

# RED FLAG

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



## May Day and Every Day:

# MOBILIZE AS ONE ARMY FIGHTING FOR COMMUNISM

On May Day 1890, the communist Frederick Engels wrote: “The proletariat of Europe and America is holding a review of its forces. It is mobilized for the first time as One army, under One Flag.”

Ever since, millions upon millions of workers march on May Day. The red flags of workers’ revolution flutter in the four winds circling the globe.

May Day 2011 takes place amidst massive uprisings in northern Africa (Tunisia, Libya, Egypt) and southwest Asia (Yemen, Syria, Bahrain and elsewhere). Honduran teachers, Wisconsin (US) government workers, Chinese truckdrivers, the European masses – all are fighting back against the bosses’ sharpening attacks.

Intensifying inter-imperialist conflict drives these attacks on workers everywhere. The capitalist system itself makes it impossible for us to live in the old way. Even the bosses can’t rule in the old way.

When the masses are in motion, it matters more than ever what goals motivate them. May Day and every day, our goal must be to destroy capitalism with communist revolution.

### **May Day:**

#### **Fight for Workers’ Power**

Revolutionaries created May Day, but they saw it mainly in reform terms. As Engels continued, the first May Day marchers fought “for One immediate aim: an eight-hour working day, established by legal enactment.”

Those first May Day marchers were inspired by the 1886 general strike in Chicago (USA) for the eight-hour day. But was it the demand that inspired them, or the mass struggle? Shorter hours of wage slavery, or the possibility of ending wage slavery altogether?

Past communists thought that reform movements would develop into revolution. Some still believe that, but history has proved them wrong. The opposite is true. Reform movements lead workers into the hands of the fascist rulers.

Nowhere is this clearer than in the birthplace of May Day. Liberal and nationalist US organizations have turned May Day into a call for “immigration reform” amidst a sea of US flags. Socialists and trade-unionists will march to “stop the attacks,” for “jobs” and “labor rights” and “immigrant rights.”

Comrade workers, by what “right” do the capitalists rule over us? What meaning have “rights” when capitalism cannot meet our most basic needs? Our fight must not be for illusory “rights” but for real power! Only communism can stop the bosses’ attacks on our class.

Reformism and nationalism dominate May Day celebrations worldwide. For example, the Ghana Trades Union Congress is organizing around the theme, “Decent Work for Sustainable Economic Development.” Its president

**See MAY DAY, page 2**

## **AGAIN WE WILL HAVE A WORLD WITHOUT BORDERS OR EXPLOITATION: A COMMUNIST WORLD!**

“Capitalism was born dripping from every pore with blood and dirt from head to toe,” wrote Karl Marx. In its development, capitalism deepened and expanded racism, exploitation, wars, borders, nations and the immigration of human beings like raw material.

During their whole history, human beings have migrated from one place to another in search of food and shelter. That’s how they populated the world. Naturally there weren’t any borders. The only borders were those put up by nature, which human beings collectively conquered. For tens of thousands of years, the entire world, without fences or borders, belonged to all: the human race.

Today it belongs to a handful of the rich capitalists. How did this happen? It’s a long and tragic history. It started with the discovery of agriculture and the domestication of animals. This allowed humans to produce more in a day than what they needed to survive. The privatization of this surplus, together with the instruments of labor, by a small ruling elite (backed by priests and soldiers), divided the society into classes: slave owners and slaves. They passed laws and erected fences and walls to defend this regime

of private property.

In time, nobles and kings rose who mobilized the masses to overthrow slavery and establish feudalism, taking over everything, and living off the exploitation of the serf. This was the slave without shackles but chained to the land, since he had to work the noble’s land for free in exchange for a parcel of land for his personal use.

But, in time, feudalism was destroyed by capitalism, which “freed” the serf from the land to chain him to the wage system. This is a wage slave, without anything except his labor power, which he has to sell to the capitalists in order to survive. To protect and defend their properties, capitalism created nations and borders. Imperialism, the highest stage of capitalism, expanded them to the whole world, to take it over, creating poverty, unemployment and wars that have given impetus to the flow of tens of millions of immigrant workers.

As the inter-imperialist rivalry sharpens for control of the world, and the economic crisis deepens, the bosses increase their attack on all workers, especially immigrants. Dispossessed of everything, in search of a boss to whom to sell our labor power, we cross

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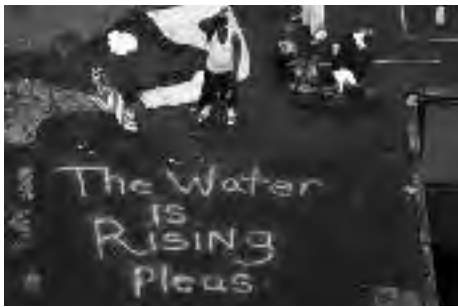
## CAPITALISM IS A DISASTER FOR WORKERS COMMUNISM IS THE ONLY RELIEF

The Fukushima (Japan) nuclear meltdown is the latest proof that workers worldwide can't continue to live in the old way.

It was triggered by a giant earthquake and tsunami, but this was no "natural" disaster. US and Japanese corporations knowingly built reactors near the shore in the "Ring of Fire" earthquake zone. They cut corners on safety for the sake of the bottom line: maximizing profits.

Tsunamis in southeast Asia killed 245,000, mainly in Indonesia, in 2004. Why were there no warning systems in these low-lying, heavily populated areas?

Remember the desperate black families on rooftops after Hurricane Katrina in 2005? That was no "natural" disaster either.



Hurricane Katrina

US Army Corps of Engineers resources allotted for repairing the levees had been redirected to the Iraq war. The vicious racism of US capitalism at all levels of government then abandoned New Orleans residents to their fate.

### Disasters Are Part of Capitalism's Nature

Seventy thousand died in a 2008 earthquake in China. Many were killed by falling buildings, including schools, built by the new Chinese capitalist class without regard for safety. That same capitalist government (not by any stretch of the imagination communist!)

provoked workers' demonstrations by its callous neglect of the victims.

The 2010 earthquake in Haiti killed over a quarter of a million in this small island nation. This earthquake was predicted. Why wasn't Haiti prepared for it?

Because US capitalism-imperialism intentionally destroyed Haitian agriculture. It slaughtered farmers' creole pigs. It privatized and then shut down the sugar and rice industries.

Haitian people were forced off the land into huge urban slums where they became wage-slaves in industry, had to buy food from US agribusinesses, and lived in unsafe housing.

That's why a quarter of a million people died.

Whether fire or flood, heat waves or cold spells, earthquakes or storms, "natural" disasters pale in comparison to the disaster of capitalism.

### Capitalism Creates Unnatural Disasters

The collapse of the Thai currency in 1997 sent shock waves throughout Asia. Currency crises hit Mexico (1982 and 1995), Brazil (1998) and Argentina (2001), intensifying the poverty of the masses. They swept emerging markets in eastern Europe and elsewhere after the fall of the Lehman Brothers investment house in 2008.

"This time, it's not an Asian crisis or a Latin American crisis," wrote economist Paul Krugman, "it's a global crisis."

During debt crises from Latin America (1980s) to Europe today (Greece, Ireland, and now Portugal) and increasingly within the USA, the bosses tighten their belts around workers' necks to fatten the profits of international investment banks.

Then there's the collapse of the

dot.com bubble (2000). And the collapse of real estate bubbles in the US (2009) and possibly China (2011). How many have lost their homes in the foreclosure tsunami? And how many are losing health care, jobs, and other services because of state and local budget crises directly resulting from these collapses and from \$trillions in war spending?

### Imperialist War: Disasters Planned by Capitalism

From Iraq to Afghanistan and Pakistan, from Libya to the Ivory Coast, the capitalist-imperialists coldly calculate the death tolls they find "acceptable" for soldiers in combat and civilians who are written off as "collateral damage."

Prominent US imperialist Zbigniew Brzezinski estimated the number of "lives deliberately extinguished by politically motivated carnage" in the 20th century as close to 200 million. Civilians were nearly two-thirds of the war dead. The proportion of civilians among those killed in the Iraq war is even higher.

### Everyday Disasters Shatter Workers' Lives

Large-scale calamities aren't the only disasters workers face. Each of us knows the disastrous effects of setbacks like losing a job or a home, serious illnesses or accidents or a death in the family, deportation or imprisonment.

Many older workers are hurting from forced retirement or the collapse of a pension plan. Younger workers face mass unemployment and, often, crushing student-loan debt.

None of this is necessary.

None of this is natural.

And there is a better way.

### Communism Will Bring Relief

Communism will abolish money. There will be no debt. There will be no cutting-corners to save the "bottom line."

Everyone's basic needs will be met, as best we can with the social resources available. That means food, shelter, health care, and more. Nobody will go without while others wallow in excess. There will be plenty of work for everyone as we mobilize masses to produce for our collective needs.

Urban and rural development will be planned to avoid large concentrations of people in areas subject to natural disasters. When such disasters occur, we will mobilize masses to respond quickly and humanely.

Communism means class war to destroy capitalism-imperialism. No more private control over production. No more social classes. No more racism.

Communism means no more borders, no more war once capitalism-imperialism has been destroyed forever. We have already, in our International Communist Workers' Party, begun the process of uniting all workers around the globe.

Is communism possible? Yes!

Is it necessary? Absolutely!

Join the ICWP and mobilize the masses for communism. We have a world to win!



### May Day from page 1

explained, "If democracy fails to deliver decent work and improved living standards, the people could easily lose confidence in the political system."

Capitalism is unsustainable. Its unstoppable drive for maximum profits destroys our lives and our planet. Only communism will let us organize all economic life to sustainably meet the needs of the masses.

There is no such thing as "decent work" in a system built on the indecency of exploitation. Only the end of money and the wage system can free us to work for the common good. Only communism will unleash the energy and creativity of the masses.

As for democracy, the Egyptian masses have seen their "peaceful democra-

tic revolution" exposed as a continuation of military rule. Democracy is the smiling face of the capitalists' brutal dictatorship over workers. We must develop confidence in the ability of the working class to rule all of society.

### Not Reform, Not Socialism – Workers Need Communism!

In Ukraine last May Day, thousands chanted "Socialism is our future." In Russia, hundreds raised red flags and portraits of Joseph Stalin, calling for "a return to communism."

But communists in the Soviet Union and China built socialism – really state capitalism – instead of communism. This socialism turned the communist parties themselves into a new capitalist class. It turned communists into revisionists who lost faith in the workers

and ended up betraying them.

Every day's news reveals another step toward a huge imperialist bloodbath in which workers will kill and die for the bosses' profits. But here in *Red Flag* you are reading the other side of this story. Imperialist war opens the door for communist revolution.

You are holding the *Red Flag* of revolution in your hands. Bring it to your friends, your family, and your co-workers. Carry forward the international spirit of May Day by fighting nationalism and racism wherever they arise. Advance the revolutionary spirit of May Day by exposing and rejecting reformism amidst the class struggle.

On May Day and every day, our historic task is to mobilize the masses – especially industrial workers and soldiers

— for communism and nothing less than communism.

Join the International Communist Workers Party!

**Attention Workingmen!**

**MASS-MEETING**

TO-NIGHT, at 7.30 o'clock

DAYMARKET, Bankside St. U.S. Dispensary and Hotel

Good speakers will be present to discuss the latest situation of the globe, the meaning of our class struggle, and the necessity of a new program.

Washington Ave. Yearlings and Apprentices Full Panel

THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE

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**Achtung, Arbeiter!**

Masse-Verammlung

Heute Abend, 7.30 Uhr, im U.S. Dispensary, Bankside St., U.S. Dispensary and Hotel

Gute Redner werden zu besprechen die neueste Lage der Welt, die Bedeutung unserer Klassenkämpfe, und die Notwendigkeit eines neuen Programms.

Washington Ave. Yearlings und Lehrlinge Vollständige Panel

DIE REVOLUTIONÄRE KOMITEE

Poster announcing May Day rally, Chicago, 1886



**JOIN THE  
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY  
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## WORKERS' STRUGGLES HAVE NO BORDERS

### El Salvador

#### YOUTH BUILD FOR A COMMUNIST MAY DAY

May Day, International Workers' Day, is getting close; thousands of workers, students and farm workers will come from different parts of the country to concentrate in the capital remembering the historic deed of the martyrs of Chicago.

Humble working class families come to the May Day March, victims of exploitation by the capitalist system; in them exists the basis for them to open their eyes and become politicized with the ideas of the ICWP.

But these exploited families are millions; they form the majority of humanity and their sons and daughters won't necessarily acquire revolutionary knowledge and therefore become fighters for communism.

A collective of us youth has been meeting to prepare and plan the distribution of leaflets and *Red Flag*.

But this is not simply giving out just any literature; it's seeing how the working class receives the leaflets and/or *Red Flag*, listening and knowing what they think.

The situation in the country is not what the population hoped from the Funes government of the "left." The increase in the price of basic services, gasoline, and the basic necessities are the most common complaints among the workers. This May Day the mood will be different from other years. The cloud of optimism from past marches has disappeared and we as communist youth must help workers understand that the solution isn't elections but Communist Revolution.

This May Day the working class must go out, not to protest against a government or to support a reform; this May Day we must go out to protest against the capitalist system that's the scourge of humanity.

As communist youth we must continue our parents' struggle; we know we're the present and future of this Communist revolution.

### Students Learning from Workers

#### ICWP SUMMER PROJECT

*"I never knew about the experiences garment workers face." "When I was distributing communist literature in front of factories and talking with workers, I learned how hard it is to just survive in the capitalist world." "Being in the summer project gave us an opportunity to grow." "I never knew so many soldiers were this angry at the government." ...comments of participants in the 2010 ICWP Summer Project.*

From Egypt to Wisconsin, from Seattle to San Salvador, from Libya to Los Angeles, from Yemen to Mexico City, the crisis of capitalism has made it obvious in the last year that workers can no longer live in the old way and the ruling class can no longer keep the lid on. In fact, as the article on page 13 points out, inter-imperialist rivalry has intensified to the point that we are in a period leading up to world war, and already engaged in what the US Army calls the "long war," a war on several fronts to maintain (US) capitalist 'leadership.'

This is a time when the capitalist crisis will force the worlds' bosses to massacre millions upon millions of workers. It is also a time when the world's workers can choose to fight for our own class instead of for the imperialist masters of death. But this potential revolutionary force needs a revolutionary communist party to articulate the alternative to capitalist murder, to pose a vision of a communist future, to mobilize, organize and lead the masses of workers in the fight for communism. ICWP has taken up that historic task.

We know that industrial workers and soldiers are key both to the survival of the capitalist-imperialist system, and more importantly, to communist revolution. For that reason, ICWP has concentrated its forces in these key areas. As readers of *Red Flag* have seen, ICWP has made breakthroughs in organizing this year in the MTA. *Red Flag* has become the newspaper of record, and workers write for it, look forward to reading it and contribute economically. The recent article about "merit pay raises" is an example of *Red Flag's*

confronting specific attacks on the working class with communist, not reform, solutions. At MTA and at Boeing in Seattle, older black workers who had been disillusioned by the failures of the movements of the 60s have taken up *Red Flag* as their paper, as have younger students and workers of all "races." Breaking down barriers between union and no-

union, citizen and immigrant workers has also led to an enthusiastic reception of *Red Flag* at subcontract and garment factories, and modest breakthroughs with individual workers in these plants as well.

At the same time, ICWP students have increased their organizing outside military bases, making more contacts with active-duty personnel as well as learning from veterans of current and past US imperialist wars about the importance of organizing within the bosses' military. They have also deepened the political struggle on high school and college campuses, participating in "Freedom Schools," struggling for communist ideas in the classroom and in forums on the struggles in the Middle East, and increased the mass and hand-to-hand distribution of *Red Flag* on a couple of campuses where we hadn't been organizing.

ICWP students in high schools and colleges, marching with their friends and fellow students on May Day, are making plans to participate in the 2011 ICWP Summer Project. Students and teachers will take advantage of the sharpening world situation and the organizing and political struggle of comrades in key concentrations to make breakthroughs among workers, soldiers and students. They will visit factories, transit divisions, military bases and workers' neighborhoods for class struggle based on communist ideas. By making communist ideas mass ideas, they will advance the struggle among workers and soldiers and become steeled in the struggle themselves.

Summer project volunteers last year saw first-hand workers and soldiers welcoming communist leaflets and newspapers, discussed communist ideas with workers over dinners, participated in study groups about communist philosophy, and made new friends across the bosses' borders. Summer project volunteers this year will have these experiences as well as learning from veteran farm-worker organizers in California's San Joaquin Valley.

Even though people are in motion, either for "democracy" in Egypt, or fighting to "save public education" in California, without communist political leadership, all these struggles will come to a dead end. Previous revolutionary parties have fought for "peace, land and bread," for "people's democracy" or for "socialism," but all of these have ended up with capitalism. Others give lip service to communism, but say that it's not on the agenda in the foreseeable future. ICWP understands the urgency of the world situation and the immediacy of our task—mobilizing the masses of workers for communism.

**The 2011 ICWP Summer Project is an important part of this. Join us.**

### Oaxaca:

#### PLANTING THE RED FLAG

While capitalism uses the holidays to push their ideology of oppression, we, the workers, use them to push our ideology of liberation: communism. These were days with many achievements. We visited several friends, new and old, all willing to continue the struggle against revisionism and for communism.

We contacted a teacher who is willing to spread *Red Flag* in the section of the union to which she belongs. She received our newspaper and commented to us that the road to the solution to this system has to be outside the system. Her participation in APPO (Popular Assembly for the People of Oaxaca) brought her to conclude this. She seems open to communist ideas. She received us very enthusiastically.

We also visited a former comrade. She had been distanced for a time from the party; the situation with the old party made her come around again and she has listened to both sides. She showed confidence in the comrades who have created the new party. We left her our newspaper and she said that she would read it very carefully. We talked about the political reasons for which we broke with the old party; we agreed to keep visiting her and discuss more ideas. This reencounter encouraged us a lot. She understands the contradictions in the old party, and we'll struggle with her to join us.

We visited another comrade who for personal questions had distanced himself from the party. He didn't know the situation with the old party. We discussed the causes of the split. In fact, he stated that for several years he had questioned the practice of the party. He received the collection of the majority of the editions of *Red Flag* among other documents. We asked him to analyze them and asked that he give us his opinions. He showed a lot of interest in continuing the arduous work of the party. He said that he would not neglect communication and that he would again rejoin in the future. He invited us to visit him where he works.

In the square in the center of the city of Oaxaca, a teachers' union from this state established an occupation in which they demanded an end to all the injustices that the federal and state government commit against the members of this union. We took advantage of this situation and talked with the teachers present there about the need to build a communist party that fights for the needs of the whole working class. We sold them 50 *Red Flags*, which they received with much enthusiasm and immediately began to read. We also made a contact.

This has been one of our best vacations. In this battle we won 4 to 0. We hope that in the coming visit the score will be higher.



**ICWP 2010 Summer Project brings communist ideas to Boeing workers**

## 1905 Revolution in Russia:

### YOUNG COMMUNIST PARTY LEADS MASS INSURRECTION

One lesson of the heroic Paris Commune of 1871 was the need for a communist party to fight for a workers' dictatorship. (*Red Flag* v. 2 #6) A generation later, communists formed the Russian Social-Democratic Labor Party.

At first they organized workers' study circles. Soon they took advantage of spontaneous struggles – including textile and railway strikes – to bring socialism to the masses.

Mass work sharpened contradictions between two lines within the Party: opportunist reformism versus revolutionary Marxism (the Bolsheviks). It highlighted questions about Party organization itself.

In *What Is To Be Done?* (1904) Lenin emphasized the need for centralism (collectivity). Especially, the Party newspaper must bring communist consciousness into the working-class movement, where it strikes a responsive chord among workers striving to end oppression and exploitation.

All *Red Flag* readers should study this book. But we now understand the central role of a disciplined, mass communist Party more profoundly than the



Putilov workers meet inside the factory, 1905

Bolsheviks could over a century ago.

We understand that the masses must always be involved in the development of the Party line. And the Party itself will be the core of communist society.

**“The revolution has begun” – Lenin, 1905**

The first “trial by fire” of Lenin’s young Party came during the inter-imperialist Russo-Japanese war (1904-1906). Russian rulers tried to grab land in Manchuria (China) and Korea. The Tsar’s army was soon in retreat, with massive dissatisfaction growing at home.

Baku oil workers, influenced by communists, led a general strike in December 1904. In January, the Putilov munitions workers’ strike quickly grew into a general strike in the capital, St. Petersburg.

A peaceful mass march on the tsar’s palace on January 6, led by the priest Gapon, put forward workers’ demands. The tsar’s soldiers opened fire, killing and wounding thousands.

The Bolsheviks – without the right-wing Mensheviks – prepared for insurrection.

Lenin studied military works and past insurrections, especially the Paris Commune. He organized weapons purchases.

“There are hosts of people, it is only necessary to enlist the youth widely and boldly, and still more widely and boldly, without being afraid of it,” he declared.

Workers’ rebe-

llions spread to the countryside. Farmworkers went on strike. There were massive uprisings against landlords in over half the districts.

**Sailors Mutinied on the Battleship Potemkin and other Black Sea ships.**

Nearly a million and a half workers struck that year. They formed Soviets of Workers’ Deputies, many communist-led.

Lenin called for recruitment of workers into Party organizations “by the hundreds and thousands.” Within two years, 150,000 had joined.

Communists agitated extensively with the military and among industrial workers. Their approach was to mobilize the masses for the armed overthrow of tsarism.

But not for communism.

**Communists Must Fight for One Line: Communism**

The Bolsheviks had a “minimum program” (reforms) and a “maximum program” (socialism). They expected the “democratic revolution” to come first and the “socialist revolution” to follow almost immediately.

Their slogans were: “Down with the Tsarist Autocracy! Long Live the Democratic Republic! Down with Capitalism! Long Live Socialism! Long Live the Red Flag!”

In 1905, “socialism [meant] abolishing commodity production, abolishing the money system, razing capitalism to its foundations and socializing all the means of production.” (Stalin) Today we call that communism.

Once the Bolsheviks took power in 1917, “socialism” meant something else: state capitalism under workers’ rule. Elsewhere, communist parties only raised “democracy,” putting off

socialism for a “later” that never came.

The Bolsheviks’ “two programs” confused themselves and the workers. It led to many of the fatal mistakes they made later.

We have learned from their experience that communists must fight for one line and one line only: communism.

**No More Retreats!**

In December 1905, the Tsar counterattacked. He convened a bogus assembly (the Duma) which the Bolsheviks boycotted. Tsarist troops crushed the insurrection.

But over a million struck in 1906. There were uprisings of soldiers and sailors. Civil war raged in the countryside.

The Tsar made peace with Japan in order to declare war on the revolution. He unleashed massive racist attacks against non-Russians, and a campaign of arrests, exile, and executions: “Bullets for the workers, false promises for the peasantry and ‘rights’ for the big capitalists.”

The Party regrouped, confident that another upsurge would come – as eventually it did. The Bolsheviks emerged stronger. They had trained scores of workers who would become the revolutionary leaders of 1917. They were clearer on the need to fight for the dictatorship of the working class.

But they also retreated, meeting with the opportunists in a disastrous “Unity Congress” (1906). They consolidated the mistaken “two-stage” theory.

“Undoubtedly the revolution will teach us, and will teach the masses of the people,” Lenin said, and he was correct. We urge *Red Flag* readers to study our revolutionary history!

## NO BORDERS from page 1

provinces to big cities like Beijing, are considered “illegals”. They are super exploitable, and live with the fear of being deported to their villages of origin. The indigenous and those who come from the provinces are harassed and discriminated against in Mexico City.

### WORKERS HAVE NO NATIONS

Borders and nations, therefore, are not natural. They are creations of the capitalists-imperialists to divide up the earth and all that’s on it, like the natural resources, and human beings. To mask this appropriation and modern wage slavery, the bosses use nationalism and patriotism, creating the illusion of “our country” or “our people.” Under communism, there won’t be nations, or bosses, or borders, only free workers with the whole world to rule and share.

Under capitalism, we’re “illegals” even in the country where we’re born. In the US, latino and black youth can’t walk down the street without being constantly harassed, arrested and even killed by the racist police. This has led to 1.7 million black and latino workers being imprisoned.

In China, more than 150 million Chinese workers, who emigrate from its

The discrimination and racist exploitation of immigrant workers is a worldwide phenomena. All the capitalists-European, American, Asian and African—super exploit millions of workers who come from all the continents, subjecting them to inhuman conditions with terror from their immigration agents and with racist fascist laws.

And, these are the “fortunate.” The “unfortunate” stay in their countries of origin where they are even more super exploited or oppressed. They die by the millions from curable diseases or from hunger. At best, they live a hellish life on less than \$2 a day.

This is the best that capitalism can offer the workers. That’s why our world wide struggle must be to destroy this criminal system. Trying to reform it is an illusion. Let’s not be fooled by the

bosses’ promises of immigration reform like in the US (see box at right.)

### ONCE AGAIN WE’LL HAVE A WORLD WITHOUT BORDERS OR EXPLOITATION

Only with armed communist revolution will we have the world to which we aspire and need, this time on a higher level with mass communist consciousness. That’s why we’re organizing internationally a mass ICWP of millions of workers, soldiers and students.

Destroying exploitation, we’ll no longer be slaves, but instead free workers. We’ll abolish borders, and the vestiges of racism, sexism, nationalism and patriotism. The production of communists and communist social relations will be the main goals of our society.

While we expand the revolution worldwide, any worker in the world could come to liberated areas and participate in the process of learning and struggle. At the same time we will send help to places not yet liberated to encourage communist revolutions until workers liberate the whole world from the capitalist yoke. The struggle is alive here and now. Join us!

## IMMIGRATION REFORM FOR WAR

For many years, in preparation for wider wars and world war to defend their world empire, the Rockefeller-led US imperialist bosses have been trying to pass the DREAM ACT and the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act (CIRA). This effort has been hindered by another sector of the US rulers, financed by the Koch brothers. These capitalists’ interests lie mainly at home. They don’t want their profits to go to pay for expensive imperialist ventures.

This sector has been waging a rabid national anti-immigrant campaign, electing public officials who block the passage of the liberal imperialists’ immigration laws, while locally passing their own racist immigration laws. The Arizona SB1070 law is an example of this.

The Rockefeller sector – supported

**See Immigration Reform, page 15**

## Imperialists Prepare for World War III

### WORKERS MUST PREPARE TO WIPE OUT THE WARMAKERS

“World goes back to pre-war condition of 1939.” That’s the headline in the April 1st *Pravda*. *Pravda* is the paper of record for Russia. It is not sensationalist. The article charges NATO, the British Royal Navy and the US Marine Corps with increasing their military activities in the Black Sea. It goes on “... if we draw historical parallels, the world is in a state of 1939, i.e., before the start of a global war, whose precursor is the aggression of the U.S. and its satellites against Iraq and Afghanistan, and this time Libya. The only question is when this Black Sea Libya happens.”

Capitalism, based on domination and competition, is a win/lose game. One nation rises at the expense of others. Today caught in the center of a general crisis, the need to control raw materials and natural resources is more intense than ever. Literally, the economic and industrial rise of China cannot continue without access to oil and other materials. Literally, the maintenance of the US dollar as the world’s reserve currency (a vital advantage to US business and government) cannot continue without US control of the oil markets, nor can its armed forces operate without gigantic reserves of oil. This is a sharpening contradiction, not a win/win scenario.

The *Pravda* article then references military analyst, General Gareyev, who in a speech to Russia’s military Academy had warned: “Our country will come under huge geopolitical pressure in the coming years, primarily from the United States and China... It is difficult to hope that future wars will only be regional or local. U.S. Military forces are present in any strategic direction – west, south, east and north.” It’s worth noting that Russia is rich in oil and natural gas.

While Russian capitalists are, through their media, preparing Russia

for the outbreak of World War 3, US capitalists, through their media, are hiding it. The US media reports on the war in Libya, the Af-Pak war or the war in Iraq as if they are three separate conflicts. You have to read the military magazines to find out that US generals refer to the present period as “the long war!” In fact, although it is not yet a world war, it is a war for world domination, a war on several fronts to maintain (US) capitalist ‘leadership.’

#### US versus China

Speaking in New York on April 13th, the Governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia argued, “The rise of China, and very likely India, is a transformative event for the global economy.” He went on to point out that the US is the biggest debtor nation in the world – owing some \$14 trillion. China is the biggest saver – with some 3 trillion in deposits – and its biggest investor – with an estimated \$2.9 trillion gross investment in 2010. He showed that while the US and Europe’s share of world production was going down, that of Asia and China was rising. It was an unstoppable trend, he seemed to imply.

His statistics are accurate but they lack one important category: war! That \$2.9 trillion is next to worthless without an army. According to Beijing’s Ministry of Commerce, China’s new contracts are down 53.2% in North Africa since war and unrest developed there. Africom, the US’s regional military command for Africa, has flown 336 air sorties and launched 162 Tomahawk missiles. “Force,” Marx argued over 100 years ago, “... is an economic power.”

In fact, it was, among other things, fear of China that prompted the formation of Africom. In one study it wrote, “Now China has achieved a stage of economic development which requires endless supplies of African raw mate-

rials and has started to develop the capacity to exercise influence in most corners of the globe...history predicts that distrust and uncertainty will inevitably lead the People’s Liberation Army to Africa in staggering numbers.” Give China time to develop and its military will overpower the US.

For their part, the Chinese understand the threat. Lin Zhiyuan, a leading military analyst argues, “By building a dozen forward bases or establishments in Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria and other African nations, the US will gradually establish a network of military bases to cover the entire continent and make preparations for docking an aircraft carrier in the region...The present US global military redeployment centers mainly on an arc of instability from the Caucasus, Central and Southern Asia down to the Korean Peninsula, and so the African continent is taken as a strong point to prop up the US global strategy. Therefore Africom facilitates the United States advancing on the African continent, taking control of the Eurasian continent and proceeding to take the helm of the entire world.”

#### Imperialist War or Workers Revolution

This is the world the imperialists present us. In the halls of government their politicians talk ‘democracy’ or ‘preventing a massacre.’ In the corridors of power, its generals plan the destruction of the next Grozny (in Chechnya), the next Falluja (in Iraq) or the next Mizrata (in Libya) – all the while anticipating the outbreak of world war. The system of production for private profit (capitalism) demands that each power, and not the other, control the world’s raw materials. This becomes even more urgent in a time of economic crisis. The march toward world war is quickening.

It is not the only development. While

*Pravda* might be preparing the Russian masses to patriotically support a Third World War, a small revolutionary communist paper, *Red Flag*, is preparing to mobilize the masses for communist revolution. It is an international Party, organizing workers, soldiers and students across all borders. It was formed in recognition of the growing threat of imperialist world war. It is confident that World War 3, like two previous World Wars, will be a period of revolutionary upsurge. World War 1 ended with the Bolshevik revolution in Russia. The end of World War 2 saw the triumph of communist led revolution in China. Those revolutions fought for socialism – a system that kept the banks, money and a modified wage slavery. As a result, despite the heroic efforts of the masses, the revolutions were gradually overturned and workers lost power. The revolution *Red Flag* is organizing is for communism, relying on the full collective power of the world’s workers. Join us.



This cartoon from the ruling class journal *Foreign Affairs* shows that the US bosses know they are declining as China is rising. What they refuse to admit to the masses is that this will inevitably lead to World War.

## PUTTING COMMUNISM UP FRONT!

**El Salvador**—“Hey Man, looks like you guys are always on vacation. And next month is another holiday?” to which a co-worker immediately answered, “It’s May 1st, and we’re all going to San Salvador to the march. Right, friend?” he asked a member of ICWP who was listening to the conversation between a Cuban advisor and a group of workers who are *Red Flag* readers. “It’s true that May Day is coming,” remembered the Cuban worker.

The history of the world’s working class is written in blood and this country is not an exception, like the attacks on the heroes and martyrs of Chicago in 1886. That’s why, as the International Communist Workers’ Party, we honor this glorious day for the revolutionary movement on the road to

Communism.

On May Day in 1886, 200,000 workers began a strike for the 8 hour work day in Chicago. The editor of *Arbeiter Zeitung*, Fischer wrote a proclamation in his newspaper (that was later used as the main proof accusing him in the trial that led to his hanging) which printed 25,000 pamphlets. The proclamation said:

“Workers: the class war has begun. Yesterday, in front of the McCormick factory, the workers were shot. Their blood demands revenge!

“Who could doubt that the jackals who rule us are thirsty for the workers’ blood? But the workers aren’t a herd of sheep! To white terror we respond with red terror! Death is preferable to poverty!

“If they shoot the workers, we’ll respond in such a way that both sides will remember for a long time. Its necessity that makes us shout: To Arms!

“Yesterday, the women and children of the poor cried for their husbands and fathers who were shot, so much so that in the palaces of the rich they filled glasses of expensive wine and drank to the health of the bandits of order...

“Dry your tears, you who suffer!

“Have courage, slaves! Rise up!”

This proclamation, so full of revolutionary anger, is one that should guide us to the final victory for Communism; there are no retreats. In ICWP we are advancing on the shoulders of giants and we must march for the revolution of the working class.

The reality of the working class in El

Salvador is that day by day workers are spilling our blood for the criminality of the capitalist system. Thousands of compatriots of our exploited class are being murdered while the puppets of the bosses’ system continue assuring their governmental positions, bringing security only to the owners of the means of production.

We’ll distribute thousands of leaflets and hundreds of *Red Flags* which are awaited by our class organized in the popular organizations. We must assure that they soon join our ICWP.

Every May Day the slogans of our working class organized in ICWP are there to expose those who exploit the Salvadoran workers. Our maximum slogan must be: “Fight for Communism!”

#### Questions for Red Flag Study-Action Discussion Groups

1. The article on page 2 says that deaths caused by supposedly natural disasters are really murder. Do you agree with that? If so, what should be the consequences of that?
2. What is your reaction to the idea of abolishing money? What do your friends say? How people would get what they need in a modern industrial society without using money? Why is that important?

## EXPERIENCES IN WORKERS' POWER

During my years of class struggle in the fields, since 1965, I think that, relatively, I experienced enough about how workers' struggles are won or lost, and why what is won is lost.

In June 1970, the first labor contracts were signed in Delano, California, between the growers and the Farm Workers' Union. With the contracts, the working conditions improved relatively. Things that were not available before were granted. Water, for example, was made available; there was even cold water, plastic glasses, a break every four hours, toilets, etc.

The union contracts stipulated that there should be a workers' committee in each farm that would give union representation to the workers before the boss. When I started working at this farm, I asked my co-workers about that committee and found out that there was none. I asked my co-workers to organize the committee which should be made up of three workers.

When it came time to elect the people for the committee, the workers elected me, but nobody else wanted to participate. The reason for this was that during the strike that had lasted more

than five years in order to win those contracts, all the workers here had been scabs (strike-breakers) and knew nothing about struggle, or what to do to defend the workers from the boss. Because of this they were still afraid of him. Therefore, I became the union committee on that farm.

Because of my previous years of struggle and the hardships and suffering I and my family had to endure, I became a staunch defender of our labor contract. Through my actions, I won the confidence of the workers. So that whenever a boss violated the contract, no matter how small, we responded to it in whatever way was necessary. I will narrate one of the many fights I had with the boss where I worked.

One day, when about fifteen workers were doing a special job, I needed to go to the restroom, but the restroom was too filthy. The foreman in charge of cleaning it had not done so and at the time he was absent. On seeing that, I told my co-workers to stop working and that they should sit down, because the restroom was too filthy. When we were all sitting around, the boss came, dressed very elegantly, in his new station

wagon.

On seeing us sitting down he started to scream, asking us how come we were sitting down. When I told him why we were sitting down, he began to curse the foreman who was absent. Shortly afterward he told us to go back to work, saying that as soon as the foreman came he would order him to clean the restroom. But I answered him that as long as the restroom was filthy, we were not going to work. He told me that if we disagreed with what he wanted that we could deal with that later in the offices of Cesar Chavez, the chairperson of the union, but that we should continue to work. I told him that we were going to solve the problem right here because Cesar Chavez was not the one breaking his back working here like we were.

Since the foreman was nowhere in sight and the work was completely stopped, cursing and uttering things I did not understand, the boss went to his station wagon. Sullenly, he rolled up his sleeves, took some old rags and some tools and began to clean the restroom. He got all wet; he sweated and got his fine clothes dirty with shit. He did this

so we workers could go to the restroom happily and contented. When he finished, he told me, "Come and see, it is clean." He lost and had to pay over an hour of work we did not do in response to a violation of our labor contract. No matter how small the violations to the contract, these must be resolved at the point of production, with the participation of the workers, not in the offices of the bosses or the union.

This I write as a remembrance, and dedicate it to all workers. And let's remember is that a labor contract has a date when it expires; there's no security that the boss will renew it, much less improve the working conditions beyond what's in the contract. A labor contract only negotiates the temporary terms of our wage slavery. For this reason, the work contract, as a reform in the capitalist system, will never be the solution to the workers' problems. We have to fight to destroy the wage system itself. That's why we have to engage in revolutionary communist struggle, and in the future get rid of the game of union labor contracts along with exploitation.

--Veteran communist in the farm-workers' struggle

### Lopez Obrador: Only More Capitalism

## WE NEED A SOCIETY WITHOUT EXPLOITATION

MEXICO: Already in his pre-presidential campaign, AMLO (Andrés M. López Obrador) presented on March 20th, 2011 his new national project proposing 50 indispensable actions for national regeneration.

According to him, the cause of the poverty and crisis that we're living is the predominance of a group of oligarchs who, during the government of Salinas de Gotari, were given the "wealth of the nation"; such an "excessive concentration" provoked the "impoverishment, the rupture of the social pact and of public tranquility."

He forgets the poverty and death created before this by the PRI (Revolutionary Institutional Party) to which he belonged and which was in power for almost 70 years. He also forgets the corruption, authoritarianism, exploitation, and oppression under state capitalism, imitator of the welfare state promoted by the Anglo Saxon bourgeoisie to supposedly get out of the Great Depression. Consequently they offer us as a solution action number 43, "establish a welfare state..."

In the first place, Obrador considers it unavoidable "to bring down the oligarchy in the political terrain and by the peaceful road to establish...a true de-

mocracy..." creating a new legality with absolute attachment to the constitution..."(bourgeois, of course); "democratically electing the ministers of the Court..." submit the President to "the principal of revocation of command." Take care of the prestige of the armed forces, not using it to resolve conflicts of the social order, revise the free trade agreement, clean up government corruption, "abolish the privileges of the 400...corporations...that have yearly incomes of more than 6 billion pesos and don't pay taxes..." reduce "the salaries by half of directors generals and above." Build five refineries, reduce the price of gasoline, etc, etc.

In a meeting of businessmen, however, he anticipated that if he wins in 2012, his government will revise "all the concessions" of exploitation of the radio electrical spectrum and fiber optics, "but we won't expropriate, there won't be persecution...what we want is that there's competition. If Slim wants, he can have a television channel, but like any one of you."

So there won't be any expropriation of the stolen properties, there would only be more community participation, including having more access to the media. The 30 mafiosos headed by

Slim and Azcarraga whose names appear on the list, the "masters of Mexico", would continue with their concessions. They would not be appropriated, nor persecuted, they would at the most take away their fiscal privileges of not paying taxes.

The conditions under which labor is exploited, as defined by the Federal Law of Labor, will continue. Wage differences would be reduced a little, temporarily, but the exploitation of capitalism will continue only with cosmetic changes. Such is the promise of the candidate of hope. We workers have nothing to win with this change. We need to get rid of capitalism. That's what we're fighting for!

On the other hand, our goal in the In-



ternational Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) is to fight and mobilize workers for a communist revolution. To build a new society without exploitation. Eliminate the bosses' private property (banks, factories, mines, natural resources, etc.) that deprives us of everything. There won't be a market economy or competition, only production for consumption, for use. The capitalists will be where they should be—under the ground. We invite you to fight together with ICWP for a society in which only workers will exist, a communist society.

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### Learning through Practice

Today we handed out May Day leaflets and **Red Flags** in the LA garment district for the first time.

"I was amazed at how many people were taking and reading them," said Donny. "More of this needs to be done."

"Garment workers are really hurting," Sean commented. "They are true slaves of the wage system."

"They were mostly young, about my age," Donny added. "I'm shocked. Shouldn't you be in school?"

The conversation turned to communism.

"I'm still learning about communism," Donny volunteered. "I'm trying to read Marx's Communist Manifesto, but it's hard."

"My understanding is that communism means abolition of private property, everyone participates in government, and a better standard of living for the workers."

"Beyond that, I have questions. Like, what's the difference between communism and socialism?"

We discussed that for a while. Sean had a lot to say about it, and also about what's wrong with capitalism.

"It's all individualism and competition," he said. "And we're being limited in technology: not just entertainment, but space exploration, recycling, energy, everything."

An older comrade asked, "How did passing out flyers today affect you?"

"It changed my perspective," Donny replied. "You know, because I live in America..."

"Being where you were, six months ago, I had the same questions," Sean broke in.

"If communism had a different name it would be easier. We have to relearn what we've learned all our lives."

"My view of communism is that it works at uplifting the working-class and poor," said Donny. "It's almost common sense, isn't it?"

"It's common sense and it corresponds with how humans lived for tens of thousands of years," responded the older comrade. "But we also need to understand it scientifically. We should start having study groups after May Day."

And we will.

—LA comrades

### Students Build for May Day

In preparation for May Day, the college and high school collectives came together to distribute **Red Flag** on two college campuses, bus barns, and several factories during a week-long spring break mini project. Having more students at our regular college sales created a lot of enthusiasm, and made the mini project quite successful. We made new contacts at one of the colleges during a sale, as well as, mending lost ties with ex-high school students.

This mini project provided valuable insight along with a great experience for the high school students to reflect

on future sales. The students got to experience talking to college students about politics and class struggles. Students and others have also gone to bus divisions all over the city where drivers, in particular, have been very interested in **Red Flag** articles about the contract. In addition, we have expanded our regular sales at various factories.

Not only has this increased the enthusiasm for building a communist contingent in the May Day March, it has given more students experience in distributing **Red Flag**. In addition, it's good preparation for the upcoming summer project.

--High School comrades



### Let's fight for the unity of men and women workers to smash the capitalists!

To go to the essence of things is one of the goals of understanding; but "essentialism" is the deformation of such a focus, attributing to the thing a characteristic and accepting it without proof.

This is shown in the designation of Marisela Morales as the Attorney General of the Republic. The feminist approval was immediate. They said that women are morally superior to men. Attributing to them as "natural" virtues like compassion, patience, honesty, loyalty, kindness is "essentialism" pushed by capitalist ideology.

The regional director of the UN Women said, "Our opinion is that there should always be more women in the spaces of decision and leadership." More talent, capacity and experience have nothing to do with gender. Golda Meir, Margaret Thatcher, and Imelda Marcos acted and Hillary Clinton acts in accordance with the interests of capital. Nothing affirms that women are, by definition, sensitive or sensible, harmonious and balanced; in any case, with respect to which social class?

The women politicians fight for positions, cushy jobs, and recognition and are just as ambitious, aggressive, hard and calculating as any male politician. At the same time, there are men who are nourishing, affectionate, generous and peaceful. Even more in the working class. However this also isn't a characteristic of a social class; capitalism corrupts even the workers.

We need to fight to improve the situation of women workers, not for woman in general. The special oppression of women, sexism began

with class society, and was consolidated under capitalism.

Feminism claims to be anti-sexist, however it's not based on the need to abolish wage slavery for men and women united. In combating the predominance of the man under capitalism, something undeniable, it deforms the means to achieve equality against the capitalists, blaming men in general and not the wage system. It doesn't accept the focus of the working class and praises any elevation of women that reaches "places where before they weren't represented," more so where some women politicians are visible and reach their personal goals, sexism doesn't end nor its cause: capitalism. Instead, it's reinforced.

Capitalism converts women into commodities, especially women workers. It degrades them as sex objects, promoting this all the time in the media.

More women need to become leaders in the struggle to abolish wage slavery, the cause of sexist super exploitation, prostitution, and violence against women. Join ICWP!

### Revolutionary War Necessary to Achieve Peace

On Wednesday, April 6th in 37 cities in Mexico people marched in protest against the murder of the friends and the son of writer Javier Sicilia, who complained about the government's ineptitude and said they were responsible for the effects of the fight against organized crime. He asked the criminals to respect civilians, to "return to their code of honor."

Mischel Leonharrt, Director of the DEA, said in Cancun that the levels of violence are due to the fact that drug dealers go around like "caged beasts" cornered by the army.

The government is responsible for the insecurity and violence. With the pretext of fighting organized crime it has intensified control over the population and has established military check points and police throughout the whole country. Now they're trying to make a universal national identity card and have proposed broad authorization so that the President can establish a "State of Emergency" in case of catastrophes and social uprisings or insurrections.

There are also sharp fights in the ruling class and the "purging of Federal forces" has been within the limits of the Presidential power. The unification of the state police commands and the federal system, has been put on hold by the rulers who don't want to lose control over their own fiefdoms.

According to what's said, the old criminal "code" consisted of control of crime by Presidential authority, a limited "stop doing it." And giving an "alternative" with the PAN (National Action Party). Taking away the hegemony of the PRI, crime became more uncontrolled causing a fight over territories. The million dollar arms dealing came hand in hand with the sharpe-

ning drug war.

It's proposed that the government and the drug dealers agree that each respect the routes that they use to the north, "that the fools leave and the corrupt come back" is the solution, they say, that when Calderon declared war on the drug dealers he didn't predict the violence it would bring.

For others, among them Lopez Obrador, "they persecute one band to protect another and what is needed is a welfare state (like the New Deal)." Others promote the legalization of drugs in such a way that the business would be legal and the profits are extracted with less violence. What we workers need however is to eliminate the wage system, the use of labor power of workers by the capitalists, the cause of oppression, wars and growing fascism. This is the communism that ICWP is fighting for. Join us!

### Immigration Reform from page 4

by union and church officials, community organizations and politicians like Villaraigosa and Obama – disguise their racist fascist scheme behind humanitarian platitudes. They push the DREAM ACT and the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act (CIRA) as the path to citizenship for 12 million undocumented youth and workers already here. By this, they hope that millions in gratitude will loyally slave in their war industries and patriotically fight and die for their imperialists profits and empire.

The DREAM ACT would allow over a million undocumented youth, brought here before age 16, to apply for legal residence after completing two years of college or two years in the military. The economic crisis and its cutbacks will force the majority of these youth into the military. Not surprisingly, the Pentagon is a major backer of this bill.

The CIRA also "promises" a path to citizenship to the over 12 million undocumented workers here if they pay heavy fines, and work for five years. During that period, being more than 60 days out of work could mean possible deportation. If they pass this ordeal, they could apply for legalization by going to the end of the line of all applicants world wide, another 5-years-or-more process. To shorten this ordeal, many might choose military service. Over 65% of these workers are of military age. Millions, while waiting for their legalization, will end up slaving in the bosses' war industries, which they are rebuilding on the cheap.

In this fight between these two gangs of butchers workers have nothing to win and everything to lose. Capitalism has nothing to offer workers except exploitation, terror and war. Immigrants and citizens – black, asian, white and latin – must join our revolutionary communist struggle to destroy capitalism-imperialism forever.

## REVERSAL OF SUPPLY SYSTEM IN CHINA SHOWS WE CAN'T RETREAT FROM COMMUNISM

The supply system the Chinese Red Army adopted during the revolutionary struggle showed that an egalitarian communist society is achievable, even under the most difficult circumstances. They fought together against the Chinese bosses and Japanese invaders while producing and sharing everything without wages or privileges, motivated by political conviction—fighting for the liberation of the working class. The supply system was based on the communist principle that the working class possesses a high degree of political consciousness, capable of creating a new society based on meeting workers' needs, without money or exploitation. Today, that principle should guide us to build our new Communist Revolution.

Unfortunately, despite their great success, the communist leadership failed to reinforce and propagate the ideals of a communist society. What went wrong? It failed to abolish money, and retreated from the principle of the supply system, "From each according to ability, to each according to need." Throughout the struggle for communism in China, there was always an internal struggle in the Chinese Communist Party between two lines: rely on communist relations or on money. Eventually, the theory of stages, first socialism and then communism, became the dominant line in the party leadership, leading to the building of state capitalism instead of communism.

After the communists gained power in China, leading a movement that required no money, their first mistake was the implementation of military ranks and a job grade salary wage system, starting in the mass Red Army. These capitalist ideas led to the formation of a privileged stratum among higher party leaders

that enjoyed a different life style. This privileged group became separate from the masses. Gradually, this new grade and wage system gave way to the formation of a bureaucratic regime with its own political power, a new capitalist class.

Even though many resisted, and fought to implement the supply system in the whole country, the wage system was nonetheless implemented, supposedly to increase production. Some in the leadership mistakenly believed that monetary incentives were needed to increase production. Some party leaders, including Mao, did not completely agree. They saw masses motivated by political goals of producing for need. But most did not understand the fatal consequences of going back to the old system of wages. Yet, the workers had just come out of a system where millions of people were willing to produce and risk their lives in the war for liberation where there was no reliance on monetary incentives, but instead on the communist ideas of sharing and collectivity.

### STRUGGLE FOR SUPPLY SYSTEM CONTINUES

During the period of promoting both production and collectivity, known as "The Great Leap Forward", large groups of people, often 10,000 or more, formed communes, starting in 1957. To encourage collective production and living, many communes included communal meals, moving toward communist distribution according to need, not wages. In the face of wages and rank, many rank and file peasants and workers organized this return to the supply system. They showed that arguing that communism leads to laziness is capitalist ideology. During the Great Leap Forward, industrial and agricultural production were combined in the communes, which used the supply system. Education and practical work were also combined. Millions took part, inspired by moving to communism.

However, based partly on bourgeois behavior of careerist comrades, partly on a drought, and partly on sabotage, the Great Leap Forward ended during a famine in which many people died. Many party cadre had given false estimates of how much grain they expected to produce, to paint a rosy image to aid their personal promotion. This was an outcome of the wage grade system. The right wing of the party seized on

these errors to fight against the communes and the supply system.

Later, in 1966, in The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, rank and file peasants, workers, students and red guards responded by fighting to overthrow the revisionists and to institute communism. This left group attacked the leaders who were taking a capitalist road. Unfortunately, the movement, which didn't build a new party, was defeated by the CCP leaders, who were on the road to openly institute capitalism, making even more concessions to the rich peasants and capitalists.

### THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE RIGHT AND LEFT

What went wrong? Money was not abolished. The two stage road meant retreating from communism to capitalism. Monetary incentives along with rank privileges stemmed from a very serious internal struggle in the party between having confidence in the masses of workers and peasants to mobilize for communism and the stages theory that says the masses can't be won directly to communism. The struggle between the left and right was constant in the old movement.

This struggle continues today inside our party, ICWP. This history shows that reformist and revisionist concessions have proven catastrophic. We foster internal struggle to mobilize the masses for communism because that's what workers need and deserve. We need full confidence that the time is now for the masses to be won to communist ideas. This is why the political line is primary in order to accomplish communism and why ICWP fights for communism — to abolish wages and money right after the revolution — to produce for need, not profit.

The lessons from the courageous Chinese movement are critical to us as we fight to build a communist society today.



During the Chinese Revolution, soldiers were not divided by rank or wages

**JOIN THE ICWP  
2011 SUMMER  
PROJECT!  
MOBILIZE THE  
MASSES FOR  
COMMUNISM!**

## THE DIALECTICS OF OPPOSITION AND CONTRADICTION

Contradiction is the central concept of dialectical philosophy, and some of our previous columns have focused on it. In this column we discuss a more general concept that includes contradictions, the concept of opposition.

### What Opposites Are

In order for things or processes to be opposites, they have to be different, but much more than difference is required. Opposites have to be exclusive, so that nothing can be entirely on both sides of an opposite relation at the same time. Also, opposites have to interact and change each other, at least some of the time.

An important example that shows these two features of an opposition—exclusion and interaction—is the relation between parents and their children. In every particular parent-child relation, the parents are one side and the children are the other. So being a parent excludes being a child in that relationship, and vice-versa. In each relationship, the parents are influenced by their children, and the children are influenced by their parents. So the parent-child relation is an opposition.

### Is Something Wrong Here?

Some people are bound to object that they don't oppose their parents, but get along with them fine. This objection brings out the meanings of the concepts of "opposition" and "contradiction" in dialectics, which are a little different than the ordinary use of these

terms. Contradictions are defined as opposites in which the two sides interfere with each other, struggle against each other, or hold each other back. Not every opposition is a contradiction, however, at least not all the time. If an opposition is not a contradiction, it is called supplementary. Oppositions between parent and child, husband and wife, discussion and action, buying something and selling it, etc., can be supplementary at least some of the time.

### Supplementary Oppositions Change

Suppose a diesel mechanic works on an engine that comes with a really good manual. The procedures and settings in the manual work perfectly in practice. The ideas in the manual and the practical work on the engine are opposites. Statements on paper and actual work on an engine are exclusive things—nothing is both. But the book was created from actual work at the engine factory and now guides actual work in the shop. So the contents of the manual and engine repair work interact, and are supplementary opposites.

Further experience by the mechanic is likely to change this situation, however. No manual is perfect. The mechanic may find better ways to do certain jobs, and not follow the manual any more. Or, he or she may find that if you tighten certain bolts as much as the manual says, they tend to break and create a problem that is hard to fix. Then the manual and the mechanic's practice aren't supplementary anymore, but in contradiction. It may be possible to eliminate the

contradiction by getting stronger bolts or by changing the manual. Even if this is done, however, some new contradiction is bound to show up later. Like the relation between parents and children, this case illustrates a general truth about opposites: They don't stay supplementary, but are contradictory at least some of the time.

### Worker-Capitalist Opposition

The opposition between the capitalist class and the working class is always a contradiction, never supplementary. In the rare cases capitalists do something that workers actually want, it's only a tactic to keep exploiting them. But union bosses and politicians regularly say otherwise. They call on us to "share the sacrifice" of capitalist wars and economic crises, and push the lie that both workers and capitalists would benefit from this. The fact is that the worker-capitalist relation is always a struggle of opposites. Capitalists are always the enemies of workers, as the slave-owners and feudal lords were in previous systems based on the exploitation of labor.

### The Dialectics of Opposition

Some oppositions are always contradictions, and all oppositions are contradictory sometimes, but there are important principles in communist dialectics that apply to all oppositions. In the next column, we will discuss the principle that things can turn into their opposites in particular circumstances.