

# RED FLAG

**MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM**



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

## MAY DAY: MASSES WELCOME NEW COMMUNIST MANIFESTO!



### The Kind of Revolution We Need:

#### **COMMUNIST REVOLUTION**

SEATTLE, WA, May 1 — “Lots of people hate capitalism. Many want some kind of revolution, but they’re not sure what kind of revolution,” said a comrade, commenting on earlier May Day events as two thousand “immigrants rights” marchers streamed down Jackson Street.

“Don’t let anybody fool you,” advised our friend, a veteran of many May Days here and abroad. “There’s only one kind of revolution.” That’s right: a communist revolution!

More are open to just such an idea these days. We sold and distributed 500 *Red Flag* newspapers and a similar number of our manifesto: *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*.

A half-dozen new friends signed up at our tables and with sellers. Some said they wanted to attend our post-May Day meeting to discuss

our summer project and where our movement goes from here. They joined dozens of old friends from teacher and student groups, Boeing political work and OccupySeattle.

We raised the International Communist Workers’ Party’s (ICWP) red flags in almost every demonstration. At every event, lengthy discussions revealed a desire to get into the nuts and bolts of how communism could work.

“I’ve been told that the top-down iron grip of the central committee made past revolutions fail,” said a longshore worker at the noon “anti-capitalist” march of over a thousand to Wells Fargo Bank. “Don’t get me wrong, I don’t know if it’s true. What does your party say?”

“The main problem is past parties fought for socialism, which is really state capitalism,” our comrade began.

“Socialism was supposed to pro-

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### Red Flag in the Streets:

#### **YOUTH TAKE COMMUNIST IDEAS TO THE MASSES**

EL SALVADOR, May 1--The masses this May Day went out into the streets to defy oppressive capitalism which is responsible for poverty, violence and environmental chaos.

The streets and avenues of San Salvador filled with red, representing the blood of thousands who’ve fallen in the struggle to defeat the misery that capitalism has extended to the entire world.

Each day the struggle takes a more revolutionary direction. And this May Day the awakening of workers’ class consciousness was in evidence with the criticisms and challenges that the masses hurl against the bourgeoisie and their capitalist system.

The ICWP carried out the awe-inspiring work of bringing and sharing communist ideas with the masses

marching on May Day.

The National Youth Collective organized with anticipation, enthusiasm, and responsibility to distribute *Red Flag* and *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*. It was a difficult task. However, the goal of converting the masses of workers, farmworkers, students and soldiers into the Great Red Army organized by ICWP was stronger than the fatigue and the overexertion.

The top leadership of the reformist party in power, the fmIn, had called the workers together to “celebrate the changes during its government.” However, the masses didn’t come out to support one more bourgeois government; they came out to protest against the system. To struggle elbow to elbow, shoulder to shoulder with their comrades for a dignified life.

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**BOSSSES’ ETHICS  
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**We must choose:****CAPITALISM'S DOG-EAT-DOG ETHICS OR COMMUNIST COLLECTIVITY**

"There is always room for one more," is a popular saying among many of the world's most oppressed masses. It states their willingness to share the little that they have with others in need. Throughout the centuries, untold generations have lived by this saying. It has helped countless survive the crushing poverty and destitution imposed on them by capitalism.

It is the same unselfish spirit of sacrifice and sharing that the masses show in great emergencies or catastrophic events. We have all experienced some aspects of this in our daily lives. It shows the great potential for building a world based on communist ethics: a world where we collectively produce everything according to skills and commitment and share it according to need.

This is the world we need. Only this will eliminate the dog-eat-dog ethics of capitalist competition. Production and distribution for need will eliminate the exploitation of one human being by another. Money, the means by which the product of our labor is converted into the private property of the capitalist few, will be eliminated. Nothing will be bought or sold.

No more shall we be divided by class, race or nationality. Unhindered by borders, as one human race, composed only of billions of workers, we will share a

world without racism, sexism, individualism and wars.

This is the complete opposite of what we have today. Today, a handful of capitalists-imperialists own and control the world. According to the latest *Global Wealth Report* from Credit Suisse, the 30 million millionaires in the world control \$89 trillion of the world's wealth. This means that a tiny minority of less than half a percent controls about 40% of the planet's wealth!

These are the capitalists, who run the 737 companies that control 80% of the world's economy.

They have everything in common: luxury, power and despicable racist contempt and hatred of the other 99.5% of humanity: us, the toiling masses.

They all agree on, and have one common goal, to divide, exploit and beat us into submission to keep expanding their wealth. Last year alone they increased it by \$20 trillion.

They have "everything" in common. Yet, the very world they own separates them and pits one against the other. Why? Because, they are all always competing to grab for themselves as much of the world as possible. For them, the world is not big enough. This inevitably leads to war.

As Lenin, a leader of the communist-led Russian Revolution wrote in 1916, "When nine-tenths of Africa had been seized [by 1900], when the

whole world had been divided up, there was inevitably ushered in the era of monopoly possession of colonies and, consequently, of particularly intense struggle for the division and the re-division of the world."

Capitalism's competition for maximum profits dictates this re-division. Competition eliminates some capitalists-imperialists and gives rise to new ones. But, newcomers find that "there is no room for one more" at the table where the dominant capitalist-imperialist vultures feast on the wealth produced from our labor. The seating arrangements, as Lenin wrote, are eventually then decided by world war.

We are once again at that junction in history, with wider wars and World War III looming on the horizon. Our only option is to turn the imperialists' war into a class war for communism.

The bosses' main characters have changed: a declining US imperialism versus a rising Chinese and a resurgent Russian imperialism. Their script, however, remains the same.

Our script, however, has changed. The Russian and Chinese working class showed during World Wars I and II, respectively, that capitalism-imperialism can be defeated. Marching in their glorious tradition, thankful for their invaluable experience, we no longer fight for failed socialism but fight confidently for communism.

Our task now, tomorrow and always, is to mobilize the masses for communism. The period demands urgency to massively recruit workers, soldiers and youth to our Party. We must train them to be critically thinking communist leaders capable of training millions more like themselves. This and only this will guarantee that we will turn the bosses' genocidal wars into a class war for communism and build the world we aspire to and need.

Join us! History is on our side!

**ICWP in the Streets:****MAY DAY IN MEXICO**

It was a good day for International Communist Workers' Party. Our goal was to involve our members and friends in distributing our literature and asking for donations in the May Day march. Everyone helped at different levels. Unfortunately we had trouble with the printing of *Red Flag*, but the Party was able to distribute 600 copies of our manifesto *Mobilize the Masses for Communism (MMC)*. Everyone who took *MMC* gave us a donation, even if it was small. We asked them to read it and send us their ideas, disagreements and agreements.

Many workers resist receiving and, even more, reading political literature (not only communist) so it's always a struggle within ourselves for us to take on the struggle to spread our ideas, consistently winning workers to the fight for communism, while, clearly, involving ourselves in the workers' struggles.

As *Red Flag* has pointed out, May Day was taken over historically by the ruling class. Due to the reformist weaknesses of the communists, the bosses could, relatively easily, present themselves as the "defenders of the workers." In Latin America, they have presented themselves as "revolutionaries," like Apra in Peru, Peronism in Argentina, "Institutional Revolution" in Mexico, where the cartels said for many years: "Thank you, Mr. President," in a complete alienation of proletarian consciousness.

ICWP through *Red Flag* has begun anew the struggle for the emancipation of the working class, struggling for the workers and the oppressed people to change their way of thinking and not to fight for "democracy," "nationalizations," or state ownership, etc, but instead to fight for the abolition of wage slavery, for a communist world. To achieve that, we need to build a mass communist party of active communist worker-thinkers. Join us!

**Spain:****SERVING THE WORKING CLASS**

SPAIN, May 1—We distributed 500 *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* pamphlets despite a sharp situation with the police, which meant that we had to work quickly. We really needed more pamphlets because there were so many more people marching in the streets than last year. Next year we'll double the number of leaflets and pamphlets we distribute. Greetings and hugs to all the comrades. We feel happy to be able to be part of all this, and happier still to know that what we do is for the working class, that we've retaken the work in which many have lost their lives and for this our strength is renewed every day to continue to fight for our ideals. Keep advancing comrades: we've only just begun!



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## May Day in Los Angeles:

### MASSES EMBRACE COMMUNIST IDEAS

“Fight for communism! Power to the workers!” chanted two workers on the sidewalk, their fists high in the air, in unison with the May Day contingent of the International Communist Workers’ Party proudly marching through downtown LA. Both workers took our literature and gave donations. One gave his contact information.

“That’s right. We need a revolution,” said a homeless unemployed Iraq war vet to a *Red Flag* seller. “If there’s a revolution here, 75% of the troops will side with the revolution. Only 25% will defend the system,” he added.

#### May Day Dinner Prepares for Marches

“When I joined ICWP last year, I still had many questions. But they’re being answered in the Party. I urge all of you tonight who are not already members to join our Party and develop as communists in the Party like I have,” said a young woman teacher who spoke at our May Day Dinner.

Black, latino, and white, women and men, of all ages, gave leadership to every aspect of the May Day dinner in preparation for the march. It was a blow to the bosses’ racism and sexism. Some spoke, others led and organized the dinner, wrote and sang inspiring communist songs, and took part in a play showing unity of soldiers, workers and students for communist revolution.

Others cooked delicious food and helped set up tables.

On the march itself, many youth and workers distributed our literature and explained our communist ideas to the masses of demonstrators and onlookers on the sidewalks. They were inspired by the overwhelming responses. (See p. 14) They distributed 3500 *Red Flags* and 2500 *Mobilize the Masses for Communism (MMC)* during the activities, including at some of the many May Day Occupy actions.

At the crack of dawn on May Day, our communist speeches resounded at rallies to transit workers and high school students. Then we went to the march, where other youth and workers led communist chants, some of which they had written, and gave communist speeches, while holding high our red flags and beautiful communist banners. These comrades, future comrades and friends are spearheading our Party’s strategic outlook of *Mobilizing the Masses for Communism*.

This May Day - taking place in the throes of a deep capitalist crisis and the shadow of World War Three - saw masses of workers and youth worldwide march against capitalism’s murderous onslaughts. These angry marches, however, were led by socialists, anarchists, reformists or capitalist politicians.

But, our class’s aspirations for a world free of exploitation, racism, sexism, and war can only be fulfilled by communism. Millions who marched worldwide on May Day are questioning capitalism. Over 5250 *MMC*’s and over 5000 *Red Flags* were distributed during this May Day’s activities in El Salvador, Mexico, Honduras, Spain and the US. This proves that millions are grasping for a communist alternative.

The actions and ideas of anarchists and reformers divert us from the communist world we need to build. As the bosses prepare for WWII, while squeezing us to death, they are trying hard to put this mass movement under their leadership. They propagate their poisonous ideologies of racism, patriotism, pacifism, reformism, and anti-communism, hoping we will willingly fight and die for their profits and empire.

The times, however, call for patience, perseverance and urgency as we strive to mobilize the masses for communism now. That means inviting all those who have helped spread communist ideas to join our Party and to organize groups of their friends to read *RF* and *MCC*.

These groups in turn should also help mobilize the masses for communism by replicating this process. They should also write for *RF* and contribute economically so we can publish more literature and spread it further. Together, we can build the mass party our class needs.

Political strikes against capitalism can play a very important role in creating a mass Party and mobilizing the masses for communism. Millions will be inspired by workers fighting, not for reforms, but for a system where production is to satisfy our human needs, not for profits.

The summer projects that ICWP is organizing aim to involve more workers, youth and soldiers in deepening our ties, building our Party and fighting for a communist world. This May Day was only a beginning. Join and commit yourself to this life long-struggle!



## COMMUNIST REVOLUTION from page 1

local papers seized on this, running front-page articles for three days on “May Day Violence.” One 65-year old passerby told the *Seattle Times*, “Violence? What violence? With what those banks and companies are doing, I’m surprised there isn’t more of this.”

You don’t measure how revolutionary you are by how many windows you break, but by how many workers you win to fight for communism. When you start breaking windows in workers’ cars, you’re openly reactionary.

The Mayor was scheduled to speak at the immigrant rights march, the last march of the day. He never showed. Same goes for the Boeing union despite elaborate preparations.

#### Anarchists, Democratic Party, Labor Lieutenants Do Bosses’ Bidding

The preachers did come. It’s a sad commentary on the state of the labor movement when preachers have more guts than labor leaders.

The mayor’s “tough stand in support of the cops and law” is aimed at the fall election. The unions are falling right in line. They never do anything political without the Democratic Party’s permission.

We have to answer the Boeing union’s capitulation to the Democratic Party with a political strike of our own. May Day would be a great opportunity for such a political strike against this

system. Unlike the self-indulgent anarchists, the ICWP has a clear vision of how the working class can mobilize masses for communism.

The last OccupySeattle march was scheduled to meet the immigrants’ rights march at Wells Fargo. By that time, the cops had sealed off the streets around the bank. That was fine with the pacifist, pro-capitalist immigrant rights leadership.

But rank-and-filers were not about to let the marches be split. Our comrades and friends kept in contact, letting each march know where the other was going. The two marches finally joined south of Wells Fargo despite cop barricades, intimidation and arrests, bringing a few thousand together to end the day.

This May Day our Party helped spread communist consciousness. Now let’s make May Day a milestone on the way to communist revolution.



## Honduras May Day Marchers Chant:

### “DEATH TO CAPITALISM!”

HONDURAS--One of the largest demonstration of the strength of the masses was carried out on the anniversary of International Workers' Day, as tens of thousands marched for several kilometers in Tegucigalpa and in all the other cities in the country.

How wonderful, when the capitalist system debates in the middle of a deep crisis that doesn't appear to have a solution and when US imperialism is losing control in the world, that the workers rise up against the domination of capital! In this situation, communism appears as the only possible option to confront the problems of humanity, to avoid the destruction of the planet and to build a new society which will eradicate once and for all the exploitation of the many by the few, and abolish all the calamities that are the fruit of this exploitative, inhumane and genocidal system.

In Honduras, as in all the other countries in the so-called third world, there now exists a constant

struggle against the neoliberal and oligarchic systems (capitalism). This struggle is increasingly leading towards the desire of an alternative to the system of exploitation and oppression of capital which is responsible for the huge social inequalities and the growing poverty in which the majority live. Most people in the world are being marginalized by capitalism which, in order to exist, must super-exploit and oppress the working class more every day.

All of this was shown in the massive show of workers' strength and chants such as, "Let's globalize the struggle against capitalism!" "Let's struggle against wage slavery!" "Death to genocidal and exploitive capitalism!" Let's not forget that even though the reformist struggles predominate in the workers' mass movement, still these strata, tired of so much exploitation and poverty, can be won now more

than ever to communist revolution.

The International Communist Workers' Party participated in this great event, showing solidarity with the mass struggles, passing out some Party pamphlets and seeking closer ties to future comrades.

Greetings comrades!



## EL SALVADOR, from page 1

In these times of economic, political, and social crisis of the capitalist system, the workers are more open to communist ideas. However, on the road of their struggle they can be seduced by socialist, anarchist and liberal parties that are lackeys of the system.

That's why we must be convinced that our struggle is the correct one. The struggle for communism is to eliminate the bourgeoisie, the capitalist system, so that racism, ethnic discrimination, hunger, poverty and violence no longer exist in the world. Because the masses are the only ones who, together and organized into the ICWP can solve these problems.

**Join us, read and distribute Red Flag.**

**Join ICWP.**

**Let's fight together for a dignified life.**

**Long Live the Working class!**

**Long Live Communism!**

## YOUTH CAUSE IMPACT

### DISTRIBUTING COMMUNIST LITERATURE

EL SALVADOR--"It was a good experience, passing out *Red Flag* and *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*. The workers asked me for the literature and I watched them reading it with interest while they walked. Our material had an impact on the workers," said a youth who distributed communist literature for the first time at the May Day march.

The participation of the youth was significant, and several of them did this for the first time. They organized and made a plan ahead of time to guarantee that our newspaper *Red Flag* and the manifesto *MMC* reached the hands of the workers in this great May Day march for International Workers' Day, a space that we can't give up to the electoral political parties.

Our ideas were spread in the two marches, one that departed from the central square with the "Savior of the World" statue and the

other that left from the University of El Salvador. In this march, the workers strongly criticized the government of Mauricio Funes and the fmln, which is why strong political mechanisms were implemented to repress the workers.

Factory workers denounced the recent death of one of their fellow workers as the result of a beating he received by the police, who carried out orders by the murderous bosses.

"The fmln is part of the system; they are part of the problem. Their leaders shouldn't march here. This is the workers' march," said a comrade. "They're here to fool and win over the workers."

The masses made clear their discontent with the politics of the rulers of the right, and those misnamed of the "left," some denouncing this in the march and others not participating. The system continues intact whoever is in the government. The presence of ICWP in this march

represents the alternative that the working class needs to mobilize ourselves for communism.

The bosses, the governments, and the unions are using this day to mobilize the workers under slogans that appear good but are only a trick to divert the workers into this reformism to which we have to put an end.

**Everyone fight for a communist system!  
Long live the Working Class!  
Join the International Communist Workers' Party!**



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## Union Officials Help Keep Workers Wage Slaves

### JANITORS DESERVE COMMUNISM

LOS ANGELES--Janitors deserve more than the lousy contract they just signed. Like the whole working class, they deserve and need a communist system where no one will be the servant of anyone else, and where there won't be any racist, sexist and despotic supervisors and bosses to impose on them inhuman working conditions.

Under communism there will be no need to fight every few years for a contract that only justifies and legalizes the bosses' wage slavery. Communism will eliminate "jobs" and the money that chains us to the bosses. Instead, we will only have collective communist work.

Hundreds of the most militant janitors who participated in mass demonstrations showed their aspirations for such a system by eagerly accepting, and often lining up to ask for our communist literature. We in the International Communist Workers' Party know that workers can grasp the most complex ideas and are fully capable of administering the world.

This stands in stark contrast with their treacherous union "leaders" who are staunch supporters of capitalism and rabid anti-communists. They believe these workers, mostly immigrant workers from Latin America, are incapable of fighting for anything but crumbs from the bosses. Like all union officials, they think workers are incapable of thinking for themselves and can easily be fooled.

At contract time, the union and the bosses organize a charade. At the start of the "secret" contract negotiations the bosses make the worst offer possible and refuse to budge. The union mobilizes the workers to show their willingness to strike against these "terrible" attacks.



In the end, the bosses modify their offer. The union bosses present it to the workers as a great victory won by the workers' sacrifice and militancy. The union "leaders" pose as heroes, validating their deadly message that trade unionism is all workers need because it can force the bosses to make concessions.

This was the circus on Monday, April 30th, when over 2,000 workers showed up to vote on a contract they knew nothing about.

First, there were lots of speeches to tire out the workers. The speeches praised the workers' militancy, dedication, and the sacrifice of losing sleep while marching for hours after working all night.

Finally, the companies' "last" offer was presented. It was a four-year contract with \$1.20 increase per hour spread over the life of the contract. At its expiration in 2016, the maximum wage will be \$15.25 an hour. The copayment for doctor visits went up from \$5 to \$10.

The workers were not happy. The voice over the loudspeaker, however, reminded everyone, "The companies offered a six-year contract with no wage increases, plus making you pay \$75 more for health insurance. But, because of you we won this big victory." Not everyone agreed. The muttering among the workers got louder.

The voice over the loud speaker spoke about the temporary workers. Their \$12 an hour wage was reduced to \$9.60 (a 20% cut). To qualify for health insurance, which will no longer cover their families, they must now work 130 hours per



month instead of 110 hours.

Many temporary and permanent workers shouted angrily, viewing this as an attack on all workers. If permanent workers lose their positions in a building, regardless of seniority, they will have to start as temporaries with temporary workers' wages and benefits.

As the workers became more restless, the voice over the loudspeaker said, "The negotiating committee recommends a yes vote on this offer." Workers disagreed, shouting "Strike! Strike!"

The voice over the loudspeaker then said menacingly, "This is the best contract we were able to negotiate. It is better to hold on to what you have in your hand than to risk getting nothing by striking." This was repeated several times.

Many workers were mad. The contract, however, was approved. The bosses and their union henchmen scored a temporary victory.

As the workers left – disillusioned, disgusted and frustrated with their "leaders," they took with them over 500 *Red Flags* and 250 copies of our manifesto, *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*.

Some gave us their contact information: a strong base to organize our Party among these militant workers. This bodes a bright future for our class!

## César Chávez Imperialist War Ship:

### BUILT ON THE SWEAT OF THE WORKERS

On May 5th the NASSCO shipyard in San Diego launched the U. S. Navy's newest ship, the transport USNS Cesar Chavez. Behind the absurdity of naming a military ship after someone who preached non-violence is the U.S. capitalists' continuing build-up, getting ready to fight more wars to control oil and confront rival capitalists. Naming the ship for Cesar Chavez is part of the bosses' attempt to build patriotism, especially among latinos who they hope to recruit to the military in big numbers. Chavez not only preached pacifism to the workers in their fight against the racist growers, but he organized to attack undocumented immigrant workers at the borders.

In the last few months, the U. S. bosses have made a "strategic turn" toward war in the Asia-Pacific region, getting ready to confront China's capitalist bosses who are challenging the "sole super power" status of U. S. capitalism.

The U. S. bosses use their Navy to maintain their domination over the world. But under communism, ships would still be needed to help spread the revolution across the whole planet, and send supplies wherever workers need them. While capitalism lasts, however, shipyard workers, like all workers, are exploited.

Some of us who distribute *Red Flag* at NASSCO shipyard have been trying to find out the facts about the company's exploitation of NASSCO workers. NASSCO is a subsidiary of

General Dynamics, so we looked in General Dynamics' annual report for 2011. We weren't able to find separate figures for the NASSCO division, so we are using figures for the whole company. General Dynamics says that the Marine Division that includes NASSCO is a little more profitable than the company as a whole, so these figures probably understate profits at NASSCO.

The company claims it took in a total of \$32,677 million in 2011. After paying expenses (including wages), a profit of \$3,826 million was left over. Since there were an average of 91,124 workers in 2011, this means an average profit of \$41,987 per worker.

A more accurate number would include the big 'bucks that General Dynamics pays to its top five executives. In 2011, this was \$34 million, an average of \$6.8 million for each of these "suits." These huge paychecks, about 100 times what a worker makes, are not wages for whatever small contribution they make to production, but a share of profits of the company. If we add this profit to the company's profit figures, we get \$3860 million, or \$42,361 per worker.

<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$32,677 million</b>
<b>Profit</b>	<b>\$3826 million</b>
<b>Executive Pay</b>	<b>\$34 million</b>
<b>Number of Workers</b>	<b>91,124</b>
<b>Profit Per Worker</b>	<b>\$42,361</b>

Workers make everything and produce all economic value. Only part of the value that our labor

creates is paid to us in wages, however. The rest (called "surplus value") is stolen from us. In the case of NASSCO, this amounts to \$42,361 per worker. As the table shows, the profit the General Dynamics bosses make from each worker's labor is nearly as large as the wages he or she gets paid.

NASSCO stockholders invest money in the company in the hopes of making a profit on their investment. But the capitalists' "investment" in NASSCO comes from value that they have stolen from the working class in the past. The profits they make always result from paying less than the value workers produce. This is exploitation, the dirty little secret of capitalism.

Exploitation isn't the only result of capitalist rule, however. The bosses not only live in luxury, they use their power over production to prepare for wars with rival capitalists. Continuing exploitation and bigger wars are the future that capitalism has to offer us, and only communism can end these things.

Under communism, there will be no bosses, no exploitation, and no one will have special privileges. Mass mobilization of the working class will decide all issues, including what to produce and how to use it. Wars will only be fought to spread communism and defend the working class, and when communism wins everywhere, war and exploitation will be gone forever. Join us and fight for communism, the future of the working class.

## Barter Never Existed:

### **WE CAN LIVE WITHOUT MONEY**

People do a double-take when they hear a communist revolution will abolish both money and working for wages. Historically, though, it's the other way around. The majority of our ancestors would be astonished to hear about a metal coin or a paper note coming in between our face-to-face human relations and dominating them.

Yet, dominate them it does. We can't live unless we have a job and can't get a job (with its wages) unless we produce (or support the production of) profits for the capitalists. Money and its market oversee our lives. In our search to discover how this sub-human system came to sustain itself we discovered a powerful, new Creation Myth.

Creation Myths reflect the status quo of any given society. These myths present a believable story that justifies the day-to-day operations of that society. Industrial capitalism has one. Like any successful myth, the worldview it presents seems so natural we are not always conscious of it. Unlike previous myths, however, this one is couched in scientific terms and first expressed in Adam Smith's *The Wealth of Nations*.

#### **A SCIENTIFIC LIE**

Writing in the 1770s, Smith created a world where exchange is the defining characteristic. "Every man... lives by exchanging ...and society itself grows to be what is properly a commercial society." As soon as we accept that idea, we have the setting for the creation myth of money: it's the market place, where things get exchanged.

At first Early Man, so the story goes, would barter for goods. If I had a slab of meat but wanted arrows and you had arrows and wanted meat a deal could be struck but if you didn't want meat then the deal was off. In short the system

was inefficient. As more and more things came on the market, a "medium of exchange" began to be used. This "medium of exchange" might be grain in a farming area, fish in a coastal area and so on. Eventually, as barter grew even more extensive, this "medium of exchange" became gold and silver. From this came coin and money, the most efficient medium of exchange that mankind has developed.

The birth of money out of barter, then, was spontaneous. Like the invention of the wheel or the taming of fire, the journey was part of an ongoing advance in the development of modern man. "The problem is," David Graeber writes in *Debt: the First 5,000 Years*, "there's no evidence it ever happened, and an enormous amount of evidence suggesting it did not."

In fact, Early Humans didn't trade or barter! In their daily lives they shared or gave. They were very aware of their obligations to their fellow humans. The meat/arrow issue might go something like this: "I don't want any venison, but take all the arrows you need." Of course, now armed with those arrows you would be obliged to help out when he or she needed something. In many societies, though, to return all the arrows you took was considered rude. It was like cutting off relationships – saying I don't want to be obliged to you, I don't need you in my life any more! Obligations were like a cement that built community consciousness.

#### **MONEY DESTROYS COMMUNITY**

Graeber goes on: "Adam Smith set his story in aboriginal North America... In Smith's time, at least it could be said that reliable information on Native American economic systems was unavailable in Scottish libraries (where Smith lived). But

by mid-century, Lewis Henry Morgan's description of the Six Nations of the Iroquois, among others, were widely published – and they made clear that the main economic institution among the Iroquois nations were longhouses where most goods were stockpiled and then allocated by women's councils, and no one ever traded arrowheads for slabs of meat."

You would think that learning of a society that distributed goods based on collective need not private profits would excite economists and book publishers alike. For sure, a communist revolution would take over the Safeways and run them as Food Longhouses, occupy the Home Depots and run them as Construction Longhouses. The idea excites the imagination. Morgan's story, and the Iroquois' achievement, however, is lost to the mainstream.

Not so Smith's story. As one economist has noted, "There were more new editions of *The Wealth of Nations* published in the 1990s than in the 1890s, and more in the 1890s than in the 1790s." Written right at the birth of the Industrial Revolution, it has gained increasing importance ever since. Smith's story or myth, of course, didn't create capitalism, yet it helps sustain it. It is the myth that shows money was created by the masses (it wasn't), to serve and meet our needs (it never has). It is the myth that serves industrial capitalism. It is, in fact, the lie that helps chain the working class to wage slavery because it suggests that, just as we need fire and the wheel, we will always need money. It's the myth that we will smash with the communist revolution that we are beginning to build.

**QUEBEC – Thousands of university students in Montreal and other cities have been on strike for over two months in a massive, militant protest against tuition hikes that has broadened into an anti-government movement. Some strikers demand free education, but the students need to question the capitalist character of the university system. Only communism can end the destructive, elitist division between "mental" and "manual" labor, between education and work.**



### **TALKING ABOUT COMMUNISM AT WORK**

"What happened? Why didn't you come to the dinner?"

"I got sick. But tell me, how was it?"

This conversation happened with a fellow worker who sat down and told me, "I want you to explain this to me. What do you want? Do you have a plan for after the revolution or will it just be anarchy?" I sat down and started to explain to him how the division of classes arose during the period of pre-class communism. I also explained to him in general how, or what is the engine that provokes social change and the role that every class plays. I talked about economic crises, about war and the need to build a communist society.

I mentioned the great social inequality that exists in capitalism, as thousands of children, old people, men and women go to bed hungry every night, or how thousands die without medical care, and that on the other hand there are millionaires who have lost track of how much they have but can't share their fortunes.

That's the essence of capitalism; it's precisely the rich getting rich off the pain and suffering of the poor. The only solution to all this is a new communist society where the working class controls production so that distribution can be without privilege.

"Oh! So that we'll all be poor?" she asked.

"No," I answered. "So that we can all live comfortably and have what we need."

"I wonder if China is communist and there are rich and poor, but no middle class, why fight for communism?"

I explained to her that China isn't communist, that it's capitalist, and that it's just like here: rich, middle class and poor, but the bosses' propaganda paints it differently to discredit communism. Imagine what they must print about life in the US in the news in China —people living in the streets, thousands of unemployed, black people murdered by the cops.

"You're right," she said.

During this conversation, another worker

had joined us. He talked about how World War III is imminent, and about the previous wars for markets. He talked about the current fight over markets, and about the poverty in this country, and that fascist laws that they are now passing.

"The problem," said the first worker, "is that in spite of all that, we don't unite and that's why we're never going to win."

"That we're not united is no accident," I replied. "It's the conscious work of the unions, the media and other bosses' organizations. So why don't we start a study group reading MMC, where it talks about our plan? That way we can talk more about the communist society we want to build."

"OK," both workers said.

This conversation is part of a series of commentaries on discussions about the May Day dinner, the May Day rally in front of our workplace, and the May Day march downtown.

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

### Capitalist Sexist Culture Incites Attack on Woman Bus Driver

A bus driver, with her bus parked in a lay-over zone, was attacked by a man whom she was barely able to fight off. Who has her back? Not the MTA! There's supposed to be security there, but she was on her own. Could she call for help? Not on her cell phone! Using a cell phone on the bus, even parked in the lay-over zone, can get you fired. And, the company doctor, ignoring her stress and bruises, said she was OK to go back to work the next day!

Drivers, especially women drivers, are increasingly at risk as the capitalist crisis worsens and the bosses cut all vital services to pay for their wars. People are losing their jobs, their homes, and the security they thought they had. These conditions breed antisocial behavior, as many workers and others imitate the bosses' racist sexist dog-eat-dog mentality.

Others with mental disabilities snap under these conditions. With no social programs, clinics or hospitals serving their needs, these treatable people become threats to society. The bosses are to blame: they squander trillions on their murderous wars but nothing for the mentally ill, many of whom are veterans traumatized by their genocidal wars.

While all MTA workers are targets of these attacks, women are more vulnerable. The bosses' sexist culture portrays women as sex objects. This incites disrespect and violence against women. Although hypocritically passing laws against sexism, the bosses ignore or don't enforce them because they profit from sexism, both politically and economically.

Economically, the bosses make super profits paying women less for the same work that men do. White women in the US make only 70% of white male workers' wages. Black and latin women make even less, with immigrant women even more super-exploited. Women comprise over 50% of the workforce of over 125 million; this means hundreds of billions of dollars extra in the bosses' pockets.

Politically, it divides our class. As the Chinese communists said, "Women hold up half the sky." Without our class sisters fighting side by side with their brothers – leading and creatively contributing to the revolutionary process—we will never break the bosses' chains. The bosses know this and they push sexism vigo-

rously.

We workers have to have each others' backs, stand up to sexism, racism and capitalist exploitation together as we fight for a world free of these capitalist evils. In a communist society, men and women workers will be equal partners in building a world where we produce and mobilize for our needs. Sexism will be dealt with swiftly by women and men workers mobilized for communism.

### El Salvador: Smash Election Trap Fighting for Communism

Millions of workers stayed away from the March 11 elections to elect mayors and congressional deputies for 2012-2015.

This absenteeism is a clear rejection by the working class of these processes that only prolong the existence of wage slavery.

Workers have demonstrated that they no longer believe in leaders who only dedicate themselves to administering capitalism.

The campaigns' promises of a change no longer works. Every day more people understand that there's no difference between the electoral parties that claim to be on the left and those that are on the right, whether it's FMLN, ARENA, or GANA C, they all perpetuate capitalism and forget the working class.

"I participated in this electoral process, but to talk to more young people and give them the newspaper," said a young person in a meeting. "I don't care who wins."

WE WORKERS DON'T NEED ELECTIONS OR REFORMS. They are a waste of time. What we need is a system that responds to the needs of our class. We must take our manifesto **Mobilize the Masses for Communism** to millions of workers, and organize them with the communist line of our International Communist Workers' Party—the alternative for the working class.

Our goal is not to elect presidents, mayors or congressional deputies, but rather it is that every day men and women workers join our party, ICWP, and fight for Communism.

In a communist system each worker will be in a constant political formation strengthening his/her capacity to lead in every community, making collective decisions by practicing revolutionary centralism. We won't need elections; our party will lead the life of the workers.

**No more votes to keep slavery.  
A change for communism!  
Long live ICWP!  
Long live COMMUNISM!**

LOS ANGELES, May 1-- Under the banners of the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP), we students and workers demonstrated our anger against capitalism and our passion for communism. Today we not only kept communism alive but also proclaimed it as something worth fighting for and living for.

We were mainly black and brown students and workers that boarded the bus to Downtown Los Angeles for the march. On the way we practiced our chants and received assignments for the march. We knew we'd be responsible for distributing the party's literature, leading chants, guaranteeing the security of everyone involved, and carrying signs and banners. We would march as a united working class breaking down the differences that capitalist society imposes on us.



We marched into the rally boldly with our banners that read "Mobilize the Masses for Communism!" and signs that read, "General Strike Against Capitalism!" We felt the excitement as we started to march. Some youth beat plastic containers that served as drums, while chants blared from the loudspeakers. Some distributed **Red Flag** and **Mobilizing the Masses for Communism** to the eager hands of the crowd. People were very accepting and open-minded. Even a gentleman who said he was against communism took **Red Flag** and said he'd give it a read! Thousands took our paper. Our communist chants in English and Spanish represented the aspirations of the international working class. "The workers united will never be defeated!" "Workers, YES! Bosses, NO! Wage slavery's got to go!" "Fight for Communism Power to the Workers" As we marched, more people joined our contingent and chanted our communist chants. Throughout the march our contingent shone like a bright red star.

At the end a student said, "I felt proud of myself because I came down here today for a good cause which is to change the world. I walked twelve long streets, which was all worth it, we were heard." Another added, "We wanted everybody to hear us and I think we did that and much more." Another student emphasized, "Overall, this May Day was a great experience and I felt it was a great success. I would do the whole thing all over again."

To that student, and to all who feel the same way, we say: there will always be more May Days in which you can march and begin to see how society will flourish with communism. Then, when communism becomes a reality, May Day will take on a new meaning. We just have to make it happen.

However, May Day is just one day. We must dedicate our entire lives, not just one day a year, to building a communist revolutionary movement that will put an end to all the horrors that capitalism causes. We call on everyone to join the ICWP today and become an organizer for communist revolution



## SOLDIERS DISCUSS COMMUNIST PHILOSOPHY OF CHANGE

While pulling guard duty one night with a few other soldiers we started a very good discussion regarding dialectics.

It started off as a conversation regarding different philosophical topics. We started off discussing Descartes and then moved on to Plato. Next we moved on to how many truths there are in the world. I was very into the conversation and when I got the opportunity I introduced dialectics into the conversation.

None of the soldiers knew what it was, but some had heard of it. I began by explaining to them the difference between idealism and materialism, the scientific way of looking at the world. This intrigued them very much, especially since most of them had heard of idealism and materialism but didn't know the real meaning of either. Most of them were using the media definitions—like idealists care about other people and materialists are all about the money. After a pretty long discussion about whether they themselves were idealists or materialist we had to end the conversation because our shift was over.

I really didn't know the impact I had made on them until the next morning. While standing in formation, the guys I had pulled guard duty with the night before all came up to me and even brought a few others with them and asked me to continue on discussing what I knew. This time I started off by explaining to them what dialectics is. Once I was done explaining dialectics I introduced them to dialectical materialism: the philosophy of change, which includes all processes, including how to change the world.

The way they hung on to every word I said was amazing. We continued the conversation every chance we got, each one bringing new questions every time. I was amazed at how much they enjoyed discussing dialectics. It just goes to show that we shouldn't fear discussing deep topics like this with soldiers or anyone else.

Later, one guy asked me how I knew so much about this stuff, and I told him about this paper I read, *Red Flag*. He got really interested in it, and we agreed that, since he's going home soon, I would send him the paper when he got home.



ICWP has published our manifesto *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*. It's available in English and Spanish. Order your copy or copies. Please send donations for the costs of printing and mailing. We also ask for your suggestions and criticisms.

Write to : PMB 362  
3175 S. Hoover St.,  
Los Angeles, CA 90007

## JEJU ISLAND VILLAGERS FIGHT US/SOUTH KOREA NAVAL BASE AS US-CHINA WAR LOOMS

Workers in Jangjeong Village, a South Korean fishing community on Jeju Island, are fighting bravely to save this beautiful island from destruction. The US capitalist-imperialists and the South Korean capitalists plan to build a massive nuclear naval base there as part of the Obama administration's "pivot to Asia-Pacific." Peace and environmental activists around the world are joining this struggle to preserve three UNESCO World Natural Heritage sites and nine UNESCO Geoparks on an island that is designated a Global Biosphere Reserve.

Meanwhile the seabed and coral reefs are being dredged for a base that will likely support the naval component of the US ballistic missile defense system. Peaceful protests won't stop this military base or the coming US-China war that it's intended to serve. Workers, soldiers and youth from South Korea to China, the US, and around the world must turn imperialist war into

communist revolution.

Communism unites the masses into one Party that fights for our common need to destroy capitalism everywhere. Capitalist competition for maximum profits is the root cause of imperialist war. Communism will end these wars because there will be no money or profits to fight over. Instead, we'll organize ourselves to produce and share what we need. We will fight only to spread communist society worldwide, smashing all borders in the process. We will take the "long view" and protect the world's beauty and resources instead of destroying them for short-term profit or military advantage.

Is North Korea communist? NO! Like the rest of the 20th-century communist movement, North Korean leaders mobilized around nationalism and for socialism. Instead of leading the masses to abolish wage slavery and the money system, "communist" party officials became the new capitalist class. Workers in North Korea, like workers everywhere, need to overthrow these capitalist bosses.

In 1948, in the aftermath of World War II, communist-led workers on Jeju Island



rebelled massively against a police assault on a demonstration celebrating Korean resistance to Japanese imperialism. They attacked 12 police stations, burned polling centers, and called for insurrection against the US military government. The South Korean government sent 3000 soldiers to suppress the rebellion, but hundreds of the soldiers mutinied and handed over large caches of small arms to the rebels. But eventually the rebellion was crushed and thousands massacred while US representatives looked on.

This historic struggle continues to inspire Gangjeong villagers. They have blocked bulldozers and cement trucks. They have confronted the police and the army. And they, in turn, are opening our eyes to the immediacy of the imperialists' war plans. Let them start their wars! The masses will finish them.



### ICWP SUMMER PROJECT 2012: SEATTLE, BAY AREA, LOS ANGELES

**BRING MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM AND RED FLAG  
TO INDUSTRIAL WORKERS AND SOLDIERS!  
STUDY-ACTION GROUPS - SOCIAL EVENTS -  
VISITS WITH WORKERS - COMMUNIST SCHOOL  
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