

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM



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



United States,
see pages 3, 4

MASSES ON THREE CONTINENTS EMBRACE COMMUNISM ON MAY DAY

South Africa: Fighting Racism and Reformism

MAY DAY — Members of ICWP and our friends in South Africa took the battle for communism to an event where our class enemies, Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), were trying hard to win the working class to pro-capitalist ideas of supporting African capitalists to cure the problems facing the working class.

The May Day event was organized by EFF in the third-largest township in the area. We arrived. After some hesitation about how to reach out to the workers who were under EFF security, we decided to spread our ideas with *Red Flag* and other pamphlets.

Our fear and hesitations disappeared as one bold comrade led everybody by saying “Let’s do it, we are ready to face them.”

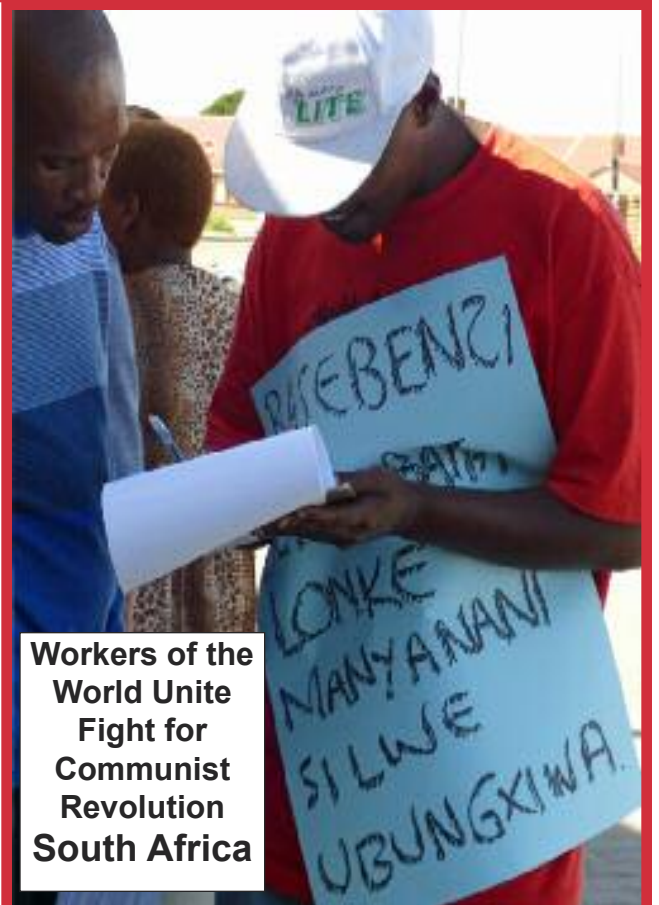
The workers grabbed our literature eagerly. Even some of the staunch pro-EFF supporters came to ask us for our literature. EFF had announced that the first 5000 workers would get free T-shirts so the workers were lining up. We were distributing *Red Flag* and engaging with the workers. There were several queues where scores of workers were reading *Red Flag* as they waited.

“Where can I get that *Red Flag*?” a group of workers asked somebody who was reading it.

“Go there,” said the *Red Flag* reader. So this group ran to the comrade who was distributing *Red Flag*. As the comrade was busy talking to those around him, this group of workers, eager to get a copy of *Red Flag*, approached him singing the International in Xhosa with their fists raised. We had a long chat with them and invited them to the braai (barbecue) the next day.

By the end of the day, we had given out all the literature we had brought with us. There were 200 Red Flags, 1000 leaflets explaining ICWP (titled “Smash Xenophobia with Communist Revolution”) and hundreds of pamphlets on the need to organize soldiers. The comrades were so emboldened by this activity that we went to a busy working-class shopping area and distributed the remaining literature.

During the week prior to May Day we met every day and studied com-
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Workers of the
World Unite
Fight for
Communist
Revolution
South Africa



Red Flag
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ICWP
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**BALTIMORE
UPRISING
SHOWS
REVOLUTIONARY
POTENTIAL
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**NEPAL
EARTHQUAKE:
CAPITALIST
DISASTER
PAGE 5**

BALTIMORE UPRISING SHOWS REVOLUTIONARY POTENTIAL OF BLACK YOUTH AND WORKERS TO MOBILIZE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

The science of the working class—dialectical materialism—teaches that the contradiction between the working class and the capitalist class must be resolved violently by communist revolution. Rebellions are opportunities to lead the masses in that direction.

Rebellion - that's what it is in Baltimore. The uprising of black workers and youth protesting the racist police murder of Freddie Gray has raised the question of violence. It shows that violence is a class question. It has different meanings for the capitalist class and for the working class.

Working class violence against the capitalists' state apparatus—as in Ferguson and now in Baltimore—paints a vivid picture of the revolutionary violence needed to destroy inhumane capitalism and build a communist world where workers' lives will be valued and treasured.

Overthrowing capitalism will require violence on a large scale—a Red Army that will wipe out the bosses. The Bolsheviks were a small party when they took power in Russia in 1917. They quickly realized they needed a real army to defend the revolution and started one from scratch on February 23, 1918 (Red Army Day). By the end of the Civil War in 1922, it had grown to 5 million strong—the largest army on earth at the time. The Chinese communists also built a 3 million-strong Red Army, and a militia of 20 million, to overthrow the capitalists.

Understanding the revolutionary potential of mass violence, the US bosses' media, politicians, and community and religious "leaders" condemn the "senseless violence in Baltimore." Obama called the perpetrators "thugs and criminals." This from the representatives of capitalists-imperialists, the biggest criminals, thugs, and mass murderers in history!

Wage Slavery: Capitalism's biggest weapon of mass destruction. The capitalists won't give

us a job if we can't produce profits for them. **NO** job, **NO** money, **NO** money, **NO** food. As a result 9 million people—mainly children under five—die yearly of starvation worldwide. **NO** money, **NO** medicine. 18 million people die yearly from diseases preventable and curable for a dollar per person.

When the angry masses in the streets loot and burn down pharmacies, supermarkets and stores, they are attacking these capitalist instruments of exploitation and mass murder. They are pointing the way and the need to destroy them and the whole capitalist system and build a communist **YES** society without money or wage slavery.

If capitalism is the system of **NO**, communism is the system of **YES**. Will everyone's needs for food, clothing and shelter be taken care of? **YES**. Will everyone have healthcare? **YES**. Will people live in integrated housing and work in integrated vocations? **YES**. Will everyone work? **YES**. Will we be free of drugs and gangs? **YES**. Will killer cops and hanging judges be gone for good? **YES**.

Let's compare the destructiveness of the Baltimore masses- 15 structure fires; 144 vehicles destroyed; and more than 20 police officers injured with that of the capitalist-imperialist rulers waging their wars for profits and empire. They reduce whole cities to rubble, destroy countries, kill or displace tens of millions. They, however, blame this savagery on us, claiming it is all because of human greed. But, the cause is their greed and their system's need for maximum profits.

The racist rulers have long targeted black youth. In the 70s they flooded black neighborhoods with crack cocaine to mass incarcerate a whole generation of black youth. This was as punishment for leading the anti-racist urban uprisings in the 60s and 70s, and the rebellions in the Army and Navy during the Vietnam War.

Black youth led the rebellion in Ferguson and now in Baltimore. The bosses' ploy to keep

the youth drugged and their campaign to subdue them with mass racist police terror and murder are not working. **Black**

youth are once again rising to occupy their place in the revolutionary process. They will inspire others to do the same.

Their actions show: 1) Rebellions train the masses for the class war they must wage against capitalism, and creates the conditions to win them massively to communism. 2) When mass rebellions erupt, the police are useless. The bosses must then rely on the military to protect them. The soldiers, however, are our class brothers and sisters. History shows they can and must be won to fight alongside us. This shows the need to do communist organizing inside the military.

Let's welcome our rebellious youth and give them political guidance. They should join ICWP and as communists become industrial workers and soldiers: the key sectors for a successful communist revolution. ICWP members and friends in Los Angeles MTA, Boeing, in industry in South Africa, and El Salvador should organize industrial political strikes against all racist police murders, in support of these rebellious youth, and for communism. This would have a galvanizing effect on these rebels and others, nationally and internationally. Let's spread **Red Flag** and build ICWP to mobilize the rebellious masses for communism. Join us!

This article in French is on our website: icwpredflag.org



International Communist Workers' Party

2015 Summer Projects In Los Angeles, Oakland & Seattle



**HELP BRING
RED FLAG
TO WORKERS
AND SOLDIERS**



***Study groups
*Social events
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MAY DAY: ONE WORLD; ONE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY

SPAIN

"Look! *Red Flag*! My father brought us *Red Flag*," said a retired worker, referring to the Communist Party of Spain that emerged in 1970.

We struck up a conversation with the retired people to explain that we are the International Communist Workers' Party and that our newspaper is called *Red Flag*. We explained that we fight against capitalism but we don't support reforms or unions.

They were very happy because they understood that the struggles of the pseudo-communist parties, together with their unions, are not a solution to the problems of the working class. We left them several copies of *Red Flag* so that they could read and study it. We also met people from Nicaragua who may meet with us very soon.

Again we enjoyed a great day. Many workers took to the streets to celebrate the workers' day. We distributed 1250 *Red Flags* which were very well received. The people asked what *Red Flag* was, and when they saw the front page, they asked us for it.

There were many workers who are unemployed and living in real hardship. They came to protest for their rights and for better opportunities for a better quality of life. Entire families marched through the streets demanding to stop evictions and that the politicians work for the people.

As members of ICWP we explained that the real struggle to change this situation is the struggle to destroy capitalism and establish a Communist society. The current rulers will never work to improve the plight of the working class because they are only interested in profits they get by super-exploiting and killing the working class.

We fight to eliminate borders, for a society that produces based on the needs of the workers, for the elimination of money, and to eradicate racism and sexism.

We continue to grow and work to build a mass party that fights for communism.

Greetings to the workers of the whole world, especially to the workers of South Africa! From Spain, a fraternal embrace! Long live May Day! Long live communism! Long live ICWP!

EL SALVADOR

"Neither reformism nor capitalism, let's fight for communism!"

"Neither reform nor elections, the masses need revolution!"

"The struggle continues, Communism lives!"

These were some of the slogans chanted by the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) contingent in the May Day march on this International Workers' Day.

ICWP's advance stands out more each May Day. Comrades from different parts of the country mobilized to march and distribute our communist literature. Our contingent reflected the unity of the working class: city workers, farmworkers and students.

More than 2000 *Red Flag* newspapers and 3000 leaflets were distributed among the thousands of workers in two marches that were carried out this day. Big banners with the symbols and slogans of the Party were unfurled from early in the morning by the comrades of the maquila factories.

"This is my day, and I could not keep from coming!" exclaimed, with much excitement, a farmworker who is an ex-guerilla fighter of the FMLN. He was participating in this contingent of communists on May Day for the first time.

A worker who had just received the *Red Flag* newspaper from the hands of a comrade said, "If we don't join together in this struggle against the capitalist system, we will not achieve victory."

Every May Day march is an experience in which the working class shows its class hatred against the old and new capitalist bosses. The ICWP boldly carries out new forms of participation each year, so that the working class realizes that a new option exists. The electoral parties only use the working class and do not represent any solution to improve the conditions of workers' lives.

Returning from the march with the satisfaction of having fulfilled our expectations, we understood that it is always necessary to carry out a meeting for criticism and self-criticism of this activity, to discuss how we can improve the work and expand the number of comrade participants next year.

The comrades of ICWP stopped at a famous truck stop and got out of the trucks and buses to talk and eat a delicious lunch of barbecue. All enjoyed comradeship and euphoria, knowing that the International Communist Workers' Party is advancing in the concrete struggle to establish communism.

LOS ANGELES, USA

"I carried the Red flag and did not ever let it fall," said a young comrade proudly. She was happy to have participated in the May Day march with her working class brothers and sisters.

The International Communist Workers' Party mobilized close to 50 workers and students. Many marched with us for the first time and some distributed *Red Flag* for the first time. Later they described how much they had loved it. Many of the youth took leadership on different levels.

The reformist march organizers chose a route where there was almost nobody to see us, and the march was on the small side. Still, we distributed 900 copies of *Red Flag* along with a lot of leaflets and pamphlets to the marchers.

We got a great reception! One worker insisted on carrying a sign that said, "Workers, unite! For a communist world without borders, wars, or private property." She carried it for the whole march.

The youth bus arrived at the march after a slow journey that seemed forever. On the way we divided up the tasks and practiced the chants. We got there after the march had already started.

As we started marching towards it, we were shouting "Fight for communism! Power to the workers!" A cop stopped us and said we had to wait 'til the end of it. But a worker intervened, saying, "We will make space for them." And they did.

There were numerous groups in the march. They were marching against things capitalism causes, like racism, sexism, and poor wages. "If they want to see a real change then they need to realize communism is the solution," said a student comrade. "Even though some may be against it and the government abhors it, it's the way to go."

With communism there won't be any racism, sexism, or even wages. There won't be any racist murders because the material basis of racism will be gone. The workers on the march, even though they do not know it, are potential members of our party – just like many of the students who marched with us.

A young student comrade said, "The march was an unforgettable event. I had never been to a march but I made it possible this year and it was an incredible experience. I was amazed with how the working class united to celebrate the Worker's Day, a very important day for all of the working class internationally."

Another added, "In the moment of carrying the banner, passing out *Red Flag* and shouting out the chants, I felt like there were no borders, no racism, nor sexism."

Some young people marched with their hard-working parents in mind. They marched because they see the struggle their parents face as wage slaves. This is the struggle that capitalists make our working class go through for their own wealth and privilege that rest on our backs.

We all, student and worker comrades alike, marched knowing that our comrades all over the world — in Spain, Central America, Mexico and South Africa, and elsewhere—were all marching for the same thing: to mobilize the masses for communism. One world, one party, one flag!

The enthusiastic participation in our communist contingent this May Day bodes well for our upcoming Summer Projects. Young adult comrades will give leadership to younger people, helping them learn how to carry on the building of a new communist world.



ICWP BRINGS REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNISM TO SEATTLE MAY DAY

“Viva la revolución!” shouted the speaker. “Viva la revolución!” echoed the crowd.

“Hey Hey Ho Ho, Racist cops have got to go!” chanted the marchers, at least 1000 strong and integrated.

The brass band played “The International.”

These were some of the better moments of the Seattle Mayday march. Unfortunately they were not typical.

A coalition of reformist groups organized this march. Demonstrators were offered a smorgasbord of narrow reforms—a union, a \$15 minimum wage, or re-electing a self-styled “socialist” to city council (one who warned against revolutionary violence because the bosses can always outdo us). The speakers scarcely mentioned Baltimore, leaving the issue to a separate “Black Lives Matter” demonstration and contingent.

Fortunately the ICWP was there to provide an alternative to this “reformapalooza.” We distributed 1200 bilingual leaflets and 700 **Red Flags** in both languages. Not to mention lots of Mobilize the Masses for Communism and different pamphlets. The remaining 300 leaflets will be distributed with **Red Flag** at Boeing this week.

Our leaflet offered a clear, positive alternative to dead-end, futile reformism. It characterized capitalism as the system of “NO” and communism as the system of “YES.” It also made it clear that we support the Baltimore rebels and that replacing the system requires violence (see page 2).

The leaflet was very well received. A young person described how marchers returned after reading it. They asked for more: for their workplaces later and to distribute right then and there.

We got several new contacts. One, a community college student, said his class group project examined different social systems. The multiracial group, some of whom were marching with him, concluded that none of the systems worked.

“What about communism?” asked our new friend, who was put on the spot when his fellow students started quizzing him about it. He was very glad to meet us!

“Are you a group?” he asked us. Absolutely—in fact better, a real party! The International Communist Workers’ Party!

The next evening we held our Mayday dinner. Unfortunately we had to compete with the multi-million dollar “fight of the century,” which had strongly racist overtones.

Nonetheless the multi-racial group who came was glad they did. Four ICWP members made brief contributions. One told about May Day events, including the discussion with the college student. Another talked about the history and importance of Mayday, including its revival in the USA, the land of its birth. A third emphasized how good communism is for workers and almost everybody else. Finally a comrade explained how important it is for people who like our ideas to join the ICWP. It’s good to have supporters but to make progress you need committed members. For example, if twice as many of us had shown up for the march, we could have had an even bigger impact.

Once again workers took flyers and **Red Flags** to distribute later at work and to families. A Boeing friend went further. “I invited a woman at work to come tonight, but she couldn’t. I know she’s a good prospect because she read almost the whole paper when I gave it to her. When is our next event? We are meeting with her next week to plan it.”

After the dinner some of us discussed what holds people (like the friends we just talked to) back from joining ICWP.

We decided different people have different reasons. We must deal with them individually. Some people disagree with us and we have to struggle



with them about their disagreements. Some of them agree but are victims of bourgeois cynicism. Again we have to struggle with them, about their cynicism. Here the best way is to involve them in successful actions in which other people act based on revolutionary optimism.

The people that really puzzled us are those who not only agree with us, but also organize around our ideas. These people show up for meetings and events, distribute our literature, and bring friends and fellow workers around -- all that we ask of actual members. Perhaps these people admire us too much. They think party members must all be highly experienced expert organizers. We need to explain that even the most experienced of us have weaknesses, and that even the least experienced newcomer has strengths we need. Every individual is valuable to us.

Overall we made good progress and learned a lot about boldly putting forward communism and the ICWP. Join us in putting this new knowledge into practice!

COMMUNISM WILL END ANTI-IMMIGRANT RACISM

SOUTH AFRICA — The week before May Day, we had a rally against xenophobia (anti-immigrant racism). Hundreds of leaflets explaining ICWP’s fight for communist revolution were distributed before and during our planned event in a park near a neighborhood of immigrants.

We met and got a warm response from workers and students from almost every African country, the Middle East, Pakistan and Bangladesh. A student from Uganda brought his sister. A family of workers from Zimbabwe brought their neighbors. Students from Sudan, Ethiopia, Yemen, Nigeria, and Somalia were joined by South African black workers and workers of mixed “race” ancestry.

The most exciting part was when a comrade approached a group of white workers and asked them to join our small demo. They did: a family of three came and stayed with us for two hours, listening to the speeches by comrades. The white woman is married to a Chinese man. She and her son and daughter, who are in their early 20’s, are very interested.

We also got a good reception from a group of tourists from Germany and France as they took **Red Flags** and leaflets. **Red Flags** were distributed by several comrades, including a young female new member who also spoke at the event.

We had some organizational weaknesses. We made posters but they weren’t brought to the pick-up point. The location of the event could have been better. We talked about all this and what we learned from it at a barbecue that followed. A comrade will be responsible for the logistics, another comrade for the political line and a comrade who is a mass organizer will coordinate future mass mobilizations with the collective.

The comrades are recognizing the relationship between struggle for regular readership of **Red Flag** and the class struggle we can lead. And to have regular **Red Flag** readers, the comrades have learned that it is more than giving a copy of **Red Flag**, we have to know



them in a deep way. Our consistent work with all its weaknesses has shown that we can overcome obstacles and prevail.

SOUTH AFRICA from page 1

munist theory and put it in practice. We went to a General Motors factory and got an overwhelming response from the workers. The experience was repeated as we hit four different working class neighborhoods with **Red Flag** and other party literature. Over 600 leaflets were distributed.

On May Day and in other open activities we made 50 contacts. The highlight was when the group of workers who approached us singing the International did come to the braai the next day and promised to organize many more workers.

Greeting comrades. Today I went with other comrades to General Motors Auto plant to distribute pamphlets of ICWP. We went during the shift change. Most of the workers were very interested in the idea of a classless society as we were explaining to them the meaning of communism. Although it was a very cold and windy day, we were still able to distribute more than 150 pamphlets. Even as we were leaving some of the workers who were finished with their shift were still calling back because they wanted to know about communism and what we were distributing.

A worker in his early 50’s approached us. He said that he has been working for GM for 15 years and yet he does not even own a car and has to go to work on foot. He wanted to know how we were different from the South African Communist Party. We explained to him that SACP is a sell out pro-boss organization and in the past they wanted to fight for socialism. Our party has rejected socialism as a form of capitalism and we will abolish all the aspects of capitalism. This worker was very impressed and he promised to call us and visit our website.

I am an aspiring young autoworker myself and this has given me a lot of confidence to mobilize the industrial workers for communism.

--Comrade in South Africa

Nepal Earthquake Reveals Class Fault Line

REJECT REVISIONISM, MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

Over seven thousand – maybe as many as fifteen thousand — have died in the aftermath of the April 25 earthquake that rocked Nepal. Three million have been displaced from their homes.

It didn't have to be that way. Nobody could have prevented the earthquake, but capitalism created the conditions that made it a disaster—just as in Haiti, five years ago. (See below.)

Again we see that mobilizing the masses for communism is a life-and-death issue for our class sisters and brothers everywhere.

In the week after the quake, Nepalese workers fought riot police in the capital city of Kathmandu. Masses protested government delays in getting disaster relief where it's most needed. Some stopped a truck carrying water and threw bottles of water to others in the crowd.

Millions of rural workers and immigrants were in Kathmandu unofficially, desperately seeking work. Shortages of food and water are forcing many to return to their villages. The government promised them special buses, which never came. International rescue teams wandered around without a plan.

In Dolakha, where over 200,000 were homeless, angry workers smashed windows of a local government building. Materials were supposedly “on their way” but none had been received.

Residents of the hard-hit Sangachowk village blocked the main road. They stopped trucks—including an army convoy—trying to get some of the food they carried. “Trucks carrying rice go past and don't stop,” a worker said. “The district headquarters is getting all the food.”

Workers in many of Nepal's remote villages have, of necessity, taken things into their own hands. They are tending their wounded, sharing their food supplies, comforting their bereaved, build-

ing themselves shelters and burying their dead.

In situations like these we see both the necessity and the possibility of communism. “From each according to commitment, to each according to need” is the only humanly decent thing to do. But this is not just true in emergencies. It is the way we must learn to live. It is the way we must fight to live.

What if Nepali villagers chose to build communism out of the rubble? What if they said “no more!” to capitalist wage slavery and organized all production to meet their collective needs? What if they won the soldiers sent to “restore order” to join the cause and bring the fight for communism back to the capital?

This is no pipe dream. The Nepali masses have supported communist-led movements for decades. Now is the time for them to mobilize directly for communism.

Nepal has at least nine parties that call themselves “communist.” None deserves the name, even those that still call for armed struggle. None

has learned the hard-won lessons of the 20th century. All call for “overthrowing feudalism” or “people's democracy” or “national class struggle” or long lists of demands – anything but communism! At least one (the Communist Party of Nepal—Maoist) has taken nationalism to the point of virulent anti-Hindi racism.

These parties are called “revisionist” because they are like radishes: red (communist) on the outside, white (capitalist) on the inside.

A ten-year Maoist-led civil war (1996-2006), massive protests and a prolonged political general strike led to the fall of Nepal's monarchy in 2008. The so-called “communist” parties formed alliances with openly capitalist parties and entered electoral politics. One led the government from 2008 to 2013, when it lost ground after exposing itself as just another capitalist outfit. A different “communist” party now has the second-largest bloc of votes.

But the masses remain in misery, among the poorest in the world. The unemployment rate of nearly 50% has driven millions of women and men to migrate, mainly to Malaysia and the Gulf oil monarchies, seeking work. Many have been trafficked into virtual slavery. Remittances amount to a quarter of the Nepali economy and are important in buffering it from currency fluctuations.

In the aftermath of the earthquake it should be clearer than ever that the only way forward is for workers in the Nepali metal and garment industries and other industrial workers and soldiers to mobilize the masses for communism. We invite them – and you! — to join and build the International Communist Workers' Party to do just that.



Nepal Earthquake:

CAPITALIST CRISIS AND IMPERIALIST COMPETITION--

BEWARE OF IMPERIALISTS BEARING GIFTS

“Earthquakes are not just a ‘natural’ crisis: they reflect a poverty crisis,” wrote *The Guardian* (4/30/15). We say it's a capitalist crisis. The solution is communism.

Geologically, Nepal lies entirely in the collision zone where the Indian tectonic plate is moving under Eurasia at the rate of about 2 inches (50 mm) per year—faster than your fingernails grow. A major earthquake was predicted and expected – but not planned for.

India, China, Europe and the US have pushed Nepali capitalism to expand rapidly. Kathmandu has nearly tripled in the last decade. The main concern of the US – operating through USAID — has been to move Nepal toward compliance with the World Trade Organization. Its declared intention is to promote “rapid, sustained” and deadly economic growth.

“The buildings are taller and taller, but they want to save money on making them,” a worker declared. Widespread bribery enabled developers to bypass building codes. This is especially true in the Gongabu neighborhood, where the poorest workers live, including recent arrivals from the countryside.

The masses have long known how to build earthquake-resistant buildings like the 1,500-year-old Pashupatinath Temple in Kathmandu, which still stands. Traditional building techniques can be enhanced by new technology.

But workers' lives and safety mean nothing to the capitalist rulers. At best, disaster funding goes toward short-term responses. That's what happened in Haiti and it will happen again in Nepal.

India and China are using the earthquake to step up their sharpening competition to exploit Nepali workers and gain strategic influence. Both countries rushed in with emergency aid. So did the US, desperate to strengthen its position in Asia. (See *Red Flag*, v. 5 #16 for an analysis of the geopolitics of India, China, and the US.)

India has historically dominated Nepali economics and politics. Nepali currency is pegged to the Indian rupee. Nepalis serve in the Indian Army and the Nepali army is trained in India, which is a main supplier of weapons. “Delhi needs a friendly regime in Kathmandu to prevent China from gaining space at its expense,” explained historian Prashant Jha.

India accounts for two-thirds of Nepal's trade. But last year China overtook India as Nepal's biggest foreign investor. Chinese funds have flowed into roads, power plants, transport and infrastructure. “There is a feeling [in India] that China has made too many inroads into Nepal,”



said analyst Harsh V. Pant.

Workers worldwide are giving generously to help Nepali earthquake victims. Tourists in Kathmandu volunteered their help. The capitalist Nepali government squanders these resources. In a communist world, we'll be ready and able to help our brothers and sisters in need anywhere.

But capitalist “aid” is like the storied “Trojan Horse.” The Greeks offered a “gift” of a giant horse to the city of Troy. When the gates opened to bring it in, Greek soldiers poured out and conquered the city.

Beware of imperialists bearing gifts!

COMMUNIST COLLECTIVITY MAKES LIFE WORTH LIVING

SEATTLE, WA -- Boeing commercial president Ray Conner droned on about the virtues of productivity to 83,000 workers at crew meetings across the division. Sarcastic "Heil Hitler!" salutes were the preferred reaction.

Right off he made excuses for the measly bonuses of engineers and machinists. He didn't even mention the \$9 billion in tax breaks the state gives aerospace factories, while 20,000 Washington Boeing subcontractor workers make between \$10 and \$15/hour.

Two weeks later we learned that first-level managers got bonuses of 12.5% of their annual salary, second-level 17.5% and third-level 22.5%. CEO McNerney got a bonus upwards of \$14 million.

This won't happen in communism. Everyone will be taken care of equally regardless of their work situation -- there will be no money and no salaries.

We won't need productivity-obsessed managers. The working class will be masters of production. The party's job will be to mobilize workers worldwide to provide the necessities of life. Boeing workers will be part of that collective struggle. We'll bring in more workers if we need to produce more.

It's Not Just Boeing

Anacortes oil refinery workers went on strike at the same time we learned about the bosses' bonuses. Fires and explosions killed five Anacortes workers in 2010 and six in 1998. Oil companies find it more profitable to work 12-hour shifts, two weeks at a time, than to hire more workers and replace antiquated plants. Some U.S.

refineries are 90 years old.

This was too much for one second-shift worker. "It's horrible how profit-driven the U.S. has become," he complained to a friend who was passing out the party's communist solidarity leaflet.

"What do you mean 'become'?" asked another rhetorically.

Capitalist values permeate society when we produce for sale and profit. When money is the measure of value, it warps our thinking. Our whole concept of value changes if we produce for use.

"These bosses don't value workers' lives," interrupted the second-shifter. "Did you hear about the hostage in Nigeria?"

Rebels had captured a 71-year old school-teacher from the U.S. They demanded a \$300,000 ransom.

The school's insurance company refused to pay. They said her earning potential was not worth \$300,000 because she was old and a teacher.

"I bet if she was an oil company executive or McNerney they would pay."

Young Communists Learned How To Value Life

In a communist future, children will see their parents and their friends working for the benefit of us all as soon as they are able to understand such things. Their learning will revolve around such collective labor.

Consider Vera, an 18-year old youth league leader of a recently collectivized village in 1920's Soviet Russia. She asked the author Maurice Hin-

das what was the objective of girls like her in the U.S.

"Themselves," he answered.

"Have they nothing outside themselves to live for, something for the society, something for the masses?" she questioned unbelievably, "Don't they miss a social purpose?"

"Apparently not."

"How strange!"

The U.S. is great in industrial development, but "culturally she is not far advanced," Vera and her friends decided at a youth meeting the next day.¹

Maurice Hindus got it wrong. Examples like this of collective labor have stirred millions around the world including many in the U.S.

Not only had leading the drive to collectivize labor in this village given Vera different values, but also a different view of the essence of human nature. Communist collectivity will do that.

¹ *Red Bread* by Maurice Hindus



MASSIVE MARCHES IN CELEBRATION OF MAY DAY IN HONDURAS

HONDURAS--Tens of thousands of workers, teachers, peasants, the unemployed, and other sectors of society, marched in all major cities. The slogans were generally the same, pointing out all the calamities suffered every day by the working class, especially those that deal with mass unemployment, oppression, discrimination and ruthless exploitation.

During the celebrations last year, it was thought that at this stage and within the framework of reforms that the working class fights under archaic leadership. For the first time our class here would choose to have a single labor organization. This was confirmed by the Confederation of Workers of Honduras (CTH), the General Confederation of Workers (CGT) and the Confederation of Workers of Honduras (CUTH). Together, their members encompass nearly all unions.

But such development has not been possible. Many of the unions in these confederations have become pro-boss and conservatives. They are no longer interested in liberating the working class from exploitation and discrimination to which it has been subjected for many years.

Since the 2009 coup, the trade unions have dedicate much of their activities to see how they put their struggles under the leadership and protection of "FREE," a right wing electoral party. This party participated in the last elections of 2013 and became the second-largest political force in the country. It is led by former President Zelaya, ousted in the 2009 coup.

Notwithstanding all this, one of the strongest and largest trade unions is the STENEE union, from the National Electrical Company. Upon learning that politicians from "FREE" would participate in the march, in protest they left the march and marched along their own route.

From the conversations and interviews which some comrades had with several participating workers during the route of the march, we could again see the desperation of the working class. Every day it deepens and generally it does not see this capitalist neoliberal system as an alternative solution to the serious problems it faces, not even for subsistence.

Facing this impasse, they are already forming proletarian class consciousness by recognizing the antagonism of capital to labor. They see how

the national and international capitalists increase their profits at the expense of our labor power. Meanwhile, workers' salaries are not enough even to buy their basic needs as human beings.

Thus, we comrades in Honduras see, with great hope, that qualitative and quantitative changes in favor of the working class are coming soon. These, however, can only occur under the banners and ideas that we communists must put forward. The economic reforms for which the working class struggles today, only serve to stop or delay the real struggle for total emancipation. We need to shake off the yoke of exploitation and fight for a communist society.

During the march, ICWP comrades participate, distributing some *Red Flags* and pamphlets "*Mobilize the Masses for Communism*," as we have done in the past few years. We made contact with many workers with whom we discussed the plight of the working class, the need to go beyond reformism and make a qualitative step, which is to fight to destroy capitalism and usher in a true communist revolution.

Workers of the world unite! Fight for Communism!



This is the paper of the working class.

We get no funding from the capitalists, their foundation or NGOs. This newspaper is not a commodity produced for sale. We are fighting to abolish commodity production. However, we have to pay for the costs of producing and distributing the paper, as well as for other expenses of building an international party. The box below includes a suggested donation of \$20/year which is about the current cost of mailing a single copy to a U.S. address. PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY.

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ICWP's Achievements Shine on May Day in El Salvador

This May Day, International Workers' Day, the International Communist Workers' Party was present to accompany the men and women workers in commemoration of the death of the martyrs of Chicago and to bring communist ideas to the masses.

This year in El Salvador the march of the men and women workers divided into two routes. In the first were the union leaders and lackeys of the current government marching to "celebrate" May Day and to make one or another demand of a reformist character on the FMLN government.

The other march consisted of the more radical organizations with little relation to the electoral party in the government: organizations of students, farmworkers, and men and women city workers, where comrades organized in the ICWP were present as a block as the vanguard of the march in which our revolutionary slogans resounded through the streets.

The march this year was a real achievement since the number of *Red Flag* newspapers and leaflets that were distributed increased significantly. Thus we brought communist ideas and the invitation to fight for communism organized under ICWP to many more workers this year. Even though the communist literature on both routes was all distributed in the blink of an eye to the large number of workers who came to the commemoration of the martyrs of Chicago, we returned satisfied because of reaching more people.

While distributing newspapers I saw how workers, students and the people who came around the march carefully read the newspaper

Red Flag and also our very militant and concrete leaflet in its call to fight and organize for a Communist system and not fight for reforms or trust in an electoral party like the FMLN. There were even people who came to me while I was carrying out this work with other comrades to ask me for two or three copies of *Red Flag* and leaflets. There were very few who refused to take the literature of our party.

ICWP battles against the reformist literature of the union movement loyal to the FMLN Party, in which communist literature and ideas were the emphatic winners since people left the other leaflets to one side and took ours with its clear call to mobilize the masses for communism.

And it is with this phrase with which I approached with a smile on my face the men and women workers who without fear took our literature, breaking with the campaigns of fear and disorientation by the bosses' media against the communist movement. At the end of the march, we maintained the organization and planning so that we could leave without any inconvenience and go back to our homes. We ended the day with a delicious lunch, sharing experiences with the comrades from the fields, the city workers, students, teachers, etc.

—A revolutionary communist greeting, from comrades

May Day in Mexico

Although we have to the May Day marches for several years and every year it is different. In my case, I expected to see more workers' anger against the capitalist bosses and their government, as well as a considerable number of police. The march, however, was very calm. One could see dance groups, music and fireworks. Some comrades were baffled by it. It did not affect me much because under capitalism, anything can be expected.

For that reason, I concentrated on talking about the bosses' preparations for World War III and the historic opportunity we have to take power from the capitalists and fight for a Communist society.

I was motivated by the attention workers paid when I talked to them about communism. It motivated me to keep on talking. However, I think we distributed very few copies of *Red Flag*; or maybe I personally did not get that many to distribute. I did not get any home or email addresses, but the important thing was that

the workers took our newspaper and read it while waiting for the march to start.

I know comrades have different experiences, and as one comrade told me, "You have lots of experience and it is easy for you." I told him yes, but that practice doesn't come easily. It comes from the constant struggle with our contradictions, love for the working class and the conviction that we fight for something that goes beyond our fears, apathy, comfort, selfishness, and passivity. We fight so that one day the Communist society will be possible. To make it possible, every member of the Party must fight with his/hers contradictions today, and make the changes that are required to make real this dream of humanity: communism.

New comrades participated; I could not delve into what were their perceptions or impressions of what they had done that day. However, the simple fact that they accompanied us, took a considerable number of *Red Flags* and began to distribute them and talk to workers, was a great achievement for our working class internationally.

Greetings to comrades and workers worldwide who took to the streets this May Day. I hope that all these processes contribute to building a communist society. Let's fight for communism, for the sake of our class and hatred of capitalist bosses. One party, one class: the international working class. Let's fight for Communism.

—Young comrade from Mexico.

More on Disney's Lies

I really appreciated the *Red Flag* review of the movie "McFarland."

The comrade who wrote it told me another thing I want to share. The father of the runners depicted in the film wasn't a farmworker exactly. He worked for the growers recruiting other people who did the picking. His family didn't have to stoop in the fields.

Disney changed the facts to fit the Horatio Alger myth which has done so much to dampen the rebellious spirit of the workers. They want us to believe that any individual can overcome any adversity and that it is our fault if we fail.

The truth is that only collective action will overcome the power of organized wealth, and bring a full life for everyone.

—Reader

FANON from page 8

Fanon imagined that imperialists need to benefit the masses of former colonies or suffer economic stagnation. On his own account, however, the new countries have no choice but to use the same old "economic channels," staying in the world market and continuing to produce similar products. Thus the former colonists' only worry is that their former colonies might do business with some other imperial power. The facts bear this out. The old imperialists still dominate many former colonies, although they are now challenged by new imperial powers like India and especially China.

Fanon mistakenly imagined that the end of colonialism would mean that a comparatively harmonious world capitalist system would result. He wrote that the "Third World" of former colonies expects Europe to help "rehabilitate man and ensure his triumph everywhere." [WE, p. 61]

Fanon's evaluation of the possibilities of capitalism was fundamentally wrong. Understanding the reasons why it was wrong allows us to draw the fundamental conclusion, that capitalism always means misery for the masses, and communism is the only future for the working class.

Next Column: Fanon on the Psychology of Racism

References: WE = *Wretched of the Earth*, New York, 2004

May 3 — Thousands of anti-racists block a major highway bridge in Tel Aviv protesting the police beating of Demas Fikadey, a 21-year-old soldier of Ethiopian descent, on April 26.

Later that night, protesters threw stones and bottles at cops, injuring 56 of them. Hundreds in Jerusalem had already fought police in an earlier protest. Racist harassment and discrimination against the 135,000 Ethiopian Jews in Israel is common, in addition to the constant and systematic racism against Arab Israelis. From Baltimore to Tel Aviv, racism will only end when the masses of workers, soldiers and youth mobilize for communism.



FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM, NOT FOR “JUSTICE”

“I heard your call for, ‘No justice, no peace’,” said Baltimore State’s Attorney Marilyn Mosby as she announced charges against six police officers involved in the death of Freddie Gray. “Your peace is sincerely needed as I work to deliver justice.”

Mosby’s “justice” won’t bring Freddie back to life. It won’t keep cops in Baltimore or anywhere else from continuing to murder our young black and latin brothers and sisters. It probably won’t even put Freddie’s killers behind bars. Bail for every one of these butchers is less than the bail set for a teenager who turned himself in after smashing a police car window!

And yet the righteously angry masses are being told to “keep the peace.” Pro-capitalist apologist Al Sharpton said, “At least now we have a day in court.” He said that people shouldn’t use the case to claim that “the system did not work.”

“The system” is a capitalist dictatorship over the masses that “works” when it keeps us passive, divided, confused, and exploited. It “works” even better when it persuades us – against our best interests! – to actively support the rulers in time of war.

Over the last year, “the system” hasn’t been doing its job very well. It sure hasn’t kept angry youth (black and others) from protesting massively and militantly against racist police murder. It provoked the Baltimore masses into open rebellion.

So important sections of the US ruling class are trying desperately to reform their system, or at least to create the appearance of reform.

Hillary Clinton and the *New York Times* have “discovered” that black men are “missing” from

black working-class communities because so many are in prison or the cemetery. The April 9 cover of *Time Magazine* trumpeted that “Black Lives Matter.”

These rulers hope to channel anti-racist anger into electoral politics and “peaceful and productive rallies,” as Mosby put it. We’re confident that many will see through this ploy. They will come to understand that the “structural and systemic changes” that Mosby can only babble about require communist revolution.

However, the mass demand for “justice” reflects the illusion that a legal system can somehow serve both the exploiters and the exploited.

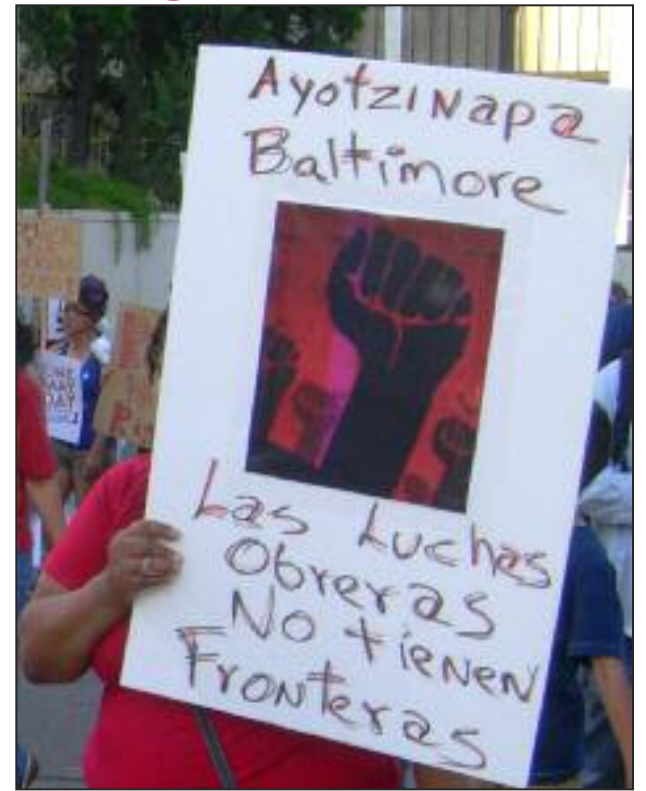
In truth, the whole system of laws, courts, cops and prisons exists to protect the wealth and property of the few. And they stole it all from the labor of the rest of us, who produced it! The root of racism is capitalism itself.

Communism doesn’t promise “fairer” courts or less-racist cops or “justice.” Instead we call on you to help mobilize the masses to exercise power directly in our collective interest.

There will be no private property and so no property crimes. There will be no unemployment or exploitation. All will learn to do many different kinds of work, always for the common good, and share the fruits of our labor.

In these conditions, comradeship and self-respect will triumph over selfishness and despair. We will handle isolated anti-social behavior without cops or jails. We will mobilize the masses to defeat any organized attempts at sabotage or counter-revolution.

“Riots work,” argued a radical professor, George Ciccariello-Maher (Salon.com). Citing



**AYOTZINAPA
BALTIMORE**
Workers’ Struggles Have No Borders

Frantz Fanon, he sharply criticized those like Sharpton who show up during rebellions to preach pacifism to the masses while the racist rulers brutalize them.

However, this position, too, is reformist. Rebellions may “work” to push the rulers into making concessions like the arrests of the Baltimore officers. But only revolution can take power out of their hands. Only communist revolution can destroy the material basis of racism. Only the masses, mobilized for communism, can build the world we need.

Critique of Frantz Fanon, IV:

FANON AND CAPITALISM

We saw in past columns that Fanon rejected the rule of a “national bourgeoisie” in former colonies. Quite correctly, he saw them as operating as junior partners of imperialism, incapable of developing the productive forces in poor countries in a way that would benefit the masses. Fanon, insisted, however, that newly independent countries must stay in the world capitalist market. The “young independent nation is obliged to keep the economic channels established by the colonial regime. ... the basis of its exports remains basically unchanged.” [WE, p.56]

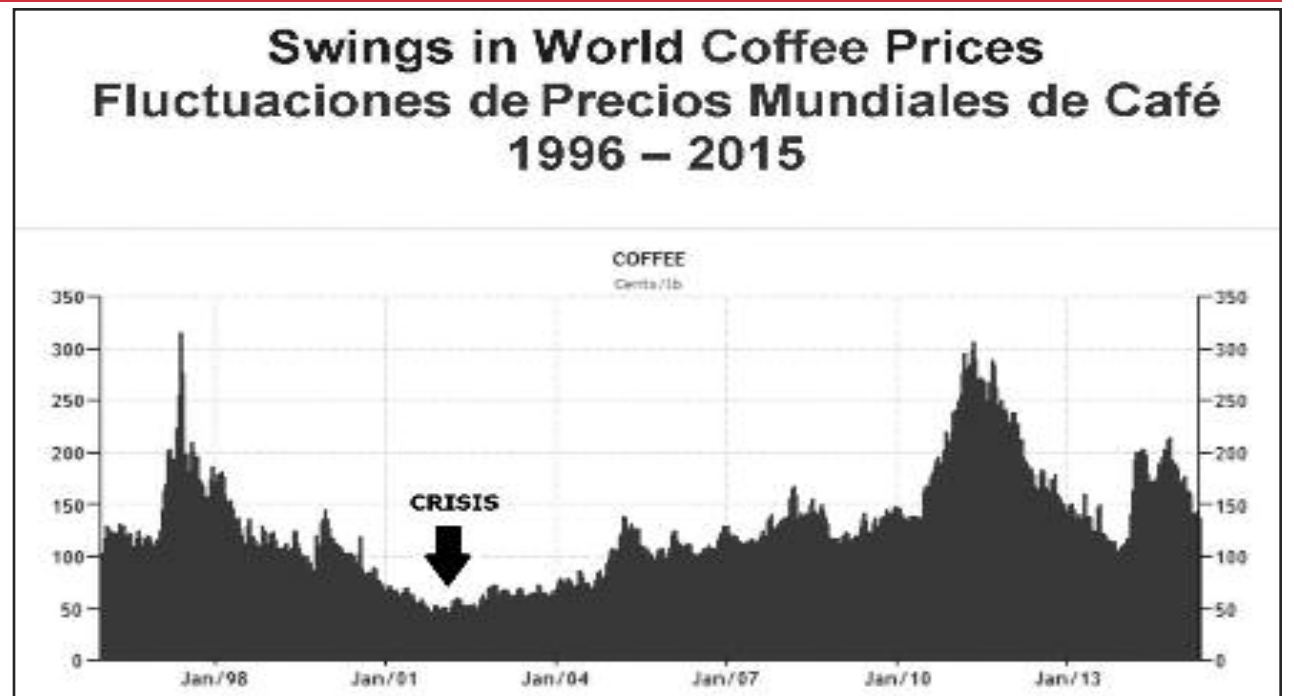
Prisoners of the Market

An unavoidable consequence of Fanon’s idea is that the “young independent nation” he imagines won’t be independent at all! Instead, it must be dominated by world capitalism and subject to its economic laws. These include domination by the banks and by market crises. For example, the fall in the prices in the 1980s of commodities that African countries exported made it impossible for many governments to pay back their loans. The International Monetary Fund bailed many of them out, but imposed conditions that increased their domination by foreign capitalists.

The coffee crisis in the late 1990s and early 2000s was a dramatic example of the effect of the world market. The overproduction of coffee caused a drop in coffee prices by nearly half, producing mass misery—starvation, debts, mass migration—in countries where coffee is produced on small farms. This happened many places in Africa and Latin America, including Cameroon, Central African Republic, Ivory Coast, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Nicaragua, and Mexico (Chiapas). (See graph)

Help From Imperialism?

Fanon thought a “national bourgeoisie” could



only do harm, but his view of European capitalists was quite different. He saw them as exploiters, but as energetic, creative and productive, and called on them to help their former colonies.

Fanon said that the colonialists owed it to their former colonies to make up for their centuries of robbery, so they should invest and lend on favorable terms. This was not just a moral obligation, he claimed, but something in the real interests of the imperialist powers. If they did not invest, he said, the European capitalists would lack outlets for their manufactured goods. Circulation of capital would lessen, and economic stagnation would result. [WE, p.60]

If the former colonies joined together and refused to buy from the developed countries, Fanon predicted that factories would close and the European working class would revolt. He called on the European monopolies to “realize that their true interests lie in ... massively aiding without

too many conditions, the underdeveloped countries.” [WE, p.61]

It is true that capitalists of wealthy countries would not be pleased if former colonies stopped doing business with them. Imperialists need places to sell their products and especially to invest in underdeveloped countries, where the rate of profit is higher because wages are lower. What they don’t need to do and don’t actually do is to invest or lend in order to benefit the masses.

For decades the main foreign investments in Africa have been in extraction of minerals and oil. Lending by foreign banks and institutions has been subject to crippling conditions, like severe limitations on what governments are allowed to spend on public health. This investment has done nothing for the welfare of the masses, who suffer from malnutrition and lack of medical services in many countries that have a lot of oil or minerals.

See FANON, page 7