

RED FLAG

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



Workers and Students in ICWP Raise the Red Flag

COMMUNIST IDEAS INSPIRE THOUSANDS ON MAY DAY

LOS ANGELES—“May Day has tracked the revolutionary progress of our class since its inception. It’s appropriate that this dinner occurs on the eve of May Day because we are on the eve of building a new type of revolutionary communist party to serve a new type of communist movement. We want to build a party that sets its goal to mobilize the masses for communism—now and after the working class seizes power,” said a comrade in his speech.

ICWP celebrated May Day with a dinner and an enthusiastic communist contingent in the May Day march. Many comrades and friends took leadership in all the varied activities that made the communist weekend a success. Many cooked wonderful dishes. Others in a vibrant red chorus sang communist songs in Spanish and English. There were inspiring communist speeches and poems from veteran and new comrades and friends—workers, students and soldiers. Many helped make beautiful communist banners and signs. ICWP red flags with “Mobilize the Masses for Communism” printed on them were waved proudly throughout the march by youth and workers confident and proud to take the fight for communism directly to the masses.

Communist May Day Dinner Sets the Tone

Many youth struggled to understand and better explain the idea of a society without money and how it would run. We discussed how crime would be dealt with under communism—by eliminating exploitation

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EL SALVADOR—“And how are we going to do it? This is the first time that I’m going to distribute the newspaper,” said a youth, a little worried.

Comrades with more experience calmed him down and another youth said, “You’ll see that the workers will even surround you, asking you to bring the paper to other friends and fellow workers. This happens to us every year.”

Then our new young comrade breathed a sigh of relief.

Comrades in the party in charge of distributing our communist literature were transported from their places of origin (rural communities, villages, towns) a day before to secure houses in the bigger cities to get precise instructions about how to distribute the literature in the best way. In the same way the mobilization of the members and sympathizers of ICWP and readers of *Red Flag* was carried out on the buses that left from several parts of the country, bringing each one their worked-out assignment and which group they would join when they got to the march. More than 100 comrades were involved, some for the first time.

More than 500 *Red Flag* newspapers and 2,000 ICWP leaflets as always were insufficient to satisfy the thirst of the multitude of workers, students, and farm workers who came to this May Day March of the workers in the Salvadoran capital.

In order to distribute the ICWP literature, three groups of youth were organized who were guarded by

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MEXICO—The celebration of International Workers’ Day was an opportunity to advance the struggle to emancipate our class from the capitalist system of wage slavery. “Labor,” the opposite of “capital,” represents in a passive voice the working class of the world. However the exploiters of the labor power of workers and their politicians try to subvert the significance of this day.

In Mexico, after the Second World War, the rulers were able to bring the workers’ protest under their domination, converting May Day into a parade of submission and sheepish gratitude to the regime that presented itself as revolutionary and heir to the workers’ struggles. This was done through the submission of the “leaders” through bribery and threats.

Even though the communists resisted, the line of struggle for the emancipation of the proletariat through stages (revolutionary nationalism first, then socialism and finally communism) took them first to support the government in its war efforts and afterwards to seek alliances with “progressive” sections of the bourgeoisie. At present, raising only the bosses’ flags, they participate with the PRI politicians in the government of Mexico City and other government entities.

Swimming against the current of renouncing the emancipation of our working class, the new communist movement that ICWP leads is fighting to make communist revolution the order of the day, not to re-

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bin Laden Execution:

EXCUSE TO LEAVE AFGHANISTAN AS US IMPERIALISTS PREPARE FOR GLOBAL WAR

Alexander the Great angrily demanded of a captured pirate, “How dare you molest the seas?” To which the pirate replied, “How dare you molest the whole world? Because I do it with a small boat, I am called a pirate and a thief. You, with a great navy, molest the world and are called an emperor.”

Things haven’t changed much since Alexander’s time 2,367 years ago. Osama bin Laden, accused of murdering several thousand workers, was branded the most wanted terrorist in history. US imperialism’s mass murderers, like Henry Kissinger and President Obama, however, were honored with the Nobel Prize for Peace. (See box for other US rulers’ atrocities).

Throughout the centuries class society has produced an unending string of small, medium and big terrorists. But, the biggest have been produced by capitalism-imperialism, a system of unending horrors which daily terrorizes billions of workers worldwide with its sexism, racism, fascism, super-exploitation, massive unemployment and genocidal wars. To eliminate capitalism and the small and big terrorists it produces, masses of workers, soldiers, students and others need to be mobilized to fight for communism.

Capitalist anti-communist bin Laden: ex-darling of US imperialists

Multimillionaire terrorist Osama bin Laden belonged to the capitalist-imperialist class. During his life he served his class well. Even in his death he continues to do so. And his main beneficiaries have been the US capitalist-imperialist rulers.

His first service to them was in Afghanistan. Trained by the CIA, he waged “holy” war in the 1980s against the Soviet imperialist invaders, helping to turn Afghanistan into Russia’s Vietnam. This bled the Soviets dry, safeguarded US oil interests in the Middle East, and contributed shortly thereafter to the Soviet Union’s implosion.

After the 1991 first US Gulf War to expel Saddam Hussein from Kuwait, bin Laden joined other jihadi forces to fight against US imperialism’s encroachment on their “holy” land. These forces represent the Saudi and Middle Eastern capitalists who use religion in their fight against US and other Western imperialists for control of Middle Eastern oil.

9/11: bin Laden’s big gift to liberal US imperialists rulers

Whether 9/11 was masterminded by bin Laden or not, whether US rulers knew in advance or not is up to speculation. What we do know is that it served the US rulers’ military plans to try to reassert their control over Middle Eastern oil, the basis of US world domination. Their plans included extending their control over the energy rich newly independent ex-Soviet republics of the Central Asia region.



The hunt for bin Laden and the global “war on terror” were the excuse to invade Afghanistan. With the Taliban gone, the US bosses would build secure pipelines to transport Central Asian energy wealth to market

Then came Iraq, which US bosses invaded to stop

Saddam Hussein from trading oil in Euros and giving Iraq’s oil wealth, the world’s second largest, to their rival Chinese and Russian imperialists.

Controlling Middle Eastern and Central Asian vast energy resources would enable US bosses to starve China of the energy it needs for its economic and military growth. This would clip China’s wings as the primary ascending imperialist power vying with the US for world domination. It would also crush Russia’s aspirations for world supremacy, based on becoming the world’s main energy broker. And, furthermore, Afghanistan would be a gigantic base in the US bosses’ military encirclement of Russia and China.

“War on Terror”: an enormous strategic failure for the US

The “war on terror” has the US bosses mired in three losing wars, has drained their treasury and overstretched their military. The coveted oil pipelines never got built; the Central Asian region is more firmly in the Chinese and Russian bosses’ grip, and both these imperialists got the lion’s share of Iraq’s oil concessions.

Iran, to be toppled after Iraq, is a growing regional power, expanding its influence in Iraq and the Middle East. By contrast, “The [U.S.] ability to shape things in the Middle East is no longer what it was,” says Richard Haass, president of the CFR (Council on Foreign Relations, most influential in deciding US international policy).

Now, the region’s massive rebellions not only exposed the irrelevance of bin Laden’s al Qaeda, but are further isolating the US and its allies, especially Israel and Saudi Arabia.

Bin Laden’s death: Obama’s opportunity to leave Afghanistan and prepare for war against Iran, China and Russia.

STRATFOR, an influential think tank linked to the CIA, commenting on both bin Laden’s death and General David Petraeus’ nomination as CIA director, wrote: “Together, the two steps open the door for serious consideration of an accelerated withdrawal of most U.S. forces from Afghanistan.” Now, President Obama can declare victory and withdraw the bulk of US troops, unopposed by General Petraeus.

STRATFOR conceals that Afghanistan is no longer strategically important for US imperialism. The pipelines, the main reason for invading, have become a moot question. Even if they were built, there is little or nothing to transport because Russia and China now control most of the region’s energy.

Therefore, testifying on May 3rd before the Senate on the worth of pursuing the Afghan war, Richard Haass said, “...the bigger question hovering over current U.S. Afghan policy is whether it is worth it, even if it were to succeed. I would argue it is not...”

Concealing the pipelines question, Haass argued that the Afghan war is unsustainable, given the US economic crisis and need to modernize its military. More bluntly, he explained, “The history of the 21st century is far more likely to be determined in the land areas and waters of Asia and the Pacific than it is ... in the mountains of Afghanistan...”

Here he is echoing the US imperialist rulers’ concerns that these wars undermine their preparations for war against China and Iran. Haass said, “Afghanistan is a strategic distraction, pure and simple.” Withdra-

wal, he added, was necessary because, “We also need ... forces for possible contingencies on the Korean Peninsula and conceivably with Iran.”

All the above scenarios would involve China and Russia. The Iran-China-Russia axis is not sleeping. The imperialists are accelerating their drive to World War III. Now it is more urgent than ever to mobilize the masses internationally to put an end to capitalism’s “horror without end” with a communist revolution. *Red Flag* readers who are not members need to join the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP) and help distribute *Red Flag* massively, recruiting others, to advance this struggle.

The US bosses call Bin Laden a mass murderer—but as the editorial says, his career is small potatoes compared to murderers like Henry Kissinger, US Secretary of State responsible for the CIA-orchestrated coup in Chile on September 11, 1973, as well as Nixon’s policies in Vietnam, bearing responsibility, easily, for the deaths of ten times more civilians than were killed on September 11, 2001.

For that matter, more US military personnel (almost six thousand) have died in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan justified by the Al Qaeda attack on the Twin Towers than were killed on 9/11. Not to mention the estimated one million Iraqis and at least 50,000 Afghans who have died in these wars. Or the half a million Iraqi children who died in the 1990s because of the sanctions that Democrat Clinton’s Secretary of State Madeline Albright said were a price worth paying.

What about Harry Truman, the US President who ordered the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki as a way of ending World War II by launching the Cold War against the USSR? For the capitalist class, an estimated 200,000 civilian dead was a price worth paying.

Capitalism considers human life to be cheap—thousands of innocents murdered to be part of the acceptable cost of doing business. Consider those killed by US-backed death squads in the civil wars in Central America—an estimated 200,000 mostly indigenous victims in Guatemala, and an estimated 150,000 in El Salvador. Think about the tens of millions killed as a direct result of colonialism in the Congo, or the million killed as its indirect result in Rwanda.

This was true from the beginning: an estimated two million Africans died in the Middle Passage from Africa to the Americas alone, millions in the genocide of native Americans. Capitalism’s beginning in England gave birth to capital punishment; thousands were hung in the 18th century for crimes against capital. And it continues to this day: 4,340 workers died in on-the-job accidents in the US alone in 2009, down (because of the recession) from the 5,212 who died on the job in 2008.

Readers of *Red Flag* can, no doubt, give more examples from the history of our class. Bin Laden was, of course, a capitalist murdered. But his crimes pale in comparison with those of the big bosses. And it will take more than a helicopter attack to put an end to them: it will take the communist revolution that ICWP is planning, mobilizing the masses for communism.



**JOIN THE
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ICWP MARCHES FOR COMMUNISM ON ITS SECOND MAY DAY

LOS ANGELES, from page 1

and money and through mass mobilizations to produce for the needs of all workers and to struggle for everyone to participate. A young comrade urged everyone to join study action groups and to join ICWP. Others stressed the importance of turning *Red Flag*, our main weapon, into a mass paper in this period of crisis and war.

A young veteran called on all of us to fight to unite the working class to turn the guns on the bosses rather than shooting fellow workers from Iraq, Afghanistan, or any place else. Our speeches emphasized that slogans for reformism, socialism, democracy or collective bargaining, that would be chanted by others at the May Day March, only mislead our class. Our antidote should be mobilizing our class for communism. And as another worker said, our future is bright because “*Red Flag* networks and support for our Party are growing among the masses, especially industrial workers.”

Many youth and some veteran comrades distributed over 2600 *Red Flag* newspapers and thousands of communist leaflets both to about 10-15 thousand marchers and the thousands watching the march on the si-

dewalks. Workers’ grabbed up the papers eagerly. Some gave donations.

This year’s May Day, our second, showed growth and maturity of our party and in the number of comrades and friends taking leadership in all aspects of its activities. It showed that we are consolidating our party and have a growing base among workers, youth and soldiers. This gives confidence to deepen the fight for communism among the masses.

During these activities, at least 6 people responded by joining the Party and others who had already joined deepened our commitment to spread communist ideas among co-workers and fellow students. Our youth are making plans to participate in the summer projects in Los Angeles and Seattle to learn from workers and soldiers while taking them *Red Flag*.

The enthusiasm, energy and creativity shown by our members and friends, here and internationally, show that our class can and will be motivated to mobilize itself to fight for communism now, tomorrow and always.

We live in a period of intensifying crises and wide-



ning imperialist wars. These are times of dangers and opportunity for our class. These are the ingredients that foster revolutionary growth and action. Spreading *Red Flag* and recruiting to ICWP will turn this potential into reality. Our task is clear: no retreat from communism! Join and help build the Party of the working class.

**BE PART OF ICWP'S 2011
RED SUMMER!
BRING RED FLAG'S
COMMUNIST IDEAS TO
WORKERS, STUDENTS AND
SOLDIERS IN SEATTLE,
DELANO AND
LOS ANGELES!
LEARN FROM COMRADES
YOUNG AND OLD!
BECOME A BETTER
COMMUNIST!**



MEXICO, from page 1

form this or that aspect of capitalism, but liberating ourselves from wage slavery.

Our Russian as much as our Chinese predecessors postponed the establishment of a society of social equality in which each receives what they need and each contributes according to commitment. They took advantage of workers’ anger, and with the slogan “peace, land and bread” (in Russia) and “end the Japanese invasion” (in China) mobilized the masses for a revolution that would go from “democratic revolution” to socialism and much later to communism.

We workers need to eliminate wage slavery starting now, and not tolerate what was done under socialism. We’ll produce to meet the needs of our class, not to buy or sell; for that we won’t need money, or borders.

These are the ideas we publicized this weekend, on Saturday in a dinner commemorating our first year as ICWP and on Sunday, May 1st by distributing 2,000 leaflets and 200 *Red Flags* in the May Day March.

We’re learning how to correctly orient our activity so that the working class sees our role in the current society and our potential to massively change it by becoming part of the PARTY to demolish the bosses’ power and install workers’ rule. In the distribution of *Red Flag* today, new members have begun this process, and we’ll struggle for this to continue. Onward!

Report from Spain

SPREADING RED FLAG ON MAY DAY

Thousands and thousands of workers, children and older people went into the streets to celebrate May Day. We distributed thousands of leaflets and hundreds of *Red Flag* newspapers, which again were very well received. The people came around us to ask for a copy of *Red Flag*. “I haven’t seen such good information like that in *Red Flag*. Give me another that I’ll give to another friend.” These were the words of a worker who we also asked to send us an email so we could keep talking about Communism.

In spite of the unions CCOO and UGT, the sellouts in Spain, who want to make May Day like any other day, asking for crumbs that they’ve negotiated with the government, the workers know that the only way to improve our society is getting on the road to Communism. We met up with a group of workers from Morocco, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Algeria, and we talked about the racism that exists now. We came to the conclusion that to eliminate racism among the same workers, the struggle must be based on dialectical materialism, the tool that teaches us that the enemy of the worker is capitalism and that we as workers have to work together to achieve a better society: COMMUNISM.

We feel happy this new year. We’ve achieved some goals studying *Red Flag*. We still have pending our project of the web page, but we’ll continue forward and not stop



until we build and form leaders for the future system, the system of communism.

**LONG LIVE MAY DAY!
LONG LIVE THE INTERNATIONAL
WORKING CLASS!**

LONG LIVE COMMUNISM!

Comrades and friends who know someone who can help translate ICWP articles or documents into other languages are needed. Can you help translate into the languages spoken in Africa, the Middle East, Asia, Europe, or elsewhere?

SPREADING COMMUNIST IDEAS ON MAY DAY

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an equal number of groups of comrades with greater political experience. It gives us great pride to state that this plan was put into practice just as it was designed. The distribution was carried out in an orderly manner and the youth this year felt the support of the security teams.

One of the strategies to make the presence of ICWP more visible among the working class was to hand the leaflets and the newspaper to the workers who were in the sound cars encouraging the marchers. "Mobilizing the masses for communism requires concentrating our organizing efforts on the industrial workers and soldiers. Without the participation of these crucial sectors for our revolutionary strategy, no communist revolution can triumph."

The Party comrades in charge of monitoring the march noticed that the sound cars were reading the ICWP leaflet out loud, word for word. This is an enormous achievement given that they've always feared to show the need to fight directly for communism. They've taken a big step.

At the end of the march, the youth who had showed the most anxiety said, "How great. What an experience! I felt goose bumps when I saw how the people received the newspaper. It's incredible."

Some comrades told him, "We told you. You have to trust the working class."

"How great that we always see each other here and that we can have communist literature," said workers at the march.

"These are real communists," stated some government workers who we've been getting to know for years in the marches and concentrations of the working class.

We can't avoid commenting that a few days before the march, the leader of PLP in El Salvador tried to win some comrades of ICWP not to participate, but to boycott the march. It was a useless effort by this traitor to the ideals of our class. Only one of his servants could be seen in the march without any goal other than being one more marcher.

"Don't worry, friend, even if that person came to talk to us, we're clear about who the real communists are, and that's why we continue in the ICWP," a fighter for revolution for more than 40 years ended by saying. He is a symbol for the younger members of the party, and they met at the end of the march with his son who is an internationalist reader of *Red Flag* and who thanked us for continuing to take communist ideas to the working class.



THE RED FLAG

The workers' flag is deepest red,
It shrouded oft our comrades dead,
And where their limbs grew stiff and cold,
Their hearts' blood dyed its every fold.

We raise the scarlet standard high,
Within its shade we'll live and die.
As bosses flinch and attack in fear,
We'll keep the red flag flying here.

Look 'round...the workers love its blaze,
The sturdy soldier chants its praise,
On workshop floors its honor's sung
Class unity swells the surging throng.

It waved above our infant might,
And when many cried, "It's dark as night!"
It will not fail, we will not bow,
We fight to win; the time is now.

It well recalls the triumphs past,
We'll learn from each defeat at last;
The banner bright, the message plain:
The workers fight to break their chains.

We work today to build our base,
Embrace your class and not your race.
Bosses cringe as the workers frown,
We'll tear their bloody system down.

We'll share in knowledge and the burden.
There'll be no profit...of that we're certain.
We'll work for need and not for wage,
We fight to live in such an age.

We take up the red flag and swear we all,
To bear it onward 'til we fall;
We'll fight for communism 'til we win.
This song shall be our fighting hymn.



May Day in Cairo

REVISIONISTS MARCH FOR REFORMS: WORKERS NEED ICWP



Thousands of workers in Egypt marched on May Day this year for the first time in many years. The uprising which swept Mubarak from office has energized workers, and led to an opening for unions and a number of "leftist" parties. So this year in Tahrir Square, all the revisionist and reformist

parties that march to mislead workers in other capitalist countries were present. Instead of marching for communism, for workers' power and an end to wage slavery, they were marching for an increase in the minimum wage and nationalization of capitalist industry.

As *Red Flag* has pointed out, the working class in Egypt has a long history of struggle, beginning with textile workers in the early 20th century, uniting Egyptian and immigrant workers under the leadership of the Communist Party. But that party followed the lead of the revisionists in the Soviet Union, abandoning the struggle for communism, forming united fronts with the "lesser evil" nationalist bosses, and eventually being destroyed by its own

weaknesses and the forces of the capitalist state.

The positive response of workers in Tahrir Square to the red flags with the hammer and sickle, however minimal, shows the potential for a communist revolution in Egypt, but the revisionists won't wage this fight. The working class around the world needs a party that will mobilize the masses for communism, and nothing less.

ICWP has made a modest beginning at that task. We ask *Red Flag* readers to help us expand our distribution of *Red Flag* to workers in Egypt, and in every corner of the world, as well as to help us translate it into Arabic and other languages. Workers of the World, Unite!

Defending the Dollar and the Euro:

US AND FRENCH IMPERIALISTS ATTACK LIBYA

Petrodollars critical to US dollar's status as the world's reserve currency

The collapse of the post World War II economic system (and it could well collapse) will not mean the end of the world. It will mean World War III. However, it will also mean the unleashing of the revolutionary energy of billions of workers, soldiers and students. Whether that energy is expressed in socialist, fascist or communist revolution depends on us.

It is well known that all the US wars of the last 12 years have been about oil or oil pipe lines. What is not widely known is that the US dollar is the world's reserve currency because oil can only be sold in dollars (petrodollars). This allows the US to print dollars at will, have a prohibitively huge trade deficit and be the biggest debtor nation in the world. And, to top it all, finance its huge military to protect this scheme!

Therefore the NATO bombing of Yugoslavia in 1999, the Iraq-Afghanistan-Pakistan wars, and now the intervention in Libya, have all been about oil and defending the US dollar against its rivals. Chief among these rivals is the Euro. It takes World Wars, however, to decide which currency will be the world's reserve currency. It took World War 1 and World War

II before the US dollar replaced the British pound.

Dollar's world's reserve currency crucial to US world supremacy

It is a tremendous advantage to US imperialism that world trade leans heavily on the dollar. 48 % of current international trade and 83 % of international financial transactions are now priced by the dollar. In addition 61 % of the world's foreign reserves are in dollars. If the dollar collapsed, so would most of world trade and the capitalists who benefit from it. This forces them to be very protective of the health of the dollar!

"If your neighbors," they say, "owe you \$100, that's their problem, but if they owe you \$100,000 that's your problem." The US is the biggest debtor nation in the world. That is the world's problem! Because the US prints the dollar, it is able to reduce its gigantic national debt simply by printing more and more dollars. From 2002-2006 alone, around \$3.5 trillion of US debt evaporated this way. And that was before the US printed its next round of 'fictitious' money, an extra \$600 billion in 2010! This makes the capitalists around the world hate the US dollar!

US imperialists move against the euro in Yugoslavia, Iraq and Iran

In January 1999, these capitalists were presented with an alternative. The Euro was launched as the currency of the European Economic Community (EEC). Whereas the US was the biggest borrower in the world, the EEC was the biggest lender. Whereas the US had a huge domestic market, the EEC had a bigger one. From the start, the Euro was more attractive than the dollar and immediately it was valued higher.

By March 1999, the US had engineered a NATO-led war against Yugoslavia. It ended up bombing Yugoslavia, a European country, for 78 days. It demonstrated to the world that while the Euro had attractive statistics, it had no independent army to defend or promote its investments. The US could engineer massive destruction even in the EEC's backyard. The Euro was going to be a junior, not senior, partner to the US dollar!

As a junior partner, though, it still remained a threat. Oil is the vital world commodity traded in dollars. When Saddam Hussein started to trade oil in Euros, his fate was sealed. Gulf War 2 was prepared and launched. Occupied Iraq now trades oil in dollars. Iran followed Iraq and the invasion of Afghanistan was intended to help encircle Iran..

Libya planned to go further. It wanted to set up a gold based African dinar that would replace the dollar, or the Euro. France's influence in its former Central African colonies would be destroyed, while the ability of debt ridden US imperialism to compete in Africa against the cash rich capitalists who rule Brazil, India, China and Russia would be greatly impaired. The war raging in Libya aims to bury the African Dinar together with Kaddafi's regime.

Only communism can put an end to wars for oil and reserve currencies

The rise and fall of empires is an immutable law of class society. These upheavals mean chaos, death and destruction on a massive scale. Tens of millions of workers are already questioning the profit system and looking for alternatives. Millions of these workers are open to our communist ideas. Massively distributing *Red Flag* and recruiting to our Party is the order of the day. The twos and threes that join today will eventually turn into a flood of millions of armed workers, soldiers, students and others fighting to build a communist world on the ashes of capitalism. Join us!



Bosses Use Crisis to Attack Teachers

COMMUNISM WILL RESPOND COLLECTIVELY TO CRISES

As the world wide capitalist crisis deepens and the U.S. bosses get deeper in war, 19,000 teacher jobs are on the chopping block in Los Angeles. The union is calling it "State of Emergency." It should be called "State of Fascism and War." Wider war and further attacks against the working class is the bosses' only way out for a declining US empire. The attacks on the schools are part of restructuring the schools for war; streamlining the educational system to win students to patriotism while creating a more loyal and lower paid work-force of teachers.

However, the working class always fights back. But what goal will it fight for and what leadership will it follow? In Wisconsin, under union and liberal leadership, thousands of workers occupied the federal building because of the attack on collective bargaining. In Honduras, again with union and liberal leadership, thousands of teachers fought back against the capitalist repression there. The uprisings in North Africa and the Middle East have shaken the balance of power in the region.

However, these mass mobilizations, although heroic and inspiring, do not get at the root of the problem. World wide capitalism marked by overproduction and a falling rate of profit is in crisis. From Wisconsin, to Honduras, from Los Angeles to North Africa teachers as well as all other workers must face this crisis head on and fight for a communist world.

We know that in a communist society everything won't be sunshine and roses; there will be struggle, sacrifice and crises, particularly in the beginning. How will educational institutions in a communist society deal with crises? In previous articles in *Red Flag* we've talked about organizing education in ways that

break down the division between book learning and learning through work, the separation between "school" and society. That would surely be true in a period of crisis. One thing is for certain: in a communist society a crisis won't be the occasion for layoffs. The kinds of crises we'll have, of the need to build homes, grow food, provide medical care and training for our class—even fighting the capitalists who want to continue to oppress and exploit us—will be our crises, and will require the commitment, energy and creativity of everyone. We won't be trying to figure out who gets a pink slip; we'll be trying to figure out how to mobilize everyone in the most collective way possible in order to serve the needs of the working class.

In this capitalist crisis, all institutions, including the schools, are being organized in line with the ideological and practical preparations for bigger war. That's why public schools are being turned over to charter school operators or being reconstituted. Five LA schools are replacing half of their teachers; other schools are making teachers sign special compacts to keep their jobs. The bosses are using this crisis and the layoffs of public school teachers to consolidate their ideological hold on the teaching staff. A nationwide attack on seniority, in the name of saving the jobs of the "best" teachers instead of higher paid, older, teachers, is part of this. In high schools in Los Angeles, the bosses are using the strategy of divide

and conquer, laying off teachers by "small learning communities," instead of seniority. The bosses attack one group of workers to win over the others.

All this is made possible by the unions' collaboration with the local and federal school bosses. So it's no surprise that many teachers are disgusted by the union. Its only campaign is to support higher taxes on the working class and to give lip service to the idea of taxing the rich. The union's leadership promotes the illusion that we can fix this system, while ignoring the crisis and the fact that capitalist education is designed to serve the needs of the capitalist class, to prepare obedient ideologically committed workers, soldiers, and managers that can reproduce capitalist social relationships and production for profit.

The International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) has a different plan. We are mobilizing the working class for communism now and after taking power. Education will have as its goal the building of comradesly collective social relations while we meet the physical needs of our class and fight to liberate the whole world. We are struggling with teachers to discard the illusion that they can teach students to survive and compete in a capitalist society in crisis and war. What is actually more realistic for teachers who want to help their students is to join with other teachers, students and workers in ICWP to fight for a communist world.

Questions for *Red Flag* Study Action Groups:

- 1. Are your friends saying that we should celebrate the death of bin Laden? How would you respond if they did?**
- 2. Will there be laws under communism? If not, how will society be organized?**

MYTH OF THE "WEAKER SEX" PROFITABLE FOR THE GROWERS AND ALL BOSSES

When it comes to exploitation, the bosses have always considered women as the weak sex; not to give them better treatment but to exploit them more. This supposed weakness has been so ingrained in capitalism's culture that many women and men have come to believe it, which has been very lucrative for the bosses.

The bosses have always spread the rumor that women are weak and produce less than men; that's how they justify paying them less. Even though they know this isn't true, they like it that some women themselves feel weak and buy in to this lie.

In certain jobs, the bosses only hire women, because they know they are productive and they can exploit them as they want. The bosses say that they don't demand anything because they feel impotent and they are timid, that they conform to just having a job. On the job they divide them racially and even pit them against the men to try to avoid any attempt to organize.

In the area of Delano California, in the winter of 1965, for the first time the growers employed women in the pruning of the grape vines; not to favor them economically but because they needed the women to break the strike that in those years had been organized in the fields. And they even formed an organization of women with the name "Mothers Against the Strike." This organization was led by the wives of the growers and contractors; they told the women that in the future they would be treated with all consideration and respect at work. But it wasn't true: it was all a lie.

In fact many of the women farmworkers were fighters against the bosses and scabs. Once in the 1970's the teamster union hacks were signing sweetheart contracts with the growers. Teamster goons viciously beat up some workers in the Coachella Valley to try to stop a strike to force growers to sign contracts with the UFW. They announced they were going to the Delano area (Lamont) to do the same thing.

A militant picket captain announced this to the workers, telling them that those who didn't come prepared to fight with at least a kitchen knife, shouldn't come to the picket line the next day. The next day, all the women strikers came and showed the picket captain their hidden kitchen knives. Having heard what the workers were preparing, the teamsters never showed up.

Currently in the fields the bosses and contractors try to hide that they pay the women less because they say they pay the same price by the hour as the men. But the women who work in the Blueberry Company in Delano, California constantly complain that they are missing hours of work in their pay checks, that they don't pay them over-time or that they don't get paid for a certain quantity of fruit picked.

Women who work for contractors tying the guide wires of the grape vines report that they give them the work by contract but they are forced to work 8 hours, and that the price is so low that they don't even get paid minimum wage.

It's reported that in Mexico more than 75 percent of those who work in the maquiladoras are women. Those in charge of the factories say that they prefer women because they have more manual dexterity for the complicated assemblies; that the women show respect and obedience to people in positions of authority, especially to men; that the women accept the orders with good will and easily accept changes and adjustments and they are considered less demanding, etc. The bosses always try to flatter women workers as a way of sweetening the pill to try to get them to accept everything with good will, including the most vicious exploitation without muttering a word.

The exploitation of women has always been an ingredient of capitalism. And even though there have always been many forms of struggle against this exploitation, in no way has it affected the bosses' system, because everything has been reduced to reformism or legalism, from elections to pacifist marches and protests.

However, it's impossible to deny that in the past an infinity of women have participated heroically in every struggle of our class, and all the workers' revolutions that have occurred, from the Paris Commune to the Russian and Chinese revolutions, to the struggle in Vietnam, to the current rebellions in the Middle East and North Africa.

This heroic participation of these women has inspired many to join, participate, and give leadership in the current struggle led by the International Communist Workers' Party to destroy sexist, racist capitalism and establish a communist society as the only solution to the bosses' vile exploitation.

CAPITALISM MURDERS MINERS IN SABINAS, COAHUILA, MEXICO

Last May 3rd is an unforgettable day for the relatives and friends of the 14 miners killed by the ambition of the capitalists who make money by exploiting workers and natural resources, like coal. At the Bimsa coal mine in San Juan de las Sabinas, there was a methane gas explosion which caused the partial collapse of the mine. All the 14 miners trapped inside were killed. The only survivor was a 15 year old youth who had to have his arm amputated and whose eyes were damaged. He was working on a conveyer belt outside the mine pit; the blast was so strong that it seriously wounded him. This teenager was paid 900 pesos (\$70) a week and the company gave him no health insurance.

In 2006, 65 miners were killed in a similar explosion at the Pasta de Conchos mine in this same town. Their families have called for outlawing all these dangerous small scale vertical shaft coal mines, but to no avail.

After this tragedy the vultures appear, like the governor and Secretary of Labor, appearing worried about these deaths. But what pain will some one feel who robs workers' labor power, who maintains with their laws the poverty wages and conditions of constant insecurity? The company, wanting to calm down their families, mocks them, giving them a crumb of 3,000 pesos and the state government paying for the funerals, but they haven't gotten the federal pensions. And the government covers up the well by closing the installations temporarily. The life of a miner or any worker isn't important to any capitalist, in Mexico or anyplace else in the world. The only thing they care about is profits. These aren't accidents, since the bosses and those in charge of the operations know the risks that the miners can suffer. They are the rule that predominates in mining throughout the whole world.

In the US, the political parties in 2010 received \$6.4 million from the mining companies for their election campaign, and that's why they haven't passed a security law a year after the deaths of 29 coal miners in West Virginia, bringing

to 49 the number of deaths of coal miners in the US last year. But even if they pass this law it wouldn't eliminate deaths caused by lung disease, fires or explosions.

In China, 6,995 miners died in 2002 and they claim they made improvements to reduce the deaths to 2,631 in 2009, from 19 deaths a day to 7 a day. They haven't stopped sending the miners to such depths because it's so much cheaper than sending robots. And with a robot they won't make profits; they wouldn't have someone to pay so little.

Coal is one of the main generators of electricity worldwide and it's used by the steel and cement industries as a fuel to produce them. 60% of worldwide production comes from the deepest parts of the earth. It's good business for the bosses and a constant risk for the workers.

We workers don't have to trust any crocodile shedding tears while devouring us. We have to destroy this capitalist society that's based on the ambition of a few. We have to build a society that's based on satisfying the needs of millions of workers. In a new society, mining, like all social production, will be based on the security and well-being of those who carry out the work which requires certain risk. If a death results, such activity would have to be replaced if a way can't be found to reduce the fatalities to 0%. Let's be the miners of the world who bury the capitalist system once and for all. Let's make this new society a reality now by fighting for communism and organizing ICWP.



Demonstrators in the industrial city of Sohar, Oman, protest police killings of demonstrators in February. "We want to see the benefit of our oil wealth distributed evenly," one protester yelled over a bullhorn near the port. As unrest sweeps the Middle East and North Africa, workers and students are open to communist ideas.



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A Lifetime of Struggle

I am proud to see how much the party has grown this past year. May Day 2011 was an example of how far we have come from when we first started. This year's May day, we represented the working class and out of all the groups marching, our red shirts and banners stuck out the furthest. This was an excellent May Day and as the years go by, our collective will become stronger and bigger. If it takes a lifetime then I look forward to a life-time of struggle and fight for the working class.

--College Organizer

Workers' Collectivity Shows Communism Is Possible

"Well, of course," said a friend after reading the editorial (RF, 5/10/11) that explained why capitalism is the real disaster for workers worldwide.

But she hasn't joined the Party, and I wonder whether she is convinced that communism will bring relief.

One point that this editorial could have made is that we can see the possibility of communism in workers' responses to so-called natural disasters.

Whenever there is a disaster – local or global, small or large – you see this happen. Often those with the least are the ones who pitch in most generously. Many people take the initiative. Without knowing it, they put communist ideas into practice.

After Hurricane Katrina, for example, two US soldiers defied orders and used their helicopter to rescue people stranded on New Orleans rooftops. Instead of returning directly to their base after delivering supplies to another military post, they spent the rest of the day shuttling black workers to safety.

The Brass tried to punish these working-class heroes, but backed down in the face of massive protests.

Think what more could have happened if communists had been organizing among the soldiers in the Gulf region. How many more could have been saved? And how many soldiers and civilians could have been won to join the Party?

After the earthquake/tsunami hit Japan this year, students on my campus immediately mobilized to raise money for relief. Like many young working-class people, most of these students have very little themselves. Yet they donated time, energy, clothes and books (to sell) and more to help those worse-off.



We need to explain that they, themselves, are proving that communism can work. We must convince them to join the Party. The twos and threes who join today will become dozens and then hundreds. We welcome all of them. None of us "know it all." We are all learning together, and the best way to learn is to become part of a communist collective.

The masses already grasp the idea of sharing scarcity. So the old communist movement was wrong to think that communism could only work under conditions of abundance.

And the anti-communist ideas that the bosses push so hard actually contradict workers' own experiences. When we struggle sharply against these ideas, we can win.

That's why communism is not just necessary but possible.

--Campus Comrade

How Being a Communist Helps Us

Today we're here together to see the need for many and millions of workers to be won to communism. Many times we ask how being communists helps us. Well, I believe that it helps us to take the blindfold from our eyes. The system has us like this, without seeing more than they want us to see. We have different politics from other parties like the PRI, PAN, PRD, etc. These parties don't provide an education or a decent life for our future. Lately, society is full of drugs, crime, and deaths. Only by organizing the class struggle with communist consciousness will we change our lives.

Belonging to a communist group changes the vision of our lives, since we see the world in a more real way. Sometimes we're afraid of having a life project different from the one we live commonly, and we get to know people who we know won't agree with us. When we involve ourselves in some group, we find people whose thoughts don't coincide with ours. People who see life in a different way. An example of this is if I prepare the food for the family it's just food, but if I prepare it to sell it becomes a commodity. Under capitalism all that's produced is to sell. Everything is a commodity.

The capitalist system is based on the needs of the capitalists to produce to put things on sale and make profits off them. It doesn't matter to the bosses if you have the money to eat or not. What they want is only to produce even though you don't have enough money to buy the things you need.

They only create false illusions. For example, if we buy a car on credit and afterwards we don't have enough to pay it, we find ourselves in the situation of possibly not having enough to eat. But we have a car! To them they only care about producing to sell. To them

they're not interested in what you have to do to pay for the commodities you need.

When we produce for the needs of the people, this is communism, where there's no class distinction, social position, color of skin, indigenous ethnicities, etc, only because we're human the people are all equal, and everyone has the same rights as anyone else.

--Comrade from Mexico

Raise up the Red Flag

Since joining the ICWP, my proudest moment was marching in the May Day parade with my fellow communist allies. Many organizations marched for equality without a clear view of who they were addressing. The ICWP along with our newspaper *Red Flag* was there at the march to explain that society as a whole has to be changed if we truly want to have a society where everyone is equal. Communism is the only way this can be accomplished. ICWP urged our fellow working class allies to drop their flags that separated them and raise up the red in a united front against our imperialist enemies. Imperialism shackles us all with its wage system which breaks our backs and leads us to nowhere.

--New comrade

Building Communism from the Ashes of Capitalism

In the April 17 *Red Flag*, there were several thought-provoking, even visionary, articles about a better world for workers under communism. However, I found something missing from the scenarios presented that should be considered in newspaper articles and discussions with our base.

Communism and seizing power will likely take place during a world war as did the Russian and Chinese revolutions. It is probable that the next global war will produce casualties and destruction in the US because its imperialist enemies will use their weapons of mass destruction against the US. Also, the US bosses will turn their firepower against us as we fight to take power (all the more reason for our organizing in the military).

If this is the case, we communists (ICWP) will have to build a new society from ashes, including in the US. We may face something like the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the recent tornados in the South, or the nuclear meltdown and tsunami in Japan. There will be no roads, schools, hospitals, supermarkets, etc. We will have

A Poem for May Day

Since the year before, we have prepared
To unite and march on this day
To show the capitalists that we're not scared
To scream and shout on the First of May.

We'll be wearing our color with much, much pride
And convince others to be on our side
To turn in their white shirts for our red
Because, by the government, we've been misled.

May Day is the day we've been awaiting all year
We have to be sure we shout loud and clear.
We have to be sure our minds are read and voices heard.
Because a Communist world is very much preferred.

There's no need to be feeling fright
We must stand up to fight, fight, fight!
We must take a stand on this special day,
To scream and shout on the First of May!

to "start from scratch" to build a new society and infrastructure.

Workers can do this. The ICWP is preparing now for this eventuality by building communist consciousness through struggles, practice, and *Red Flag* articles.

Thank you, comrades, for *Red Flag* articles that stimulate and guide our practice and help us to envision the communist world that is possible. "The Earth shall rise on new foundations."
---NorCal Reader

Communist Ideas Go Like Hotcakes

Today as the ICWP we worked distributing *Red Flag* newspapers in the mass May Day march. It was a very good experience, full of happiness.

When I began distributing the material I saw the interest and the curiosity of the workers over the content of the newspaper.

Distributing the material in the street, it caught my attention that people inside the buildings of a private company asked me for it with enthusiasm and hunger for the information. The people read the paper with great interest, including those who asked to take more for workers who couldn't come to the march and who wanted to share this information.

Street vendors, people with food stands, unionists, government workers, and volunteers with aid groups like the Red Cross took the liberty of reading the material with thirst for information and much curiosity.

A big achievement of ICWP this day was to awaken the interest of the workers in the mass movement and we were well received by the people.

The quantity of material distributed by ICWP today in the streets where the march was carried out was insufficient for the mass concentration of workers who thirst for this information.

But I expect that next May Day as ICWP learns from our achievements today, we will increase the quantity of literature for the masses who want to get to know us.

---Young Communist "

BOEING NLRB DECISION A DANGEROUS JOKE

Who Do You Trust: The Law or Workers' Power?

The capitalist tells you to rely on the law. Communists tell us to rely on workers' power.

At first glance it may seem it may seem easier to rely on the law. That's the route the International Association of Machinists (IAM) took in their complaint to the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB).

Acting on that complaint, the NLRB charged that Boeing's decision to open a new 787 plant in South Carolina was an illegal act of retaliation against the union for striking. That it was in retaliation for striking is obvious; the CEO admitted as much. The NLRB says Boeing should operate its second 787 line in Washington State--manned by union workers.

Seems like a victory, right? Upon closer examination, it becomes clear that in the real world this ruling carries no weight.

Appeals will go on for at least 5 years. By that time, the South Carolina plant will have been up and running for at least 4 years. The eventual decision will be moot.

Foolish and Dangerous

The unions strategy is more than useless. It's dangerous!

Our class must mobilize to break the bosses' laws now more than ever. The bosses need to prepare for bigger wars, even world war, has been responsible for more and more fascist laws. Would we advise the German working class to fight for better laws in Nazi Germany?

Advocating reliance on "better" laws sabotages the movement we need to build. Soldiers need to "break their contracts" and turn the guns on their imperialist oppressors. As legal strikes become harder to come by, workers will have to be prepared to wildcat. Racist

exploitation must be met with the full might of a united working class. Our class must learn through practice that only direct workers' power--personified by mass action--is the answer.

Law is only the codification of the right of the capitalist to exploit us. Rather than futile attempts to pass more "even-handed" laws, we need to mobilize our class to smash the bosses' system of laws.

Mobilizing masses of workers should be our strategy -- now and in the future. When we seize state power, we'll have a huge weapon with which to organize these mobilizations. Communist mobilizations, not laws, will insure that the needs of our class are met.

Labor Law Not Any Better

The IAM just sent every member in the nation a letter calling on us to fight for "collective bargaining."

"The collective bargaining process," wrote IAM international president Buffenbarger, "is the very concept of the American ideal of democracy in the workplace, an idea championed by Abraham Lincoln, Teddy Roosevelt and Franklin D. Roosevelt. President Dwight Eisenhower often cited the practice of collective bargaining as the 'glue' binding America's economic progress."

And what of this trade-unionist collective bargaining process next year as our contract expires in the fall of 2012. It looks ominous.

The IAM and the Engineers union have built an alliance with Washington bosses and their government politicians called the Washington Aerospace Partnership. For the first time union officials will be traveling with the company bosses to the Paris Air Show to promote Boeing. This all-class partnership is spearheading a campaign to ensure the next version of the 737 is built in the Puget Sound.



Everybody on the shop floor expects the 2012 contract battle to be among the most fiercely fought in our history. Rather than preparing for a huge and lengthy strike, the IAM is telling us to rely on the benefits of "partnership." Such is the danger of collective bargaining under a capitalist system in crisis.

When our class wins communism, there will be no collective bargaining with the bosses because there will be no bosses to bargain with. Our party will mobilize workers in every nook and cranny of society to lead production to provide for our class.

Relying on the law and collective bargaining is both foolish and dangerous. The prudent thing to do is to assure *Red Flag* reaches the hands of many more Boeing workers. The wise course is to build a movement based on workers' power: mobilizing masses for communism.

DIALECTICS AND TRANSITIONS INTO THE OPPOSITE

In the last issue we discussed the dialectical concept of opposition, and its relation to contradiction. In order to be opposites, things have to meet two conditions: they have to be exclusive, and they have to interact. Opposites are called supplementary when they work together and support each other. Opposites like parent and child or discussion and action are supplementary at least some of the time.

Opposites that struggle and interfere with each other are contradictions. Some opposites, like workers and capitalists, are always contradictory. Many political debates are precisely about whether an opposition is contradictory or not. Revisionists, people who claim to be communists but say that workers cannot won be to fight directly for communism, often claim that the opposition between reform and revolution are supplementary, that reforms and revolutionary political activity can work together. The truth is that reform and revolution are always contradictory, and that all oppositions are contradictory in at least some circumstances.

Opposites Have a Dominant Side

When opposites interact, one side is almost always stronger than the other. Practice, for example, is richer than theory and often corrects it. The capitalist class is dominant until a successful revolution and then the working class has the upper hand.

In each relation of opposites, the side that is dominant determines the quality of the system or process

that the opposites form. When parents have small children, the adults are the dominant side. When the parents grow old or become ill, however, the quality of the opposite relationship changes and grown children often make decisions for their parents. This shift of the dominant side is called a transition into its opposite, or as we described it in an earlier column, a dialectical negation.

Transition into its Opposite

It is an important idea of dialectics that under specific conditions, things can make a transition into their opposites. This transition does not mean, for example, that the working class will turn into capitalists after the revolution. It means that in its relation with the capitalist class, the working class will make the transition from being dominated to being in the more powerful position, and will use that power to set up communism.

Some people refer to the transition into its opposite as a law, but this may not be appropriate, since the specific conditions required are different for different opposite relationships, and might never occur for some of them. For example, in the nucleus of many atoms, attraction is dominant over repulsion, and it may stay that way indefinitely. In atoms that are radioactive, however, repulsion can become dominant and make the atom split apart.

How to Make a Transition Happen

A transition happens when a weaker opposite gets

stronger or a dominant one gets weaker. In some opposite relations, like the relationship between parents and children, the transition is inevitable. In other cases, the transition isn't inevitable, but something can be done to make it happen. At work places, campuses, and military bases the bosses' ideas are dominant, because the capitalists have a near monopoly on the means to distribute ideas. But distribution of *Red Flag*, communist political discussion, and involvement in practical struggles can spread communist ideas that make sense to many workers, students and soldiers. This means that consistent communist political work can eventually make communist ideas dominant in most areas.

This should be the goal of our work wherever it is possible. Even in areas where communist ideas don't eventually become dominant, their acceptance by some will weaken capitalist control and help advance the fight for communism. Of course there are circumstances where we know that communist ideas will never be dominant, like the management of big corporations or inside the leadership of capitalist governments, which means that those institutions have to be destroyed. All this is in line with the idea of transition into an opposite, since that only happens in appropriate circumstances. Transition into the opposite is not rare, however, but occurs often and illustrates that importance of understanding dialectics to understand how to change the world.

**JOIN THE 2011 SUMMER PROJECT!
BE PART OF ICWP'S RED SUMMER!
DISTRIBUTE RED FLAG TO INDUSTRIAL WORKERS,
FARMWORKERS AND SOLDIERS AND
TALK TO THEM ABOUT COMMUNIST IDEAS.**