

RED FLAG

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



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Capitalism Fails Working Class in Spain

COMMUNISM WILL MEET WORKERS' NEEDS

SPAIN—Tens of thousands of youth and workers have taken to the streets since May 15 protesting the 45% unemployment rate among those under 25 years of age and 21% among the population at large, the highest rate in Europe. They were also called for boycotting the national elections that took place May 22.

Most employed workers under 40 years of age make less than one thousand euros (\$1,400.00) a month. Socialist President Zapatero, Spanish capitalists' henchman, has cut public workers' wages 15% and increased the retirement age from 65 to 67, while making deep cuts in healthcare and education.

These youth and workers are part of the swelling tide – from Egypt to Yemen to Wisconsin to Greece to Honduras to Oaxaca – of worldwide working class anger that is rising against capitalism's increasing failure to meet the basic needs of our class. They instinctively understand that capitalism has no future for them. And although open to revolutionary communist ideas, they have not yet come to the conclusion that only a communist society could ever satisfy the needs of the world's workers.

Thus, many of the thousands defying a ban on demonstrations by camping out in Madrid's central Puerta del Sol square and similar squares across the country, are calling for "real democracy now". They say, "We are not anti-system... it is the system which is against us".

However, as events in Egypt, which have inspired the Spanish rebels, have shown, "real democracy" is

nothing but the velvet glove hiding the iron fist of the capitalists' dictatorship of wage slavery over us. The "democracy" won in Tahrir Square, far from liberating the Egyptian masses, has only served to install another military capitalist dictatorship.

Also, other youth in this May 15th Movement sympathize with anarchism, rejecting all forms of organization. This ideology completely disarms the working class. Without a mass revolutionary communist party, the working class won't be able to organize itself and the revolution it needs to destroy capitalism, take state power and build communism worldwide.

This cynicism has been, in part, created by the failures of the old international communist movement. Our predecessors fought for socialism (state capitalism) which transformed their communist parties into a capitalist ruling class that has proven to be as ruthless, or more so, than the capitalists they deposed.

However, these masses in motion, even if only rebelling against some aspects of capitalism-imperialism, have created an immense opportunity for members and friends of ICWP in Spain, and other countries, to take our revolutionary communist line to them. Let us not be blinded or discouraged by the short comings of these movements and miss the tremendous opportunities they provide for advancing the struggle for communism worldwide.

Thousands are open to our revolutionary ideas. They can and must be won to join ICWP, read

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FROM THE MOUNTAINS TO THE VALLEYS: SPREADING COMMUNIST IDEAS THROUGH **RED FLAG**

EL SALVADOR—When the comrade told me, "We're going to meet with the comrades from ICWP," I had no doubts about carrying out the task with her, which meant organizing the final details and going to the May Day march in San Salvador to take communist ideas to the workers.

So we went to the northern part of the country. There was little transportation due to vacations, but this wasn't an obstacle, since to get to the final destination we needed to board several cars that serve as collective transportation in this area. Feeling contact with the people was an agreeable experience. The majority of people travel standing, and I thought, "In a communist system, we'll have buses, and it won't be so hard to travel."

Afterwards we walked several kilometers and arrived at our destination. The comrades were waiting for us enthusiastically. We shared the food and talked about how we would march. The youth there said that they wanted to distribute the ICWP literature. Other

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Squabble Over Taiwan Can Lead to World War III

LET'S CHANGE HISTORY BY MOBILIZING FOR COMMUNISM

After Bin Laden, will China become US foe?" This is the headline for an editorial on the Chinese government's web site (*Global Times*, 5/7/11). The editorial holds that bin Laden's execution is the US opportunity to declare an end to the War on Terror, making a "... strategic adjustment of US foreign policy appear inevitable."

From analyses in the US media, the editorial concludes that US foreign policy will concentrate on how to contain China's rise. It claims that "the Chinese people have long been haunted by the anxiety that, one day, the US will confront China."

This hasn't happened - yet. Some Chinese and international experts believe that the war on terror has prevented the US from "disturbing" China. Furthermore, they think the US won't confront China in the next 10 years because it will continue to be stuck in the Middle East for that long.

The editorial begs to differ, arguing that the US' Middle Eastern problems "... are not comparable ... Given that China's GDP may exceed that of the US within 10 years, this may become the primary factor to threaten the latter's global hegemony."

Although claiming a peaceful rise, the editorial proclaims in no uncertain terms, "No external force can stop the rise of China," adding "... the US should maintain the status quo rather than provoke China, thereby triggering risks that would hurt the US."

Since class society arose eight thousand years ago, war decides the rise and fall of power centers

The rise of Chinese or other imperialists and the fall of US imperialism won't be the exception to the rule. Having no illusions about this, the US has built a formidable war machine. China has no illusions either. The latest Pentagon report to Congress on China's military power reads, "... China's military is extending its global military reach beyond a weapons buildup to wage regional war with Taiwan and the United States." (*Washington Times* 8/16/2010).

Very disturbing to the US is China's anti-ship ballistic missile, designed to counter US naval presence in the Asia Pacific area where the US has long been dominant. Thus, China's rise depends on expelling the US from this region.

US says it is defending democracy; China says it is defending its sovereignty: both imperialists lie

Taiwan is militarily strategic to both imperialists. In case of war, China's naval fleet won't be able to access the vast and deep waters of the Pacific unless it controls Taiwan. At present, it is hemmed in by the

Taiwan Strait, the various straits (controlled by the US or its allies) surrounding the South China Sea, and by the shallow Japanese waters,

Controlling Taiwan will give China's naval force immediate access to the broader Pacific where, less vulnerable to US attacks, it can project its power globally. Thus, China can't rise without Taiwan. And the US can't contain China militarily without Taiwan.

Not surprisingly, "U.S., China Military Talks Stumble Over Taiwan Arms Sales, and China's Military Build-up," writes the *Huffington Post* (5/18/11).

Concerning this, Gen. Chen Bingde, chief of the Chinese general staff, responded, "Taiwan is part of Chinese territory. Why would it need U.S. weapons sales to guarantee its security?" He also explained China's military build up as "mainly targeted at separatist (i.e. US-backed) forces who have attempted to split Taiwan away from China."

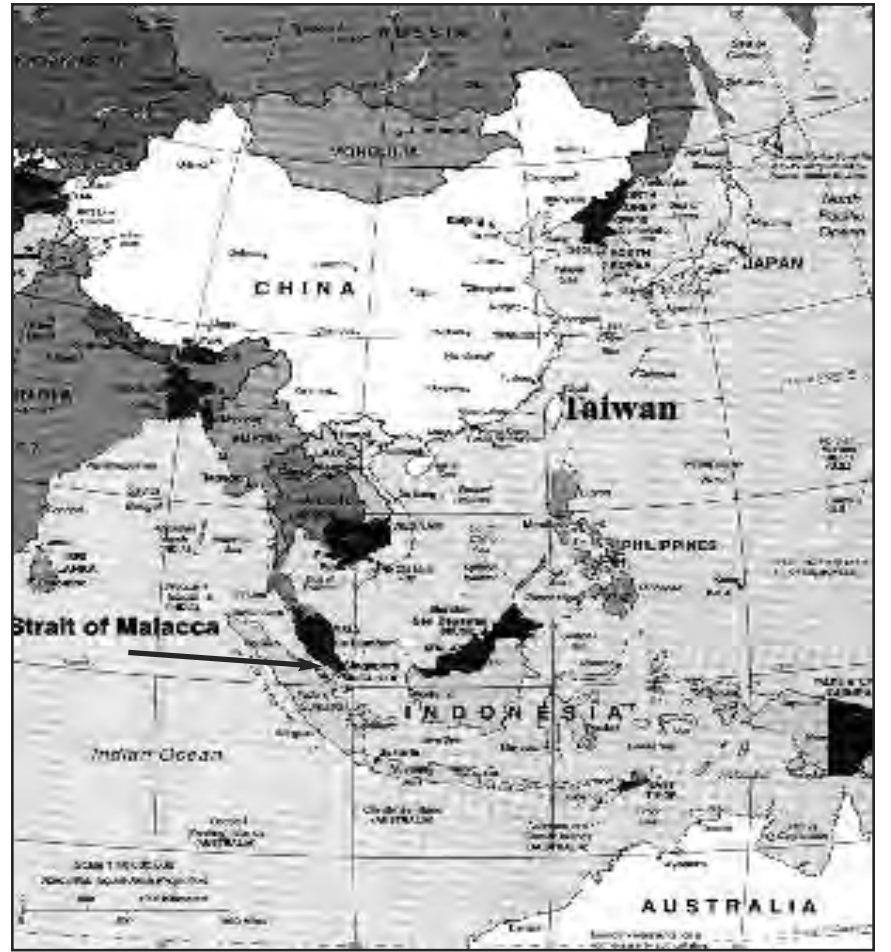
In response, Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said, "We will continue to follow the law until such time as that changes." He was referring to the Taiwan Relations Act, enacted by congress in 1979, which pledges US support to Taiwan. He noted being unaware of any effort to change the law.

Chinese imperialists fueling nationalist sentiments for war

Fomenting patriotism to get Chinese workers ready for war, the Chinese imperialists are giving mass publicity to articles and books by senior People's Liberation Army (PLA) officers that urge challenging US dominance.

Senior Colonel Liu Mingfu, a professor at the elite National Defense University, which trains rising officers, writes in his recently published book, *The China Dream*, "China should build the world's strongest military and move swiftly to topple the United States as the global 'champion.'" (Reuters 2/28/10)

Another PLA officer, Colonel Dai Xu, in another recently published book wrote, "I believe that China cannot escape the calamity of war, and this calamity may come in the not-too-distant future, at most in 10 to 20 years."



The violent rise and fall of classes is also an immutable law of class society

We have entered a period where World War III looms and the potential for communist revolution is in the air. Violence is the midwife of history whenever a rising class has organized itself to challenge the pre-existing order for state power.

Today the working class is that rising class. As the most powerful force in history, it must organize itself to stride on the world's stage to consciously put an end to capitalism-imperialism, its genocidal wars and class society forever.

That means joining and building the ICWP worldwide into an army of millions of workers, soldiers, and students to fight for communism. Let's turn our potential into the actual. Join ICWP, read and spread *Red Flag* and mobilize for communism!



COMMUNISM WILL MEET WORKERS' NEEDS

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and distribute *Red Flag* and help mobilize the masses for communism. It is the responsibility of ICWP members and readers of *Red Flag* to help break the ideological capitalist chains that to one degree or another still shackle our class to capitalism.

This can only be done by injecting our revolutionary ideas into conversations, class struggles, leaflets we distribute, and articles we write for *Red Flag*, as we have been doing here. We must constantly struggle with ourselves, and with friends, with whom we participate in these class struggles, that communism is our only short and long term goal. Reformism is a

dead end street for our class. Capitalism can't be reformed; it must be destroyed.

Communism is the future of our class. In a communist society, there won't be any unemployment because all workers will be needed to plan, produce and distribute the goods to meet society's needs and to spread revolution worldwide.

Communists fight for a world where humanity undivided by borders, racism, sexism, money, privileges and classes will decide every aspect of society. Every human being will be a free worker and a communist. We will contribute to society according to our commitment and will receive according to our need, free of exploitation and imperialist wars.



**JOIN THE
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY
(ICWP)
WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG — (310) 487-7674
E-MAIL: ICWP@ANONYMOUSSPEECH.COM
WRITE TO: P.M.B. 362
3175 S. HOOVER ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90007, USA**

MTA Workers Under Attack by Bosses and Their Lackeys

WE MUST ORGANIZE POLITICAL STRIKES FOR COMMUNISM

“Is the Teamsters’ union a member of the AFL-CIO?” asked an MTA driver.

“No. I don’t think so,” answered the *Red Flag* reader. “Why?”

“Because,” said the driver, “in this union bulletin I received, Williams, our General Chairman, and other union officials met with four of the other five unions. He writes ‘...if anything is ever to be accomplished, all of the five unions must be in agreement and form a united front.’ I think the Teamsters is one of those unions, and if we go on strike – and the MTA is pushing us in that direction – the Teamsters might be used as strike-breakers.”

“What does the AFL-CIO have to do with that?” insisted the *Red Flag* reader.

“Well, if the Teamsters are in the AFL-CIO, they could fine them heavily for scabbing, thereby forcing them to stop breaking our strike,” said the driver.

Shedding our illusions

A long discussion followed; in which it became obvious that many workers at MTA still have illusions in the union movement. We need to shed those illusions. If we strike and the Teamsters become strike-breakers, the AFL-CIO won’t intervene. The AFL-CIO is just as treacherous as the Teamsters.

In the 1970s, the Teamsters were used by the California growers to break farm workers’ strikes. Their goons terrorized and brutally beat up farm workers throughout the state. The AFL-CIO didn’t lift a fin-

ger, and Cesar Chavez’s pacifist line made farm workers easy prey for these vicious attacks.

However, one strike captain and his crew decided to defy Chavez and the Teamsters. On hearing that the Teamsters were planning to pay them a visit after viciously beating up farm workers in the San Joaquin Valley, this crew decided to come prepared to battle the Teamsters the next day. The women strikers even came with their kitchen knives! The Teamsters, hearing of this, did not show up, withdrew from the fields and never terrorized farm workers again.

If MTA workers go on strike, we must prepare to use violence against any and all strike breakers. Relying on the bosses’ union officials is a dangerous mistake. Williams and his gang could care less about us. Their job is to divide and demoralize MTA workers to render us helpless to the MTA’s and US bosses’ attacks as they force us to pay for their economic crisis and expanding wars for oil, profits and empire.

Our “fearless leaders” had submitted a contract proposal where “merit pay” decides raises and almost everything else. MTA bosses rejected it. Maybe they think that by dragging out the “negotiations,” Williams will give them a better deal or, by provoking a demoralizing strike, they could do better. We don’t know what they think. What we do know is that in this period of deepening economic crisis, fascism and war, US imperialism has very little to offer and huge sacrifices to demand from the working class. Let’s not have any illusions to the contrary.

**Fight we must:
with unity and determination.
The critical question is for what?**

ICWP says we must fight for power. Can we win power with a strike? No! Can we advance the fight for power for the whole international working class with such a strike? Yes, we can! Our goal should be to build a mass political strike that targets capitalism-imperialism and points the way to workers’ power and a communist society based on workers’ needs, not the bosses’ profits and privileges.

Fighting for reforms won’t cut it. Even if we won everything we want, which is a big illusion, we would still be wage slaves, coming to work daily to a place where we are spied on every minute, where supervisors are hovering over us like vultures ready to write us up and fire us for anything. And at the end of day, we are deeper in debt, broken physically and closer to the grave. We need a strike that targets this wage slavery, not justifies it.

Under Communism the working class will plan and run all aspects of society. Our main concern will be to create a society where workers’ initiative and creativity will be put to use to improve everyone’s life. Communist relations, socially and in the production and transportation process, will guarantee that every one is treated with respect, appreciation and dignity. For this, we must destroy capitalism. Join ICWP, read and distribute *Red Flag* and help organize our political strike for communism!

TEACHERS IN MEXICO, HONDURAS AND THE US MUST CONFRONT CAPITALIST CRISIS BY TEACHING COMMUNIST IDEAS

MEXICO, May 23—Thousands of teachers in Oaxaca (Section 22 of the SNTE—National Union of Education Workers) began a strike occupying the center of Oaxaca, demanding that the state and federal government return to negotiations with them. At the same time, thousands more teachers from the National Coordinating Body of Education Workers (CNTE)

from all over the country met in the center of Mexico City to demand improved wages and working conditions.

The governor of Oaxaca shouts to the four winds that “we all have to sacrifice in this crisis.” US politicians repeat ad infinitum the same worn out song. They want workers to sacrifice even more to save

their rotten capitalist system which is in decline and heading for wider wars.

Capitalism is incapable of meeting workers needs from Oaxaca to Honduras to Cairo. It has to be destroyed. Teachers’, workers’ and students’ most urgent need is to mobilize for our own interests—to fight for a communist world where we will organize education, production and distribution solely to meet the needs of the working class, not any boss. Teachers in Mexico, Honduras, the US and all over the world face the same attacks. The bosses are creating the objective conditions for us to unite to face the same enemy. We need to unite for communism. For that we need to spread *Red Flag* and build the ICWP to unite our class internationally. (More on this struggle in the next edition.)



**Oaxaca Teachers
Fight Cops,
March, 2011**

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comrades were assigned the task of security, which they carried out with great responsibility during the activity. This made the youth feel more secure when they distributed our newspaper *Red Flag* and the leaflet, because they knew that behind them were the alert and vigilant comrades ready for anything. We finished assigning the tasks and, on the return trip, we were taken by a comrade who knows the area like the palm of his hand. On the journey, he told us about several of the experiences he lived in the war (as a combatant) and also how he carries out the work for ICWP in the community where he lives.

Everything was ready for this day which is so important for the working class, and even though some

of the buses on which we traveled were stopped by the police, since there were many checkpoints, we also took precautions with the literature since some people were searched.

We finally got to the capital. Today thousands of workers received our newspaper *Red Flag* and the leaflet which is always well received by students, rural and city workers, teachers and professionals

At the end of the march we felt satisfied, since we distributed our material without any difficulty. It encourages us that the workers received it with pleasure and even asked for more. When we see that they stop to read it, we understand that our efforts were worth it.



Once more it has been shown that we, the members of ICWP, are the ones who carry out the work of taking Communist ideas to the workers.

Community Colleges for Sale?

COMMUNISM IS THE ANSWER

“We should stop looking to the people higher-up for solutions,” a student announced. “We have to start looking to each other!”

Eighty people attended a teach-in on the crisis in California higher education, sponsored by the community-college faculty union. Most were students and teachers.

The main speakers focused on massive tuition increases and budget cuts. These are shutting tens of thousands of young people out of public colleges. They warned that AB 515, now before the California Assembly, would accelerate the trend toward privatizing community colleges. Their message was that some “social goods” like education should be available for all, not for sale.

One teacher summarized this reform argument by emphasizing “the value of public education for a prosperous and democratic nation. We need to [collaborate] to come up with the best ideas to face this crisis and strengthen our system.”

Another compared AB515 to the “Washington Consensus” of the 1990s. The International Monetary Fund would mandate privatizing a nation’s public resources, especially public education. This was part of an austerity program that was a condition for loans. “Welcome to the third world, folks!” he declared.

In contrast, an ICWP leaflet is circulating hand-to-hand on this and other campuses. It identifies the root of the problem as the global capitalist crisis and the decline of US imperialism.

“The capitalist rulers are using this crisis as an opportunity to transform community colleges to meet the needs of their class to prepare for war on the backs of the working class,” the leaflet explained.

It called on students to *“take this opportunity to question the very foundations of capitalist education and build a mass movement to destroy this deadly system with communist revolution. ...*

“Under capitalism, some profit from scarcity and crisis while others suffer and starve. Under communism, we will all share hardship and we’ll all share the abundance our class will create.”

“Oh, oh, oh, you go on and tell it!” exclaimed one student after reading in the leaflet:

“Community colleges are not “great equalizers” because there’s nothing “equal” about capitalist class society. They are illusion factories that teach us to sacrifice to get an education so as to escape from the working class.

“This has always been a cruel hoax, but in today’s world it’s a deadly trap. Capitalism has nothing to offer most of us but racism, exploitation, and bloody imperialist wars.”

One audience member at the teach-in suggested that we should attack the whole system of private property and exchange, not just the “privatization” of education.

“They [the union leaders and speakers] didn’t want to hear that,” several students said later. “They just want to talk about the short-term.”

Ten students went directly from the teach-in to a

meeting of their campus activist club. All had read the ICWP leaflet. Some are helping to distribute it along with **Red Flag**.

Many of these students are enthusiastically preparing to bring a long-term communist perspective to workers in the upcoming ICWP summer project. But at the same time they are organizing other students to call state legislators to oppose AB515.

Most still see reform activism as a “step” toward building a revolutionary movement. The ICWP has learned from revolutionary history that this is a mistake. Revolution and reform are contradictory, not complementary.

At the same time, it would be a mistake to ignore the growth of this reform movement. “We can’t operate as we did in the past, relying on union officers and staff to fight for us,” said a union official. “We have to mobilize the membership.”

The union has not in recent history organized a mass meeting like this one. AB 515 has drawn many teachers into political discussions. They are debating fundamental values (pro- and anti-capitalist) in an unusually open way.

These qualitative developments create both the need and the opportunity to raise the **Red Flag** of communist revolution as broadly as possible. As the student said, we need to look to each other, to the working class! Through the summer project, we plan to develop our student comrades and recruit new ones. This will lay the basis for wider distribution of communist literature when school resumes in August.



Red Flag shows the way at teacher’s mass mobilization.

Fifteen ICWP members and friends participated in the demonstration called by the CTA. Youth and adult comrades fanned out across the multitude to distribute **Red Flag** with the front page boldly showing our May Day contingent with the banner, “Mobilize the masses for communism!” 1000 papers were distributed.

“Communism? I don’t think so.”, said a participant.

“Why not?” said the comrade.

“Why yes?” responded the protestor.

“Because with communism we will not have all of these attacks on our children and on us workers”, said the comrade, as he pointed to all of those present. “We will work collectively to meet our needs and truly educate our youth.” The man with his son on the side extended his arm and took the paper.



PARENTS’ REBELLION: POTENTIAL FOR BIGGER CHANGES

Corporate income grew over 400% from 2001-2008 compared to 28% for personal income. The gap between the rich and workers has become so wide that “liberal” groups in California have joined in a chorus of “tax the rich.” Labor unions and other reform groups are pushing for “tax fairness” and closing corporate loopholes.

Just recently the California Teachers Association (CTA), the largest organization representing K-12 teachers in California, had a week of actions at the State Capitol building in Sacramento to draw attention to cuts in education and what they’re calling a “State of Emergency.”

What CTA and other reform groups fail to see is that under capitalism workers and youth are in a constant state of emergency. The contradictions in the wealth of the ruling class in California and the majority in the state are so blatant, especially in education, that there is almost a consensus that the system is not working. The statistics are alarming, while California is the eighth largest economy in the world; it is 44th in the United States in per pupil spending. While corporations in California are making more and more money, the state is cutting more from education. California schools have been cut by \$18 billion in the last three years and in the upcoming year might face another \$4 billion in cuts.

In K-12 classrooms budget cuts mean larger class sizes, fewer teachers and clerical and maintenance staff. For younger children budget cuts mean no music, no art, an education even more alienating than

the standard capitalist education. In Secondary budget cuts mean less Advanced Placement classes that youth need to get into college. In higher education cuts mean youth can’t get the classes they need to graduate on time. There are fewer scholarships and less money available in loans.

In generations past, some workers found an entrée into the “middle class” through higher education. This was because the ruling class needed them. In the present crisis the focus of education is to produce workers willing to be subject to a tightly controlled fascist system focused on preparation for war. The ruling class has shifted its focus from a liberal arts education to science, technology, engineering and mathematics, (STEM); skills that workers will need to build their weapons and fight the bosses’ wars.

Cuts in education have also meant school closures. All over California neighborhood schools are closing. In Richmond, California, home to Chevron, one of the richest oil companies in the world, the school district has plans to close two elementary schools, one middle school and a high school.

What is the solution to school closures, to the so-called State of Emergency? In San Pablo, California, a town adjacent to Richmond, workers are heading on the right track towards figuring that out. When the District Superintendent came to Lake Elementary School to tell parents that he would be closing their school, parents rose up. In the middle of his announcement parents got up from their seats, shouted him down and walked out! The direct action of the parents,

students and some of the teachers scared the district into taking action to save the school. Lake school was moved off of the list of schools to be closed.

However, Lake may well be back on the list next year. What’s more, the saving of Lake was only a “reform victory.” Although the bravery and unity it took for parents to get up and walk out during the superintendent’s speech shows the importance and potential of mobilizing the masses, only one attack was staved off: the closing of the school. The public school system, a system which was never ours, that is to say never a working class institution, to begin with, however, remains intact. The fight to save schools in fact perpetuates the illusion that capitalist education is what our youth need when everyone knows capitalist education is racist mis-education.

The solution to budget cuts and the crisis in education is not lobbying legislators in Sacramento. The solution is not fighting to save neighborhood schools. The system cannot be fixed. The solution to cuts in education and school closures is communism. Teachers need to be reeducated and then join with workers and youth to fight for a communist world and join ICWP.

Under communism there won’t be any corporations to fleece the workers. We won’t need to balance the budget on the backs of workers because there won’t be any commodity production or money. We will have schools where youth will learn things to prepare them to meet the needs of their class and where teachers won’t be the main purveyors of capitalist ideology, because capitalism will be dead.

Bogus Debate between US and Israeli Governments:

POLITICAL TERRAIN IS CHANGING, LARGER WARS LOOM

The political map of the Mideast is changing. Small, medium, and large bosses – from the Palestinian Authority to Israel, Egypt and Turkey, to the US and China – are scrambling for advantage. Obama may talk of “peace” but larger wars are sure to come.

Mideast history will be made by the masses

Will they settle for another group of local cut-throats supported by China, and possibly Russia and Europe? Or will communist revolution finally rid this region of imperialist meddlers and their local errand boys?

US President Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu are facing off in a phony war of words. Obama’s soaring rhetoric called on Israel to negotiate on the basis of its pre-1967 borders and “mutually agreeable land swaps.” The chance that any land swaps would be “mutually agreeable” is practically zero.

Meanwhile, the Obama administration has continued the pro-Israel policies of every US president since LBJ.

The US still ships \$3 billion in military equipment annually to Israel, with up to \$2 billion in other aid, no strings attached. It does the same for Egypt, Kuwait, the UAE, and Saudi Arabia.

It still stands alone in shielding Israel from critical UN resolutions, such as condemnation of its brutal 2009 attack on Gaza. This fall it will likely block a resolution supporting Palestinian statehood.

It doesn’t lift a finger when the Israeli government builds Jewish-only apartments, roads, and entire new towns and cities in East Jerusalem and the West Bank.

It looks the other way when Israel shoots unarmed demonstrators and dispatches death squads throughout the West Bank.

In spite of all this, Netanyahu and his fundamentalist Christian and right-wing Jewish supporters in the US ridiculously claim that Obama “has thrown Israel under the bus.”

They claim that Israel needs the “buffer zone” of the occupied territories for its “security.” If so, why would Israel move 500,000 Israelis into a “buffer zone” where they would be in permanent harm’s way?

“Security” is just a ruse. The settlements represent rabid nationalism and racism.

But the “Arab Spring” upheavals are pressing on Israel’s borders. So Israeli “realists,” including retired generals, intelligence chiefs, and prominent intellectuals, now argue that Israel’s occupation and settlement of the West Bank endangers Israel itself. They want the US government to take an even greater role in squashing or defusing local and regional opposition to the apartheid society it has constructed over the past 44 years.

The military and economic decline of the US is obvious.

Egypt’s military government is shifting its foreign policy while continuing to accept US aid. It is re-establishing diplomatic relations with Iran and opening a border crossing with the Gaza Strip.

Turkey, another long-time ally of the US and Israel, increasingly opposes policies of both countries. It has close relations with Syria and Iran.

These changes, along with upheavals in Libya, Syria, Yemen, and Bahrain, have the US capitalist-imperialist rulers flailing desperately. They have little ability to shape or even understand events.

Like the Israeli government, they desperately deploy guns and money to maintain the status quo, control Middle Eastern oil, and stop its competitor, China, from moving in. But despite its enormous array of military bases and fleets in the region, the US is unable to win any local wars such as Iraq and Afghanistan.

As pro-US despots and regimes crumble, as allies like Israel, Egypt, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia defy their patron, and as competitors like

China increase their business and military profile in the region, more war is inevitable.

Will the US capitalist-imperialists retreat from Afghanistan and attempt to mount an attack on Iran (as Israel wants)? Or will they muster their dwindling (though still deadly) resources for an even larger confrontation with China?

Capitalism Can’t Solve Mideast Conflict: Communism Can

Racism and nationalism are built into the capitalist system of private property and bosses’ rule. Israel will continue to expand into the West Bank and East Jerusalem, viciously oppressing the Palestinian masses and lording it over the compliant Palestinian bosses.

The Palestinian Authority, in an alliance with Hamas brokered by Egypt, will continue fruitless negotiations while relying on the UN for legitimacy. Meanwhile, its multiple police forces are still trained and equipped by the Pentagon and CIA-sponsored spy agencies that work closely with Israel’s Mossad and Shin Bet.

Nationalism, whether pacifist or militant, is a deadly no-win game for the working class.

Communism unites the masses under red working-class leadership. It trains us to seize power through revolution so we can tear down the walls (physical and ideological) that divide us. With the abolition of private property, workers will share the earth’s land and resources.

Help build this communist movement worldwide! Get **Red Flag** into the hands of your friends and relatives in Egypt, Israel, Palestine, Syria, Saudi Arabia and in every corner of the world.



Let’s Break the Chains of Capitalist Ideas

TURN THE FACTORIES INTO COMMUNIST FORTRESSES

SAN SALVADOR—May 14, 2011—“What you all put forward to us seems very good and it’s similar to what we want,” said a young factory worker, when in the meeting we put forward the struggle that the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP) is waging to organize for Communism. This was the first meeting with workers from the garment factory. We said that workers from many countries have the same problems that they confront here.

Included among the workers who came punctually from several parts of the country to meet at the place we had decided on, four came from this factory: two women and two men. A comrade explained to them how the workers are organized around communist ideas in several countries of the world in the fight for revolution against the reformist ideas of the opportunists.

“We have struggled for our rights and sometimes we’ve achieved them,” one of the women said. “I’ve been working in this factory for 14 years and before our union struggles, they closed the doors of the bathrooms with locks and they only took them off once in the morning and once in the afternoon. We all had a strike and we got those locks taken off.”

One of the comrades of ICWP asked them, “So you can get up several times?”

She answered, “Yes.”

Then the comrade asked another question, “Do you have a production goal?”

They answered that, “Yes. Now they demand 200 dozen garments to be completed.”

“And in order to finish this production can you get up several times?” he asked the comrade again.

The answer was a forceful, “NO.”

So the locks are always placed on the doors in their minds by evil capitalism. We talked about how in a communist system the workers in a factory would stop their work to be able to solve the problems in a collective manner.

Another woman factory worker mentioned that the women are verbally mistreated if they become pregnant. They yell at them. “This has changed a little, but I think that it shouldn’t have happened and besides, they’re abusive with the work schedules.”

Another worker, a young man, mentioned that when he was elected the workers’ representative, the bosses rapidly called him to offer him a better job with more money in exchange for him controlling his

co-workers. These are the maneuvers that the capitalists use to continue obtaining super-profits produced by exploiting the workers. That’s why we must build a new system, the Communist system.

At the end of the conversation we gave them several copies of **Red Flag** for them to read, and we agreed on the way to get every edition of our paper to them. This could appear to be a modest step in our struggle to win the workers’ minds, and to change the fight for reform to the fight for revolution among the workers, but for the members of ICWP in this country, it’s been one more battle that we’ve won against the class enemy.

It’s important that workers know the significance of this because the workers’ struggles have no borders and the struggle for communism is developing in the factories of Los Angeles, Mexico, and Spain as well. Wherever there is an oppressed worker, ICWP will be there leading the class struggle for communism.

**WORKER, TEACHER, FARM WORKER,
STUDENT, JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNIST WORKERS’ PARTY!
READ AND DISTRIBUTE RED FLAG!**

UNDER COMMUNISM, WORKERS' CREATIVITY WILL BENEFIT THE INTERNATIONAL WORKING CLASS

Many workers invent things to make production more efficient, safer and better. But the bosses always take these inventions and use them to make more profits and attack the workers. In a communist system, the creativity of workers will be unleashed to unprecedented heights to improve production, but most importantly, to improve the workers' safety and well-being and to advance communist relations in the production process.

Many of the means of production have been ideas or inventions of the workers but have been produced in the name of others. There's a little cart that's used by the bosses in the whole San Joaquin Valley to bring out boxes full of grapes from inside the planted fields, a job that the workers used to do carrying the boxes on their backs. Each worker only brought out one box at a time because they couldn't carry more, but the boss forced them to bring out two boxes at a time instead of one. Since this was too much, a worker had the idea of making the little cart mentioned above in the year 1963, using parts of an old car from the 1920's. After that the boss, in his shop, made

it in large quantities so that the workers would use it. This was very advantageous for the bosses because the workers brought in more grapes in less time and they do so to this day, making the workers unemployed until the new season of work begins.

The same worker perfected a knife that he used to do certain work on the vines, but he never showed it to anyone; he used it in secret so that the same thing wouldn't happen as happened with the little cart. In a communist society, all the workers will be encouraged to put their talent, however modest, in practice. All for the benefit of the communist society.

Another thing: The work of grafting rose plants, you do it and you do it, putting the graft on the other plant two inches from the surface of the earth. To do this work, you have to kneel on the ground on one knee and hold your body up with the other knee, with your face more or less twelve inches from the ground and hold this position for 8 or more hours, which is too exhausting. A worker in Glendale, Arizona, in 1960, after working like this, returned to the miserable little motel room where he lived,

threw himself on the bed face up to rest; he stayed asleep from exhaustion, never to wake up again.

In that same year, a worker who worked on the same job had the idea of making, with an iron tube and wheels at the end and a small cushion in the center, a kind of little bed to support himself and in this way do the work and not be so exhausted. The rest of the workers took up this idea and little by little perfected it, including even putting on a top for shade, making this exhausting work easier, but without any compensation by the boss for this expenditure even though it was so beneficial, because the workers did more work in less time, for a wage that continued to be miserable.

From these experiences, it's clear that workers collectively have infinite understanding and initiative to solve all problems to make work safer, more collective and productive. What stands in our way is the bosses and their profit system. We need to use our collective understanding and experience to rid the world of the bosses who rob everything that we create to line their own pockets.

Questions for Red Flag Study-Action Groups:

1. How can you use what's happening in Spain to sharpen your political work? Do you think the same thing could happen where you live? What would you do?

2. The dialectics article talks about possibility. How could it become possible to double Red Flag distribution where you are? More distributors? Readers taking papers for friends? Winning over more readers? Other ideas?

SEND US YOUR COMMENTS!

JOIN THE ICWP SUMMER PROJECT

This summer, in July and August, ICWP students and teachers and their friends have plans to make this a long, hot, summer for the bosses. We will take Red Flag to factories, bus divisions, shopping centers, neighborhoods and military bases in Southern California, the San Joaquin Valley, and Washington state. We will also visit these workers with worker comrades, and learn from them about their experiences as well as discussing communist ideas with them.



We'll also learn from each other--high school and colleges students from different places sharing our experiences and getting to know each other. We'll have some fun, too, at the beach, barbecues, and other social activities.

Writing for and producing *Red Flag* and studying communist ideas, we'll all learn and grow as communists while we build a stronger ICWP.

US Bosses Flood Homes and Crops to Protect Oil Refineries

FOR CAPITALISTS, ALL THAT MATTERS IS PROFITS

The Mississippi River has swollen to 6 times its normal size because of heavy rains and snow run off, the worst flooding in 80 years. The US army corps of engineers purposely opened spillways and flooded farmlands and communities in Tennessee, Mississippi and Louisiana supposedly to save the more populated cities of Baton Rouge and New Orleans Louisiana.

Over 3 million acres of land was flooded. More than 4800 people were displaced in Mississippi alone. Over 120,000 acres of crops—corn, soy, and cotton—were flooded and lost, which will cause the price of food to rise even more. Many small fishermen have also lost their livelihoods.

These floodgates were opened, not out of concern for the residents of those two cities but to secure the profits of gas and oil companies. Louisiana is the se-

cond largest oil refining state in the US, after Texas. Together, nearly half of the oil refining capacity in the US is concentrated in those two states. Oil and gas production in Louisiana is connected to nearly 50% of the total refining capacity of the US. As a Louisiana State Agency reported, "Opening the spillways reduced concern that the Mississippi River will flood the refineries."

The bosses don't give a damn about workers' safety. They care about profits and energy supplies. Capitalism is incapable of long or short term planning to meet the needs of the working class. That's even truer in the current crisis, in which every drop of oil and gas possible will be used by the US bosses to fight for their declining empire.

There should be a system in place that would allow

the water to run off without having to choose between flooding homes and farmland or flooding the cities, which are near the oil refineries.

A communist system will put workers' needs front and center and mobilize millions of workers to protect workers and crops when needed. A communist society, built on the ashes of the old, will combine all the resources and knowledge of millions of workers to plan and build the safest levee system possible to secure workers' lives and safe energy supplies.

The capitalists' constant drive for profit is the cause of loss of wetlands and flooding of the biggest river in the US. Capitalism exists at the expense of workers' lives.. In an emergency, like the flooding on the Mississippi, it's a disaster! Join the fight for communism.

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Loved the Dinner!

Wonderful article about the May Day dinner. However, the article did not include some important details. 200 people attended the dinner which was both multiracial and multigenerational. Blacks, Latinos, Asians, Native Americans, Whites and people from seniors, 70-80 years, to toddlers were present. The dinner was truly an inspiring and energizing experience. Possibly a glimpse at a communist future?

--NorCal Comrade

"Soldiers must turn their guns around."

This is the statement that incited a cheerful applause at a May Day dinner. It was more striking and moving because it came from a military veteran who is conscious of the need for revolution. The words spoken by this friend of the party set the tone for the dinner: it was to be a revolutionary evening, and the spirit of communist revolution was present in the audience.

The speech given by this vet is significant in many ways, especially how it represents the military work that ICWP is doing. This particular soldier has a specific history to share, and that history involves his experience overseas. For this soldier, being overseas did not mean for him to become brain dead. He and a comrade soldier frequently spoke about politics and communism. In his speech, he spoke about being introduced to communist literature. It is precisely this type of experience that many soldiers need, and it will take many more soldiers like this speaker in order to mobilize soldiers and workers for communism.

At a time when wars are going on in Iraq and Afghanistan, and there are multiple looming wars such as in Iran, more soldiers are being placed in harm's way. These same soldiers, like the speaker at the May Day dinner, are realizing that there is something seriously wrong with a system that sends soldiers to risk their lives just to maintain the imperialists in power. There are many lessons to be learned from this experience, many that soldiers and workers around the world can grasp.

The bottom line is that imperialist wars are of no advantage to the working class. The developments in Iraq and Afghanistan point out the empty promises of capitalism and democracy. Soldiers are dissatisfied with the outcome of these wars, just as Iraqi workers and U.S. workers are becoming exhausted with capitalism. We all have a common enemy, and having a common goal to organize for communism should rid us of this enemy.

--Vet's friend

Liberal Church Folks Open to Red Ideas

"I see. You're re-claiming communism. I like that," said a woman attending a Unitarian-Universalist (UU) conference.

I was selling *Red Flag* and had just explained that what failed in Russia and China was socialism (state capitalism), not communism.

I told another UU that communism, unlike socialism, will produce only for need without profits, the market, wages or money. "How do you know it won't get reversed?" the UU asked.

"It will work because millions of people will be consciously fighting for it, developing the plans and the politics and putting them into practice to produce and distribute only for the needs of the world's workers."

"Well, here's a contribution for the paper," she

said, giving \$5.

"Yes, I want that paper and I want to contribute," said a young man who also gave \$5.

These comments were part of a very friendly response from many UUs attending this conference.

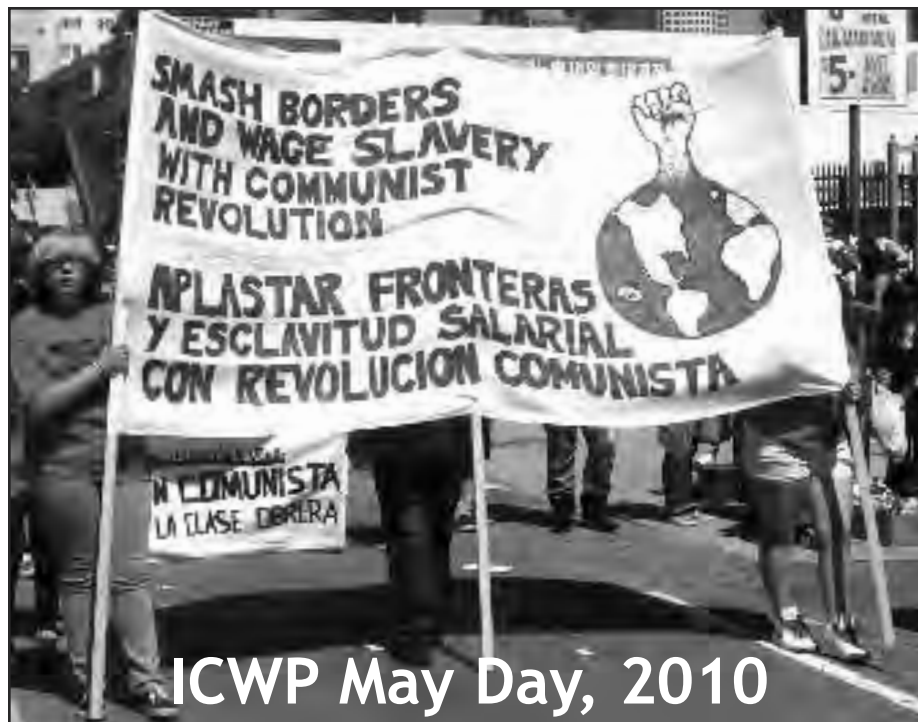
A speaker earlier in the day had urged the audience to envision and work toward a better world. Our communist program was the only serious suggestion all day about how to make this happen.

Over the last decade, the UUs (a liberal religious denomination) have mainly focused on "deepening spirituality" and "creating a language of reverence." That hasn't disappeared, but there is a growing emphasis on social action. Denominational leaders want to confine this to Democratic Party-approved issues and positions, but the positive response to *Red Flag* shows that many are open to communism.

Immigration is a big issue, especially since the national UU convention will be in Phoenix, Arizona next year. Several workshops pushed liberal "immigration reform." One workshop leader even said that "it's important to secure our borders" and that immigration policy "should serve employers' needs." But in a general session, when a participant said we need to work for a world without borders, many others agreed.

Red Flag makes it clear that we will have that world through a communist revolution. The potential is there. With more consistent sharp but patient struggle, more and more workers and others are open to this and gladly contribute to our communist newspaper.

--A comrade



ICWP May Day, 2010

Patience and Urgency

Worldwide, the working class is living in difficult times in all aspects. These are reflected in the writings and analysis of comrades and readers of *Red Flag* in each edition. They show political struggles in different situations, whether at work or in racist police attacks. The context in which we develop can vary, however the havoc of capitalism is very evident. In some places people develop their consciousness more quickly and they put it into action. In other places even though there is consciousness, the practice or action is more limited and consciousness stays in a state of political stagnation that holds back its development. This creates in us mental stagnation and it turns us into neurotic beings who don't want to commit ourselves to make decisions or to feel responsible for them.

A few days ago, I talked with a friend and reader of *Red Flag* who is an ex member of a pseudo left party. He commented about the difficult personal and economic situation in which he lives. He's about 30 years old. He still lives with

his parents. He hasn't had a partner. He doesn't have a job and he doesn't even have a degree, adding that his numerous physical and emotional complexes that have kept him as a person full of problems. He, like many others, knows and is conscious that capitalism is the origin of many of the behaviors of human beings and of many of the complexes that a person can develop. I consider that a person who knows the origin of these ills has the obligation, like the whole working class, to overcome these limits, to make decisions and put them into practice.

He said he was afraid to make decisions and be wrong, but if we aren't wrong, if we don't do things, how will we know what's correct and what's incorrect? He's afraid that women will reject him because of his physical appearance, and that's why he doesn't try to get to know more women his age. To be sincere, his attitude makes me desperate at times. Then I understand that most people are afraid to be wrong and fear that people will make fun of our errors or reject us because of our physical appearance, beginning with our families and including in our social life. That's why we don't try to make changes in our lives even though we're conscious that they're necessary and we know their origin. At the end I commented to him that we can spend the rest of our lives living like neurotic beings, living with resentments, with fear, with traumas. Now we know that in **Scientific Communism** people won't be singled out for physical or mental reasons, and that the most important thing will be the development of people in collectives, where we'll all contribute to such formations.

We don't have to be afraid. We have ahead of us a WORLD TO WIN. The limits, as a comrade says well, are also mental and we should overcome these limits. It's time to take stock of our lives. Capitalism fills our minds with wrong ideas including in physical and social questions. Only experience through communist theory and practice will show us the road that we must take as the working class, with a political line that shows this clarity. Join ICWP and let's fight for communism.

--A young red from Mexico

Suggestions to Young Red

Building a revolutionary communist movement like ours is the task of giants, of revolutionaries forged in daily ideological struggles. We have to learn to appreciate the friends who show us

their disagreements, because they give us the opportunity to put into practice everything we know, and listening to them we learn where we have to focus our wisdom. We are building an indestructible wall, and not a sand castle. As leaders we are developing the trust and the agreement of workers in an arduous task, and consequently, one we must carry out without vacillations. If a drop of water falls on a rock, over time, without doubt, it will hollow out that rock.

Your base is not only in your neighborhood, your school, or your town. Your base extends as far as *Red Flag* goes, and winning new members to the party is a collective job. Your previous letter inspired me to ask my fellow workers to contribute money to *Red Flag*. Several of them donate money monthly; although they're not active in the party yet, I have the confidence that one day they will be inspired to do so, and they will forget complexes, bourgeois illusions and other errors because they will have understood that we are the future.

--Transport Comrade

Currency War Among Imperialists:

POINTS TO GLOBAL WAR

‘Beggars thy neighbor’ was a phrase coined during the Great Depression of the 1930s. Rather than act collectively in face of the world crisis that was then developing, the major powers began to take economic actions that protected themselves at the expense of their neighbors. It is now generally agreed these individual actions deepened, rather than averted, the crisis. When the US unilaterally began printing money again to flood the world with dollars (it was called QE2) it was not “Beggars thy neighbor.” It was “Beggars the world!”

US Bosses Print Dollars Without Value

The US dollar is the world’s reserve currency. For the last 40 years, oil has been traded in US dollars on the world market. This has given the US a huge advantage. All the major industrial powers, the other imperialist nations, have to save dollars so that they can buy oil. In order to earn interest on those dollar reserves, the major powers have to invest them in the US – mainly in US Government bonds. All this extra money has allowed the US to do things other imperialists couldn’t afford to do, like build a massive military with which to threaten or coerce others.



It’s like being the banker in a special game of Monopoly, but a banker who can print money whenever he wants. Don’t you think you would win the game? Don’t you think the other players would want to change the rules? In fact, the developing and ongoing economic crisis has been the period when the attitude of the world’s imperialists changed.

Rival Imperialists Plan to End Oil Dealings in Dollars

“THE DEMISE OF THE DOLLAR” was the headline in the October 6, 2009, *Independent*, a British mainstream paper. “In the most profound financial change in recent Middle East history,” the article goes on, “Gulf Arabs are planning – along with China, Russia, Japan and France – to end dollar dealings in oil. Secret meetings have already been held by finance ministers and central bank governors in Russia, China, Japan and Brazil.” The article said that India, too, was interested and, in May of this year, India began paying for its Iranian oil in Indian rupees, not US dollars.

This is the general context in which the US launched its QE2, or the printing of \$600 billion of fictitious money, money without a base in the productive activity. Like a bull in a china shop this cash-from-nowhere crashed around the world – raising food prices here (helping spark the rebellions in Egypt and Tunisia), straining the economies of rival imperialists there (like Brazil) and helping the US to buy its own Government bonds that other imperialists were no longer interested in buying – at least at the same rate as previously. It was not from arrogance and power that the US launched this QE2, but from isolation and desperation.

Which brings us to the crucial month of June when three watershed events are due to take place. First, QE2 is due to end. Second, an expanded Shanghai Cooperation Organiza-

tion (the SCO) is due to meet bringing together Russia, China, India, Iran, Pakistan and the so called ‘stans’ of Central Asia in a defense alliance. Third, the International Economic Forum will meet in St. Petersburg, Russia. At this meeting, Russia and China will probably sign a huge energy agreement. As an article in the May 10th *Asia Times* observed, “...when the world’s fastest-growing major economy and the world’s biggest energy exporter come to an agreement, it goes far beyond a matter of bilateral agreement.” What secret meetings talked about two years ago, now begin to emerge as public agreements. As the US dollar gets weaker and more isolated, its rivals grow in organization and trade agreements.

Workers Need Communist Revolution

As the crisis deepens, the rivalry between the imperialists sharpens. As the desperation grows, the military incursions grow more brazen. As the period of regional wars passes, the prospect of world war grows. But these developments – of crisis and world war - open new possibilities: the possibility of workers’ revolutions, of the overthrow of the continual hell of capitalism. As workers, whose skill and discipline build everything of value in this world, grow more contemptuous of the capitalist-imperialist world, their confidence in building a communist alternative can grow.

This is not automatic. We need a revolutionary communist party to achieve it. But it is historically accurate. The inter-imperialist World War I was ended with the Bolshevik revolution. World War II ended with the triumph of the revolution in China. Both those revolutions eventually turned into their opposites because socialism kept too many aspects of capitalism. By learning from their mistakes we can organize the first revolution directly for workers power, communism.

Dialectical Materialism:

POSSIBILITY AND ACTUALITY

Possibility is one of the important categories of dialectical philosophy. It describes events and situations that might happen or which people might be able to make happen, that is, to make actual.

Making Things Happen

Some things are possible by themselves, without human action. It is possible that the earthquake zone near Japan will produce another tsunami. For the communist movement, however, we are most concerned with what it is possible for us to make happen to move toward communism, or what it is possible for the capitalists to do to their system or to their enemies, including us.

For some event to be possible, it isn’t enough that we can imagine it. It isn’t possible for pigs to fly, but people can image this or write a story about it. For something that doesn’t exist yet to be possible, there must be some way to get there, some factors that exist now or will exist that creates that possibility. This means that possibilities are limited, even though there is usually more than one at any one time.

Something will be possible at some specific time only when there is already something in the current situation that can bring it about. It is possible now for a basketball player to make 20 free throws in a row only if he or she has already developed the skills needed to do this. It is possible to double the number of *Red Flags* sold at a particular workplace only if there are enough people who don’t already read it, but who would be willing to if the sellers can organize the effort to reach them.

Creating Possibilities

There are lots of things that are not possible now, but we know or expect that they will be in the future.

Some of these possibilities come into existence by themselves. It isn’t possible for a normal 5-year-old girl to have a baby, for example, but in the normal course of events, she will develop that possibility. Other things become possible when we create the conditions they need to exist. Distributing *Red Flag*, making political friendships, and fighting for communist ideas on the job will open up more possibilities for the growth of the party, possibilities that don’t exist yet.

Communist revolution isn’t possible today, and two kinds of developments are necessary to make it possible. ICWP needs to grow larger and stronger, especially in the industrial working class and in the military. The capitalist system also needs to grow weaker. This is a development we can see going on in front of us, as its economic crises, imperial rivalries, and wars grow more deadly.

Finding Out What is Possible

There are several ways that people can find out what is possible. It is easy to see that something is possible if it is already actual, or has been. For example, we know that it is possible for very large numbers

of people to live under very equal conditions, since this happened during the communist revolution in China in the 1930s and 1940s.

Other knowledge of what is possible comes from practical experience. An experienced furniture worker can look at a fault in a piece of wood and tell whether it can be fixed with putty or has to be tossed out.

In many cases, however, we have to rely on the best theories we have to tell us what is possible. It will never be possible for capitalism to serve the working class. It will be possible to defeat it, however, because the contradictions of the system continue to grow, and can only be resolved by destroying it.

Adding to practical experience and correct theories, however, there is another crucial way to find out whether something is possible—by trying to make it happen! Trying to make something actual is sometimes the only way to know for sure what can be done now. You have to take a risk. This important idea is the basis of the slogan we should take over from the revolution in China: “Dare to struggle, dare to win!” Join ICWP and make your contribution to the struggle to win communism.

**2011 SUMMER PROJECT:
ICWP'S RED SUMMER
BRING RED FLAG'S COMMUNIST IDEAS
TO INDUSTRIAL WORKERS, FARMWORKERS
AND SOLDIERS
IN SEATTLE, DELANO AND LOS ANGELES**