strikes erupted in 1918-1919. Union officials failed to confine workers to collective bargaining legalities.

The leadership of the International Ladies’ Garment Workers Union (ILGWU) — with the help of Italian nationalists — race-baited and red-baited the immigrant communists. They refused to organize black women garment workers. But the ILGWU couldn’t smash the communist influence among the masses of workers.

Communists organized the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America instead. However, they too became enmeshed in reformism. They continued to mobilize masses, but not to fight directly for communism. They forgot, or failed to appreciate, their own history.

The true lesson of that history is that the fight to smash wage slavery inspires and directs the creative revolutionary energy of the masses. This remains our task today

--Student of working-class history



Islamophobia is Racism

In mid-March, anti-war, pro-Palestinian, and Arab student groups co-sponsored a forum on “Islamophobia: Pro-War Propaganda” at a California State University campus. A speaker from an Islamic advocacy organization and a professor of Islamic studies spoke to an audience of about 50 people, including many Islamic students. One of the speeches described the efforts of Harvard Professor Samuel Huntington and Princeton Professor Bernard Lewis to excuse the U. S. capitalists attempts to dominate the Middle East as a “clash of civilizations.”

Fareed Zakaria, CNN host and protégé of Huntington, claims that hatred of the U. S. domination in the Middle East is not a reaction to imperialism, but comes from Islamic culture that reinforces “hostility, distrust and hatred of the West” and fuels “fanaticism.” The speaker also showed the role of racist anti-Islamist groups and the capitalist media in trying to whip

up anti-Muslim hatred about the plan to build an Islamic center near the site of the World Trade Center in New York.

The second speaker described the campaigns in France, Germany and Belgium to outlaw wearing the headscarf (Hijab) by Muslim women. She debunked the idea that the headscarf is always a sign of women’s oppression, rather than part of a style women can choose if they do not want to put their bodies on display. Students pointed out that a demonstration last Fall had attacked an article in the campus newspaper, which supported the Disneyland Hotel’s efforts to prevent a waitress from wearing a headscarf.

The forum’s speeches and discussion were informative and had an anti-imperialist perspective. Unfortunately, there was little discussion of the fact that it is capitalism that creates and exploits racial and ethnic conflicts to mobilize people for war. Islamophobia isn’t just ignorant or unfair—it is part of the bosses’ strategy to mobilize for war.

Self-critically, *Red Flag* readers who helped organize this event should have proposed some concrete plans for overcoming racial and religious antagonism and uniting students and workers of different religious backgrounds. This might include demonstrating against media figures like Glen Beck, Fareed Zakaria, Juan Williams, or other talk shows that promote fear and hatred of Muslims.

--Red Flag Reader

Criticize the Movement to “Save” Capitalist Education

We were very interested to see the article about the high school walkout. It’s great that students are organizing and fighting against capitalism. We did, however, think that the slogan “Walk out for our education! Walk out against capitalism!” contained a big contradiction. Given that that was the slogan, we think that the article should have critiqued the movement to save capitalist education.

Since we are a new party and a party of a new kind, we should mobilize students in a new way. The old way was to fight for reforms. That way lacked confidence that students and workers could fight for communism. We have to explain to the people who are angry about layoffs and cutbacks that capitalist education was never for us anyway; it’s not worth fighting for because it can’t liberate the working class. In fact, capitalist education does what the capitalists need—it’s one of the backbones of the capitalist system.

We have to have confidence that students, parents and teachers involved in the fight against cutbacks and layoffs can be won to imagining and fighting for a world where education serves the working class—a communist world.

--Ex-high school organizers

Capitalism Perfected Racism Worldwide:

COMMUNISM WILL CRUSH THEM BOTH!

From the Rape of Nanking (China) to the Nazi Holocaust (Germany), from the Trans-Atlantic slave trade (Africa) to Jim Crow lynchings (USA), from the silver mines of Potosi (South America) to the Crawling Lane of Armritsar (India) – and a thousand places in between – racism highlights the savagery inherent in capitalism.

Throughout history the fight against racism has inspired untold millions to heroic acts of resistance. Again and again its prominent systems – like slavery in the USA, colonialism in the Congo, apartheid in South Africa – have been destroyed only to re-emerge in a new form that proves to be every bit as racist as the older one it replaced.

What is it about racism that it seems to survive a thousand deaths? Can it ever be defeated once and for all? One of the main reasons the ICWP was organized was to answer this question with an emphatic “Yes, it can be crushed!”

Racism is Not Natural.

It is not inherent in human kind. Biologically speaking, racism is nonsense. Biology differentiates one species from another by the inability to reproduce between the species. No such barrier exists between the “races” of human kind. The science is quite clear on this point: there is only one race, the human race.

Although it utterly lacks any scientific basis, racism does have a significant political and cultural one. It emerges out of the culture of commodity production, that is production for exchange rather than use. It is exclusively a product of capitalism. While inner city rebellions, strikes against apartheid, intifadas against Zionism, or indigenous uprisings against genocide, demonstrate the courage and ingenuity of our class, they alone can never defeat racism.

That will take a communist revolution because only such a revolution aims to eliminate commodity production in all its forms. This is a massive undertaking. Commodity production has been around for thousands of years. Although it is the dominant feature of capitalist production, it existed long be-

fore the triumph of capitalism.

Coins and Commodity Production

As ancient civilization developed, it replaced communal tribal life with a hierarchical class society. There were kings at one pole, slaves at the other, with various strata in between. They prospered where they could with conquest for raw materials and so on. Enslaving the conquered people was an advance over the earlier practice of killing them. Slavery at this stage was patriarchal slavery. The slave was put to use as part of the enlarged household, including conquered land; the slave was primarily a use value.

The introduction of coins, or money, saw the increased importance of commodity production, or production for exchange. “Among the most profitable of the new commodities were human beings and hence at this stage patriarchal slavery (in which the slave is a use value) is superseded by chattel slavery, (in which the slave is an exchange value), and slavery begins to seize production in earnest.” (*The First Philosophers*)

For the first time in human history the economic growth of society rested on a sector of that society being viewed not as human beings but as objects to be traded alongside beasts of burden, cattle, minerals or manufactured goods. In fact, at one point in Ancient Rome a slave cost less than a good saddle horse! Although they were a small percentage of the population they were the main source of the surplus that was produced. Day in, day out, society trained itself to accept the necessity that some people (slaves) could be regarded as sub-human. The seeds of racism were planted.

But this new way of thinking was not the only development. The three slave revolts in the Roman Republic that culminated in the massive rebellion of Spartacus marked a new level of class consciousness. Multi-lingual, multi-national, in scope, this revolt welded together slaves from all corners of the Roman Empire. They were heroic protests against the savagery inherent in commodity production. In fact, Sparta-

cus would have no gold or silver in his camp, that is to say—no money!

Yet, the rebels were not fully class conscious. Spartacus, in particular, failed to unite with the displaced small Roman farmers who made up the city’s often unemployed workers. As a result, at a key military point, Spartacus failed to march on Rome. Instead of being smashed, Rome lived to hunt him down.

The Birth of Capitalism, Imperialism and Racism

In Western Europe, this revolt continued in a new form with tribal resistance to Roman slavery, eventually leading to the fall of Rome. The long period that followed saw the gradual re-introduction of commodity production, money and the rise of merchant capitalism. It was this capitalist struggle against the feudal and ecclesiastical classes that triumphed first in England.

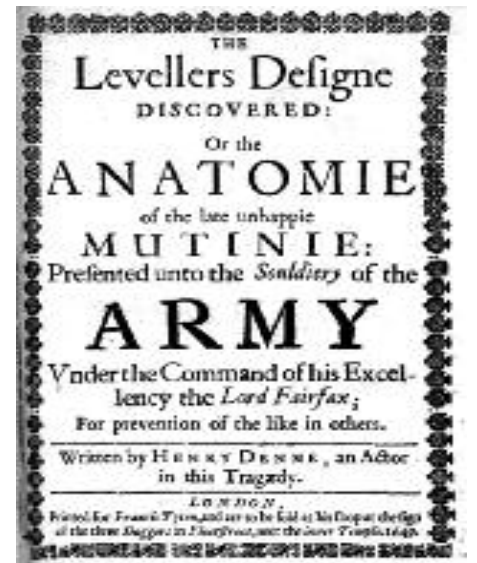
The growth of capitalists from a subordinate to a dominant influence in English politics can best be traced in the waves of English invasions and settlements in Ireland. Instead of satisfying feudal needs, including the subsistence of the people who work the land, the first invasion was influenced by the prospects of profit on the European grain markets. (A feudal invasion extracts a tribute from the conquered people, but leaves the internal structure of the society intact.)

In a conquest for profits, this internal structure has to be smashed. The English had to control the land that was to grow the grain, rather than let it be used for the communal subsistence of the Irish. This was the thrust of the first invasion, although the ability of 12th Century England to impose its aims was limited. However, as capitalism took a stronger and stronger hold in England, the successive invasions grew more brutal. The victory of Cromwell’s capitalist forces in England’s Civil War marked the birth of the world’s first capitalist state, and immediately after, they invaded Ireland (1649).

The invasion started with the storming of the city of Drogheda. Immediately after the battle was won, the troops massacred every man, woman and child

because, as Cromwell said, “nits breed lice.” It ended in the Cromwellian settlement act. Two million acres of Irish land was taken, 40,000 Irish soldiers exiled and 12,000 orphans sold to bondage in the slave plantations of Jamaica and Bermuda.

From being “illegal” on their native soil, where they could be murdered or raped at will, the Irish were



Soldiers in Cromwell’s army were influenced by the early communist Levellers and Diggers. Ordered to invade Ireland, many regiments mutined.

now dispossessed of their best land. At first it was their use of land that was called backward, now it was the Irish themselves. All the main features of modern day racism were now developed.

And side by side with the birth of racism, capitalist economic theory took its first steps too. It was from his 50,000 acre estate in Ireland (his share of the 2 million acres Cromwell seized) that William Petty wrote *Political Arithmetic*. Petty, who is quoted almost as much as Adam Smith in Marx’s *Capital*, is generally regarded as the “father of political economy.” In *Political Arithmetic*, he argued that super-profits could be made by forcing the Irish off their land and, by denying them a source of food, making them migrate to England! All the main features of modern day capitalism were now developed: ethnic cleansing, imperialist massacres, forced emigration, and super-profits.

Racism and Capitalist Theory Go Hand-in-Hand

It is no accident that the emergence of racism and capitalist theory go hand in hand. Capitalism is commodity production and commodity production is based on the domination of workers by the owners of capital. Chattel slavery, racism (and, later, fascism) are the sharpest forms of that domination. Racism emerged first in Ireland only to be applied even more vigorously following the English conquest of India, its settlements of North America and the Caribbean, the Spanish and Portuguese invasions of the Americas and the Dutch conquests of Indonesia. As long as commodity production exists, racism will too. The ICWP was organized to smash commodity production in all its forms (capitalist or socialist) and to smash racism along with it. This is a massive, historic, undertaking. Join us.

To learn more about this history, read:

Capital by Karl Marx

The Invention of the White Race by Theodore W. Allen

The London Hanged by Peter Linebaugh

The First Philosophers by George Thompson

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Workers’ Day!
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Communist
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**In
Los Angeles
Mexico City
San Salvador
and others**