

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM



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



**GREEK
MASSES:
GREAT
POTENTIAL
FOR
COMMUNIST
REVOLUTION
IF GIVEN THIS
ALTERNATIVE
(SEE PAGE 2)**

INDUSTRIAL WORKERS FIGHT RACISM AND SEXISM

American Apparel--Racist Sweatshop: **COMMUNISM WILL VALUE THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MEN AND WOMEN WORKERS**

LOS ANGELES, CA.—“To say that I’ll never import from other countries would be unreasonable... At this time our concept is to do everything here. But I don’t discard other possibilities,” said Dov Charney, owner of American Apparel in the *LA Times*, June 3.

During the year 2011, American Apparel sold \$547.3 million, and even so, the company complains that it had a loss of \$39.3 million. The thousands of workers bent over their machines and others standing up all day, produce an enormous amount of value. But those who take possession of these profits are the owners, banks, publicists and others.

The slogan of the company is “Made in America, Sweatshop Free.” But the reality is completely the opposite. The fact that these workers get a little more than the miserly mini-

mum wage of \$8 an hour is due to the exploitation and speed up to which they are subjected.

For example, when a worker moves his back or hands in a sign of fatigue, a masseuse paid by the company comes to give him or her a massage, so that he or she keeps producing at high speed.

The bosses see the workers as machines that have to be kept well lubricated to wring out the last drop of their strength.

With this strategy, this factory produces the huge amount of 120,000 shirts a day. This super-exploitation is based on the modular production system, which means that groups of workers in circles work on a piece from start to finish.

The work is paid by the piece; the workers earn according to the amount of pieces they finish. The

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MTA Shuffles its Attack Dogs: **MTA WORKERS NEED TO JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS PARTY**

Ralph Gray, one of MTA’s most rabid dogs, was kicked out of Division 8 on May 25, 2012 and transferred to Division 7. For many years, as an assistant manager, he enforced MTA’s reign of terror against MTA’s drivers. Sources claim this despot “had no compassion and enjoyed ruining drivers’ lives.”

When Gray was a driver, sources say he smoked marijuana on his lay-over. Now, as an MTA guard dog, he is “holier than thou,” writing up, suspending and firing drivers at will for the most insignificant violation of the company’s rules.

A case in point was the firing of Paula Robinson. Paula, who is black and who was a driver on the Orange Line, with over 20 years of seniority. When she entered an intersection, a car slammed into the bus she was driving. It wasn’t her fault, yet racist

sexist Gray fired her for allegedly breaking an Orange Line rule that buses must enter the intersection at 10 miles per hour.

Any driver knows that this is an absurd rule and almost impossible to obey. MTA has many such rules and regulations. It uses them to intimidate, harass and fire workers. That’s what laws are about in the first place. This reign of terror will only intensify as MTA bosses try to reduce their deficit by eliminating higher paid workers, stealing their pensions and hiring new workers for far less pay and benefits.

We don’t need capitalism with its fascist rules and reign of terror! We need Communism!

We produce everything of value in society. We also operate every machine used in the production process and distribute what our labor creates.

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Exceed Our Expectations – Punch Above Our Weight

CAPITALIST CRISIS: MASSES SEEK RADICAL SOLUTIONS

Capitalism has been through many economic crises since World War II. In one critical way, the present-day global crisis of overproduction is different. It is intractable: it's long-term, it's systemic, and it can only be resolved through world war and fascism – or by communist revolution.

The long-lasting severity of this crisis has changed the masses' political mood including, most importantly, that of the industrial working class. Once again, anti-capitalist anger is a mass sentiment.

We've seen this in workers' response to our manifesto, *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*, and to our paper, *Red Flag*. We originally thought 3,000 copies of our manifesto would be enough. To date, our friends and comrades have distributed nearly 20,000 copies with no end in sight. We distributed a record number of *Red Flags* this May Day.

More are writing to our paper detailing their struggles and giving us their names. We are consolidating these gains by inviting these new friends to our communist school at the end of the LA summer project.

This shift to the left can be seen worldwide even though, unfortunately, our party is not yet big enough to reach everywhere.

The U.S. bosses' press made a big deal of the increased votes for the right-wing party in Greece during the last election. In fact, the greatest increase came to the Coalition of the Radical Left (SYRIZA).

In 2004, they had 6 seats in parliament. Now they have 52 with over a million votes. The main capitalists are afraid they might actually become the biggest party in this week's elections, throwing a monkey wrench into the E.U. financial blackmail plans. But rejecting austerity doesn't mean rejecting capitalism.

One group of Greek bosses is channeling workers into the parliamentary coalition because all capitalists fear revolution more than they fear electoral defeat. You can't get rid of capitalism through elections!

SYRIZA's electoral strategy and its reform goals don't correspond to the deepest needs and aspirations of the masses. Communist revolution does. So you would have to think the Greek workers would respond even more enthusiastically to our line -- if we were able to get it to them. As it is, the Greek electrical workers, for instance, have set up defense committees to make sure poor workers don't get their electricity cut off.

As the masses seek radical solutions, they unsettle the ruling class. The capitalists are forced to look towards fascism to answer this challenge. The need and potential to build our party is even greater.

The famous revolutionary Anna Louise Strong noted a similar scenario in the 1919 Seattle general strike in which she participated. "[Workers] had shown strength, then failed to use it; [The national bosses] resolved that there shall be no repetition of that strength," she wrote in *I Change Worlds*.

As a worried ruling class opts for further repression, the left's weaknesses become even more deadly. Reformism, anarchism and a belief in bourgeois democracy play into the hands of the increasingly fascist-prone imperialists. Make no mistake about it: there is urgency to winning the anti-capitalist masses and youth to mobilize for communist revolution.

Our job now is to take the masses seriously; to develop concrete plans to struggle, recruit and increase the circulation of our revolutionary communist press. The leftward shift is an opportunity to expand our expectations and activity. We can punch above our weight and we better!

GREEK "LEFTIST" REASSURES CAPITALISTS

"I will keep Greece in the eurozone and restore growth," promised Syriza leader Alexis Tsipras in the Financial Times (6/12/12). This so-called "radical leftist" promised to follow the lead of US Imperialist-in-Chief Barack Obama, who said on June 8, "Let's do everything we can to grow now, even as we lock in a long-term plan to stabilise our debt and our deficits, and start bringing them down in a steady, sensible way."

"Syriza is the only political movement in Greece today," Tsipras wrote, "that can deliver economic, social and political stability for our country.... because we do not carry the political baggage of the establishment parties that have brought Greece to the brink of ruin." (Translation: No other Greek party can keep the masses in check.)

According to Tsipras, Greece's "systemic" problems are low taxes, ineffective tax collection, and too many tax loopholes. Syriza's program involves stabilizing and reorienting government spending (no details provided) and reforming the tax system. It wants "viable banks" to be "recapitalized transparently" to "ensure that the entire financial system is returned to full stability."

Over a million Greek voters chose Syriza in May, hoping for radical change. Many thought they were voting against capitalism, but they were cruelly deceived. Tsipras' *Financial Times* article exposes him as just another capitalist politician. The so-called leftist and far-leftist parties in his coalition are pursuing the same disastrous "United Front" policies that defeated the communist movements of the 20th century.

MTA from page 1

The capitalists and their administrators, managers, supervisors, politicians, judges and police agents don't produce anything. They are leeches living off our sweat and blood. We don't need them.

We can build a communist society without them and money, where production will be for our needs, not to make anyone rich. Under communism we will have no need for managers. Everyone – including the leaders – will do manual and mental labor and no one will order any one around or have any kind of privileges.

Collectively, we will plan, produce and distribute what our class needs internationally. We don't need rules, regulations or laws. Collectively we will struggle with each other to develop communist social relationships in production and all aspects of society. This means we will treat each other with respect and dignity. We will appreciate the little or the much that each can contribute.

Collectively, we will struggle to deal with any and all anti-social behavior, which is the product of the selfish, racist and sexist practices and ideas that class society has ingrained in us. This will be possible because we will have eliminated the material basis – capitalist exploitation – that breeds

and fosters these poisonous ideologies.

This requires mobilizing the masses for communism now in order to win hundreds of millions of workers and youth to be critical communist thinkers and leaders. No one will be indispensable and no one will be disposable.

Communism won't fall from the sky: We need to organize a revolution!

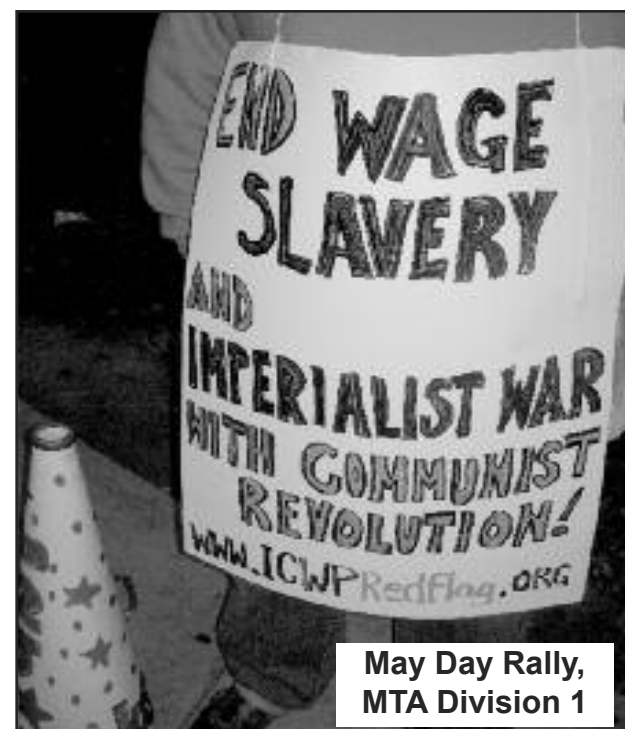
The workers at Division 8 are happy because they "got rid" of Ralph Gray. The workers at Division 15 sighed with relief when Barbara Maycott was transferred to Division 3.

Now workers in Division 7 and 3 will be hounded by Gray and Maycott, respectively. MTA has only shuffled their racist sexist pack of attack-dogs. We shouldn't be satisfied with this. We need to get rid of them permanently. This can only be done by overthrowing the capitalist system that breeds and needs scum like them.

The article on page 2 correctly states that industrial workers worldwide are becoming radicalized. MTA workers are included. Hundreds read our communist literature, contributing information and some money, not enough. Some, not enough, have joined our Party.

We need more readers, writers, and distributors of our literature. We need more to contribute

money regularly so we can continue to publish our paper and organize locally and internationally. But most of all we need you to join our Party and start to mobilize others. By joining, you help to hasten the day when the likes of Gray and Maycott, their racist masters, and inhumane capitalist society are history. You help to create the communist future in which all humanity will be needed and valued.



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WE MUST TAKE THE MASSES SERIOUSLY

“I used to meet with people whom I thought were communists. I’m finding out they weren’t. Many of my concepts have become obsolete,” said a worker as he looked forward to his first ICWP study-action group.

As the article on page 2 correctly argues, the masses worldwide are moving to the left. They are questioning capitalism, are looking for an alternative that could meet their needs, and are open to communist ideas.

Many, like some LA janitors are also sick of their treacherous union leaders. Over 400 of them – of about 2,000 who showed up for a contract vote – took copies of our newspaper *Red Flag*. Many liked our articles exposing the union officials as capitalist agents. These janitors also took with them over 250 copies of our manifesto



Mobilize the Masses for Communism.

What does that mean for us? It means that we must take the masses seriously. Taking the masses seriously means we must take them our literature, and struggle with them to distribute, write for and financially support it. But, most importantly, taking the masses seriously means we must aggressively try to recruit them to the Party and organize study-action groups to arm them with the necessary tools for them to also immediately start mobilizing the masses for communism.

Ruben, a janitor we met around their contract struggle, seems to already have a good grasp of this concept. He set up a meeting to introduce a revolutionary friend to ICWP.

His friend, the worker quoted at the beginning of this article, is a veteran of countless class battles in his country of origin. He was captured twice by the army and tortured on both occasions, the first time for 26 days. He has a great deal to teach us. But, having been trained by the old communist movement, he also recognizes that he has a lot to learn.

“I’m no longer, however, scared of the word communism,” he commented one night while

planning our first study-action group meeting to include his friend Ruben and other workers. “Our experiences have made our skins as tough as the crocodile’s,” he added.

“Good!” said the ICWP comrade. “Now you must lose your fear of taking communist ideas to the masses. Workers are open to our ideas. This morning, in an hour and a half, our members distributed over 800 *Red Flags* to garment workers at one building in downtown LA. They tell the workers that it is a communist newspaper.” He was greatly impressed on hearing this.

Last Sunday we met for our study-action group. We read and discussed our manifesto. We learned that he had been a janitor for 10 years and had many friends. “Can you distribute *Red Flag* and our manifesto to these friends?” we asked. “Sure,” he answered.

“Will five be OK?” we inquired tentatively, hoping he’d take more. “Give me twenty to start,” he responded, adding, “Later, I may need more.” He also took 20 copies of our manifesto. Undoubtedly, he has a lot to teach us, including what it means to take the masses seriously. With communist organizers like him our Party is getting more firmly on the communist road!

DISTRIBUTING RED FLAG TO WORKERS

MEXICO CITY--“Are you from the movement of the 132 (the students kicked out of college for protesting a leading presidential candidate)?” asked a taxi driver in front of a factory where we carried out our first distribution of *Red Flag* to workers. “No!” I answered, “but yes, we struggle for a different society, not for a political boss from the PRI, PAN or PRD, or Citizens’ Movement. We struggle for a revolutionary change.”

Another taxi driver added, “Like Zapata, but without a horse!” And he smiled. These were some of the comments that we received as we

distributed the newspaper. A comrade, a friend from work, and I went among factory workers and transit workers, whose eyes were glued to the pages of our newspaper while we were leaving the area. This was our first distribution of *Red Flag*, putting into practice our document *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* and it reflected the concern of a comrade who had commented in a study circle, “Why do we only distribute *Red Flag* on May Day and not at any other time or place?” It was a very accurate criticism. I looked

[See Mexico: Workers, page 4](#)

QUEBEC: MASSES IN MOTION NEED COMMUNISM, NOT REFORM

QUEBEC—“You got the disease, we got the solution — revolution,” read one of the better banners, as students and workers in Montreal came out Saturday night in bigger numbers to protest Bill 78 and to support the student strike. “We are not commodities in the hands of bankers and politicians,” read another.

This bill was introduced by the Quebec (Canada) government to squash the months-long student rebellion. The government thought the protest would die out long ago, but instead these months have seen as many as 100,000 protestors fill the streets of Montreal.

Students are protesting an 80% increase in tuition fees but there is obviously more at stake. Workers and students in Quebec do not want to see their hard-won benefits in health and education taken away from them. The liberal bosses’

excuse is that tuition fees in Quebec are the lowest in North America.

Good — but that’s actually an argument for abolishing them and making health care and education free everywhere, as suggested by one doctor who joined the protest. Communist education and health care are what all students and workers need, not lower fees.

Capitalists world wide have claimed that a college education is a ticket out of poverty and to a better life. Yet, their crisis of over-production belies this pious claim. Why “waste” money producing more “professionals” when they could never employ profitably the millions of university graduates currently looking for a job?

Besieged by the current severe crisis of over-production, the bosses’ needs demand the cheapest labor possible for their factories and war machines. Only communism can produce goods and train workers in all fields of knowledge unhindered by economic crises because society’s needs, not profits, will determine production.

Communism will unite mental and manual labor, thus making it possible for all to develop our potential fully by uniting practice and theory to build a society that meets workers’ needs in all aspects.

This crisis, however, is putting the masses in motion. Parents, workers, civil servants, doctors, and others joined the protest, especially after the government passed Bill 78 that puts harsh restrictions on the right to demonstrate. The government

wanted to “protect order,” but it backfired on them. The Canadian bosses claim they are doing quite well in the crisis, but that doesn’t stop them from trying to gain an advantage in the world’s capitalist dogfight by eliminating even small concessions made in the past - concessions like low tuition and the right to protest!

The rebellious Quebec workers and students are just as fed up with capitalism as are their counterparts in Greece, Spain, Egypt, and Mexico, to list just a few. In fact, after Bill 78 passed, tens of thousands all over the world joined in coordinated protests, marching through the streets banging pots and pans in solidarity with the Quebec demonstrators.

The Quebec rebellion shows once again the depth of young (and not so young) peoples’ anger with the capitalists and these capitalists’ determination to eliminate even the smallest concessions.

The real need is to redirect this anger from demands for ridiculously modest reforms — which the bosses have no intention of granting anyway. We have to sweep away capitalism with its tuitions, taxes, rents, user fees, and so on.

The only way to abolish fees forever is to abolish capitalism and money in general and replace it with Communism. Under Communism all basic needs — health and education, but also food and housing — will be provided free. All that society asks in return is that everyone pitch in and contribute their share of the labor needed to produce these things. We need Communism, and we need it now!



COMMUNISM: LOVE AND WORK, RELATIONSHIPS AND LEADERSHIP

A recent study group showed that our efforts to put *Mobilizing the Masses for Communism* into practice on May Day and in the Occupy movement are leading to deeper conversations about communism with a broader group of people. This discussion picked up where an earlier conversation had left off.

“We need to work as collectives to produce and share what we need without money, and we need to link the collectives worldwide in some sort of process,” said Mark. “But what if the central group abuses power?”

“It’s capitalism (in the form of socialism) that corrupted past communist parties,” replied Araceli. “Money distorts relationships. We’ll get rid of money and privilege, so leaders won’t be corrupted.”

“True, but it’s not just money,” Mark pushed back. “It’s ‘social capital’ too – the effects of racism and patriarchy. Some people expect to have power over others.” We agreed that people’s actions are shaped by their beliefs and the ways they’re used to doing things. Humans can be both cooperative and competitive. “Communism will end the material basis of corruption,” said Laurie, “but mobilizing for communism means political struggle against capitalist ideas and habits.”

The conversation turned to the social relationships we’re used to, and how they do or don’t meet our needs. “Our emotional needs are more powerful than our ‘need’ for an iPhone,” said Micaela. “In a collective, there is creative space to fulfill your need to contribute. It can satisfy our needs for love and a sense of worth. Work is done for love, not as a chore.”

“In communist society,” Araceli added, “there’s room to do what you love but also what has to be done for the benefit of the collective. Even kids want to feel that they are contributing.”

After quite a while we still hadn’t answered Mark’s question about the processes communism will use to deal with leaders who show signs of corruption. But Laurie commented that leadership is a kind of work, and the same questions of motivation apply. The content of the social relationships drives the process. “It’s about re-setting relationships,” Luz concluded.

This was Brian’s first study group, and he’d been quiet. We asked what he thought. “It reminds me of Burning Man,” he said. “I’m a Burner. People don’t use money. Out there in the desert you bring what you need, and you share. It’s not like some guy trying to impress a woman in a bar by buying her an expensive drink.”

“And the ‘twelve traditions’ of AA,” Brian continued. “Leaders are ‘trusted servants.’ Groups are autonomous except for when they affect others.” Others familiar with AA agreed. “But one big difference is that in communism, almost everything we do affects others, worldwide,” said Laurie. “Production, sending forces to help spread the revolution.”

That brought us back to the question of linking collectives into a worldwide party that would stay true to communist principles. It was getting late, so we collected our questions for the next time.

“I question representation,” said Taylor. “Computers give us the capability of mass direct democracy.”

“I have a ton of questions,” Brian said eagerly. “Mainly, how do we transition from now to the future perfect society? People today are mostly motivated by money.”

Araceli remarked to Burning Man, “People really want communism.” She also wondered, “What would spirituality

mean in communist society?”

“Communism has a bad rep,” said Micaela. “But whatever you call it, how can we be one together as a collective and work the principles we want? How can we connect to other people who have the same principles? My mother said she’d believed these things all her life. I believe in what the Party does.”

“Communism resonates with people’s experiences. But we have to build relationships that sustain sharp conversations,” responded Laurie.

“The central question for an ideal society is how do you recall leaders if they abuse power,” Mark repeated. “I think of myself as a collectivist. Our minds are colonized: we think in market terms. We need a spiritual transformation to reclaim the world. Spirituality is our energy, the moral force we have as a collective.”

We agreed to invite more friends to the next study group, collected some money for the ICWP Summer Project, and left with a lot to think about.



MEXICO: WORKERS, from page 3

for some justification but now I know that there was none; it was only our lack of decisiveness and he, after making this criticism, made sure that we made a plan to put the action into practice.

We made several advances. First: the concern of the comrade to mobilize ourselves and distribute the paper and plan the place for the next distribution of the paper. Second: the young comrade has said we need to have regular meetings of the study circles to be able to learn the history of the Party and of the revolutionary movement. Third: the participation of the friend from work who had commented that he doesn’t want to take part in something that would limit his development in other capacities, but who,

with much joy, helped us in the distribution.

Finally, there is the confidence in the political work that we carried out even though sometimes it may seem insignificant. Today more than ever, with the high spirits of thousands of youth who are raising their voices against the politicians, bosses’ media, and against a system in decline, we as workers in the fields and the cities, students, soldiers, as the working class, as Communists, must struggle to free ourselves from the chains of the capitalist bosses. Now more than ever we must fight for this society in which each one contributes according to their commitment and receives according to their need. Let’s fight for communism.

--Young Comrade from Mexico

American Apparel from page 1

This wretched louse has a history of racist attacks against workers in Fruit of the Loom factories in North Carolina and Mississippi. We workers shouldn’t accept being yelled out or racist insults. We must see the need for a new system in which there’s no exploitation, nor racism, and that is a communist society.

Now, the bosses of American Apparel aren’t satisfied with this level of exploitation and profits. They envy the profits of their competition: garment bosses like Levi’s, Gap, and others, who have hundreds of factories in other parts of the world where they pay poverty wages to our class brothers and sisters.

There is no such thing as a fair wage: all exploitation is sweatshop labor. As Marx said, “Instead of demanding a fair day’s wage for a fair day’s work, we should demand an end to the wage system.” In a communist system, there won’t be money, or racists, or bosses, and production will

be used to meet the needs of the workers of the world.

The production of garment workers will be appreciated and they won’t have to be bent over so many hours worried about competition that forces them to kill themselves producing. Collectively, without killing ourselves, we’ll produce everything necessary to meet all the needs of everyone, without wages.

Workers from many parts of the world work in this factory, including from Mexico, Central America, Asia and the US. This is a good opportunity to struggle and build international unity based on communist ideas. Hundreds of these workers read *Red Flag* consistently and have read *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*. We invite them to contact us and participate in study-action groups to advance the struggle for communist revolution.

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WHY COMMUNISM CAN WIN

Nearly 20,000 copies of *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* have been distributed. We will dedicate the next series of dialectical materialism columns to deepening our understanding and practice around this line. Please read and study them with your fellow workers and let us know if they are useful.

It's no secret that the communist movement suffered a big defeat when the pro capitalist forces won out in Russia and China. Some workers and students ask why a revolution led by ICWP won't turn out the same way. Some people even claim that history always repeats itself, so that our struggle must eventually fail.

If revolution were always part of a cycle that leads back to open capitalism, our fight for communism would be hopeless. But this certainly isn't true. This column and the next three will explain how we know when history does and when it does not repeat itself, and specifically how we know that the fact that socialism cannot lead to communism does not show that communism will fail too.

New Things Do Happen in History

We all know about things that have never happened before but stick around once they do occur. Inventions like the steam engine, cell phones, atomic weapons, etc., were made at a certain time and didn't need to be repeated.

The most important cases of things that are really new, however, are new social movements and systems. Capitalism began in the Middle Ages in Europe. Small manufacture and trade had existed in ancient Greece and Rome, but that wasn't capitalism, because it mainly used slave labor, not wage labor.

Capitalism first developed in individual towns and cities of Europe. It took a long struggle before capitalists could win state power in large countries, like England in the 1640s and in France in the 1790s.

Communism was also new in the early 19th century. Although ancient communist societies existed long ago and peasant communist movements existed in Germany in the 16th Century, a communist movement based on scientific economics and dialectics only began in the 1840s.

Repeating Patterns

Things that are truly new do happen, but there are also some kinds of events that occur over and over. Wars between capitalist rivals have existed as long as capitalism, and these wars grew into enormous slaughters in the 20th century. Capitalist economic crises repeat regularly: about every eight years since 1825.

Recognizing and recording patterns and regularities like these are vital parts of scientific knowledge in any field. But seeing patterns is only the first stage of knowledge. Noticing that capitalist crises keep happening does not explain why crises happen and does not tell us whether they must happen or could be stopped somehow.

But these issues are exactly what must be understood in order to know that capitalism can't be fixed, and how it can be destroyed. To fight to overthrow capitalism we must find and use what Marx called the "laws of motion" of capitalism, which he said was his ultimate aim in his work *Capital*.

The next column will describe the all-important laws of motion and how they differ from legislative laws.

THE LAW OF VALUE, PART 1

Capitalism has entered an era of profound crisis. Since 2007 the working class in every corner of the world has experienced unprecedented attacks. As giant banks fail, countries go bankrupt, factories lose profits, and the bosses fight for their existence by reducing wages, cutting pensions, laying off workers, increasing work hours, waging wars for cheap resources and profit, and expanding attacks on immigrant workers, using more police brutality, and racism and sexism.

This crisis of capitalism has loosened the grip of capitalist ideology on the masses. Hundreds of millions of workers in the world are on the move and questioning every aspect of capitalism and searching for solutions that capitalism cannot provide. In the 19th century, European countries went through decades of severe capitalist crises and civil wars. In the midst of these crises, by learning from the working class struggle, Karl Marx, for the first time in history, clearly spelled out the inner logic (fundamental structure) of capitalism and the need to destroy it with revolution in order to put the workers in power.

As the present capitalist crisis intensifies and major world war looms on the horizon, it is absolutely essential that the working class, led by our party, understand the basic laws of capitalism, as explained by Marx, Lenin, and others.

Our understanding of how capitalism works will advance our struggle to win the masses to communism. With this issue, *Red Flag* will begin a series on the Labor Theory of Value. We encourage party members, friends, and readers of *Red Flag* to form study groups and share their experiences in their work places and struggles with others.

What is the Capitalist Mode of Production?

Capitalism is a society organized based on the production of commodities (i.e., products) that are bought and sold in the market place for profit. Food, airplanes, machines, cars, natural resources are examples of commodities. These commodities are extracted and produced by human labor. Under capitalism, the capitalist bosses own the means of production necessary to manufacture these commodities, backed up by the State, with its army, police and laws defending the bosses' property.

The means of production are factories, machines, tools, materials, and workers' labor power. Under capitalism the means of production become capital. In such a society the capitalist boss owns the means of production and sells the products made by workers for profit. In this process, called capital accumulation, invested money creates more money. This expansion of

capital is the inner logic of capitalism. This basic form of production takes on law-like properties; Marx called it the Law of Value.

The owners of capital become a class, the capitalist class. They own the means of production, but in order to realize their profit, they absolutely depend on another class, the class that has nothing but its labor power to sell. That class is the working class, which is the majority. The exploited working class produces the profit for capital expansion. This makes capital a self-negating force: these contradictions of capitalism create its own gravediggers, the working class. On the one hand, capital exploits and dominates the worker, but on the other hand, it relies on the vast working class to create value. This fierce antagonism between the two classes is the foundation of capitalism, and it creates constant instability, periodic crises and wars. It has the potential for revolution and establishing a communist society.

In future articles we will explain the fundamental concepts of the labor theory of value and the general crisis of capitalism. We will look at exploitation, money, credit, the rate of profit, and the crisis of over-production from the point of view of destroying capitalism and replacing it with a society without capital or money.

LETTERS

LETTERS

Talking to students about communism

This morning I went to three different classes in a school to talk about the political work we do in Central America as members of the International Communist Workers' Party and also about what is communism and why we are mobilizing the masses for communism.

This was the first time that I've spoken openly about communism to a group of young students. It was exciting because I saw that many youth are open to our line. Several of them already knew our party and our newspaper *Red Flag* while for others it was the first time they were hearing about this.

There were many questions that opened good discussions. I was very impressed that some of the same questions were asked in all three classes. One of the most common was: "When we are in a communist system, what would we do with people who are against us?" To which a comrade and I answered by saying that the education we'll re-

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

ceive from childhood will be totally different. But, even so, if there still exist people who are against communism, we think that isolating them from the community and embarking on a direct political struggle with them and then reintegrating them into the community would be a good strategy.

Also, they asked about why we fight for communism when here we have "democracy." We tried to answer by saying that democracy is a term invented by the bosses to calm down the masses so they don't rise up, but that in reality democracy means inequality and communism means equality.

At the end, in the last class a youth came up to me to tell me that this interested her a lot and that she wants to get more involved. The youth, like me, was very inspired with this visit. It was a very good experience, and it helped me a lot to realize that the youth are open to our communist ideas.

--Red Youth



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Learning the Hard Way:

CAPITALIST EDUCATION CAN'T BE REFORMED

LOS ANGELES, CA, June 13. In the 1980s, when we thought reform struggles would lead to the building of a revolutionary movement, we organized protests at Manual Arts High School calling for "Money for Schools, Not for War!" So it was bitterly ironic for us to participate in a protest at Manual Arts last week against the school board's decision to accept \$1.9 million in return for a reconstitution, forcing all the teachers to reapply for their jobs, but only allowing half or less of them to stay. The school was already partially reconstituted last year and another third of the staff is going to a new school next year. As the union representative at the school said to the LA Times, "With those displacements, we've already met the requirements of the School Improvement Grant. This is just being used as an excuse to push out teachers that they want to get rid of."

Even worse, the school is being run by a nonprofit agency, and we were among the teachers who voted, four years ago, to turn the school over to them. We had the deadly illusion that this would give us "local autonomy" to prepare students "to fight to put an end to this system and its wars for profits once and for all." In a statement we wrote in 2008, we called on our fellow teachers to "join with our students and their families to counter the racist wars of capitalism with a revolution to build a communist society or at the very least, to respect the right of their fellow teachers to teach critical thinking and refuse to be the enforcers of the patriotic lies."

On the picket line last week some of our former colleagues told us that voting for "local autonomy" had put Manual Arts on the path to

reconstitution. We were self-critical about the reformist errors we had made, both that of thinking that more money for schools was the solution, as well as the mistaken illusion that the ruling class would ever give teachers and parents "local autonomy." But we also pointed out that reconstitution, pioneered in Chicago under Obama crony Arne Duncan, is one of the ruling class's main tactics for building a fascist school system, one school at a time. In Los Angeles, Fremont and Locke High Schools have also been reconstituted; Dorsey may be on the chopping block next year.

At Manual Arts, \$1.9 million is being spent this year to guarantee that any teacher who speaks up can be summarily discharged, especially if they counter the bosses' racist and pro-war propaganda or join with students and their families to fight the bosses' implementation of war and fascism. This is what fascism means in the schools, and they've clearly got money to pay for that.

Schools are part of the capitalist state; they operate to meet the needs of the ruling class—which these days is preparing

students to fight and die for their empire. As world war approaches, the bosses need a fascist educational system. Any "local autonomy" that teachers get is only the "autonomy" to do the bosses' dirty work for them. It is a fatal illusion to think that the bosses would allow "local autonomy" that allowed teachers to teach communist ideas. Any communist ideas that are taught in the public schools, any communist organizing, always has to be done inconspicuously. But communist teachers will not be intimidated, and will continue to teach the truth, and to join together with students and their families to fight for a communist world.

In a communist society, education will be organized to meet the needs of our class. Instead of a phony "local autonomy," we will have workers' power, organized and coordinated by a mass party of the working class. Everyone will be both a worker and a student their entire lives. Education will serve the needs of the international working class, breaking the barriers between so-called mental labor and manual labor, recognizing that workers have always used their heads as well as their hands. In the process, we'll learn much more than we could ever learn in a capitalist system that separates those processes. We, personally, and our party, have learned the bitter lessons of reformism, of

trade unionism, and of illusions in "local autonomy." Capitalism can't be reformed. We, and those who come after us, will fight for communism. Nothing else will do.

--Manual Arts teachers...retired from the classroom but not from the class struggle.



Fighting against reformist illusions in the schools

CONSTANT AND MILITANT STRUGGLE OF HONDURAN TEACHERS TO DEFEND AGAINST THE ATTACKS OF THE STATE AND THE BOSSES

The State and the Honduran bourgeoisie have employed different strategies to impede the militant struggle of the teachers. There's no doubt that these teachers are currently the most combative and organized union in the country. The bosses and their government use all kinds of attacks to hold back this movement, attacks that go from savage repression, the murder of many teachers, to the appointment of prominent liberal figures who are supposed to bring the teachers into line to calm down their

struggles.

Recently, the State enacted a new education law through which they are imposing big wage cuts, and increasing the retirement age, as well as the interest rate for personal loans; and teachers' personal pension funds will be kept in the hands of the national bank to be used at its disposal.

There is no doubt that all of this is carried out through pressure from the national and international financial organisms which see the privatization of everything as the salvation of their capitalist system and of humanity. However, the results of these policies of the capitalist system have been greater exploitation, discrimination, and impoverishment of the world wide popula-

tion.

In the face of the State's attempts to subjugate the teachers, they have kept up their constant struggle over the last few years. They're not willing to give in. What's more, they are preparing to carry out new demonstrations of strength in the coming weeks nationally, because they've seen that only through militant protest can they defend their legitimate rights.

Many see the urgent need to substitute this exploitative system that, as it enters into greater crises, attacks the great majorities the most. Our only alternative to this is to organize for the great battle that will bring the permanent destruction of this inhuman system of exploitation.

A Comrade in Honduras

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LETTERS

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CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

Are we living in reality or in an illusion?

I am a person who is quite close to the members of the Party ICWP and I've gone to many activities over the last 20 years or more. I've always heard about the change for which you're fighting, but I ask myself if they are living in illusions thinking that in reality we can displace capitalism and win communism. But we keep living the injustices day by day and I see that the capitalist system is neither reformed through the thousands of protests around the world, nor do the current anti-capitalist social movements have the strength to knock down or transform the system.

My Experience in the May Day March

EL SALVADOR—This last May Day we workers commemorated International Workers' Day. As is tradition, year after year, the entire workers' collective demonstrated against exploitation, mistreatment, and low wages by those who run this current system.

As the party ICWP, we were given the task of accompanying and being part of this mass movement, uniting with the most exploited workers in their outcry denouncing this system. As part of our struggle to convert the working class into fighters for communism we had the task of distributing the manifesto *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* and the newspaper *Red Flag*. This was the first time that I participated in this kind of activity. My satisfaction was great, since the material we delivered was well received and accepted by the workers and union members, who showed great interest in knowing more about the party and communist ideology.

The march was carried out as usual: everyone focused on demonstrating the power of the working class and that we're tired of the exploitation of the oligarchy and all the business owners who are only interested in increasing their wealth and not in the wellbeing of the majority. Personally, it filled me with much satisfaction to observe how we people are capable of uniting and showing our discontent with the current system. There's no doubt that the unity of the people makes the difference and creates a great force that no system is capable of defeating.

--Comrade in El Salvador

Distributing Our Manifesto, MMC

MEXICO—Hi. A thousand and one apologies for not having written sooner. I know that our family problems absorb me too much and sometimes I don't even remember myself. But I want to comment that we went to the May Day march and even though there weren't as many people as in past years, I think that there was a very good distribution of our manifesto *Mobilize the Masses for Communism (MMC)*.

Maybe I didn't have the ability to sell *Red Flag* and our manifesto, *MMC*, but we tried and my experience was magnificent. I distributed most of them rather than selling them since the economic situation of the people isn't very good. It seems that maybe being able to give half a peso (5 cents US) isn't much, but for many people even this is difficult. An example is a worker in the march who participated in a contingent of sellers of Avon products. It was a contingent of about 150 women, demonstra-

As part of the working class, I'd like to think that we're close to putting a stop to all these injustices but to tell the truth, every day it looks more distant to me. I hope I'm wrong and that the struggle continues for a better world. Another world is possible and desirable, a world where we aren't objects in the service of the economy. It's necessary to continue waking up our passive and sleeping consciences and converting them into awake and active consciences—or is it that we're living in illusions?

--Fervent Supporter in Los Angeles

ting for better pay since they work hard and long hours selling the Avon products and they get very few crumbs in return.

When I went by them selling *MMC*, one of them was interested as soon as she saw it and she took it. But when she was going to give me a donation, she commented to me that she didn't have any money to give me and she returned it to me. I told her that she could keep it if she was interested in it and if she would really read it. I told her that our goal is to politicize housewives like them. One of her co-workers heard this and asked for another copy of *MMC* and in that way I distributed 20 manifestos in this contingent.

A worker commented to me that she would read *MMC* and added that she didn't have money for her ride to the march, but since she was interested in



going to the demonstration, she had gotten together the money for her trip. I asked for her phone number to contact her and she started laughing, saying, "I would like to have the money to eat, not to buy a telephone." I hope that these workers, in one way or another, get in contact with us in ICWP. That was my experience in the May Day march.

--Greetings from a Comrade in Mexico

US Bosses: Chief Of The Death Squads.

The US bosses, their allies and their puppets condemned the recent massacre of 108 people that took place in Houla, Syria, accusing and blaming military troops or pro-Assad militias for the incident, and immediately ordering the expulsion of Syrian diplomats from their respective countries. Of course, the capitalist Assad is also a murderer, but compared to crimes committed by the imperialists he is a dove of peace. Blaming others for this horrifying massacre is just another one of the dirty tricks of these fascist criminals!

A recent report from Global Research clearly shows that the USA was behind this cruel massacre against the population of Syria. This report indicates

How Do We Recruit Revolutionaries in the Bosses' Military?

Hello. Thank you for sending me every edition of *Red Flag*. I have a couple of questions that I would like you to answer in an article or letter. The first is, How can communists convince soldiers on both sides to turn their guns around at the battle front, between bullets and cannons? How was it possible when they spoke different languages and were in the middle of war? The second question is, how did the soldiers turn their guns around against the officials and high command without exposing themselves to be killed?

--A Comrade in New York State

that the killing was performed execution-style, using the same model applied by the death squad assassins during the civil war in El Salvador against the resistance to the military dictatorship, now known as the Salvador Option.

This report states that there is evidence that the US was the architect and sponsor of implementing the death squads. This operation was first applied in El Salvador: a terrorist act of slaughtering masses, which now the US criminals are utilizing to terrify the populations of Iraq and Syria.

This operation was carried out under the supervision of John Dimitris Negroponte (JDN), one of the bloodiest criminals against the working class. During his services as Ambassador to Honduras from 1981-1985, this killer was the intellectual gangster of the death squads in El Salvador. Negroponte appointed the anti-communist Roberto D'Aubisson as chief of the operation in El Salvador. JDN also played an important role in the support and direct supervision of the Nicaraguan contras, mercenaries against the Sandinista revolution who had their bases in Honduras and who killed 50,000 people.

The US, JDN, D'Aubisson and the Salvadoran capitalists are responsible for the majority of deaths among the civilian population of the 150,000 people killed during the civil war in El Salvador.

In 2004-2005, this same criminal JDN was appointed Ambassador to Iraq, with, of course, the mission of carrying

out Operation Iraq Option, using the same method of death squads against the population of Iraq. In 2011 Robert Stephen Ford was appointed Ambassador to Syria. This character was part of JDN's team in Iraq, and now together they have implemented operation Syria Option.

These accursed butchers, creations of the imperialists, are running around loose and unfortunately have not yet paid for all their horrendous atrocities against humanity.

We should denounce these anti-communists and appeal to the working class through our newspaper to join our International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) to help organize the movement to smash capitalism and build communism so that humanity can live free of these criminals.

The working class must keep under our scrutiny these fascists, and all the bosses who are the orchestrators of these terrorist attacks that kill so many workers around the world, so that they all are brought to justice and killed for all their crimes.

Death to the CRIMINAL JDN and all the capitalists of the world!

--Los Angeles comrade

COMMUNISM WILL END CAPITALIST IMPOVERISHMENT, CRISES AND WAR

When a crisis in the capitalist system arises, the competition among the bosses intensifies. It drives them to extremes. "One capitalist kills many," Marx pointed out. However, it is not just that they will slit each other's throats, but, as we have seen in Syria, they will slit the throats of innocent families. In their quest to dominate the world's markets, no atrocity is too monstrous.

The basis of this contempt for workers' lives lies in the very system they control. It amasses private profits from the work we perform. It exploits us. This means that capitalism, even in the best of times, demands the impoverishment of a sizeable section of the world's workers. Racist super exploitation, built into capitalism, means that black, latin and immigrant workers worldwide are the most impoverished. As a result, capitalism not only exploits us, but oppresses (or kills) us, as well.



Our impoverishment, in fact, has been the hallmark of capitalism's development since the economic crises of the 1970s. After the defeat of the communists in China's Cultural Revolution, the country's capitalist rulers introduced Central Document # 1 in 1983. Almost overnight they demolished the achievements of thirty years of collective labor, introduced private ownership, and engineered the largest assembly of industrial workers in history.

Chinese capitalism has been built on the migration of over 200 million rural workers since the 1980s. At first these workers provided capital with the cheapest army of labor in the world (at 60 cents per hour). Now it is changing into its most productive. Stripped of "legal rights," much of this workforce is temporary, female, flexible, and housed in dormitories. One holiday, *The Economist* reported, "In response to sudden demand, a Chinese factory making iPhones was able to rouse 8,000 workers from their dormitory and put them on the assembly line at midnight...not the next day. Midnight. Nowhere else are such feats feasible." According to the same article, China now accounts for a fifth of total global manufacturing.

The story is similar in Germany, the world's second largest manufacturer, where its luxury auto plants are running at almost full capacity. Its strong manufacturing sector has been maintained by flexible hours (plants working two or three days when needed) and the growth of temporary work, especially super exploited Turkish immigrant workers. It is now, according to the German magazine *Der Spiegel*, trying to use its strong manufacturing base to demand that the workforce in indebted countries, like Greece, Spain, Italy, and Ireland, become low-wage sectors that rival China and Vietnam.

As the crisis deepens, it reaches a point in which even the extreme impoverishment of the workers will not bring the bosses the profits they



need, since all the capitalists-imperialists are impoverishing workers worldwide to produce for the same shrinking markets.

Thus their competition gets fiercer. The bosses then rely on trade wars to drive their competitors out of business. These trade wars eventually become shooting wars as each capitalist-imperialist fights for maximum profits at its rival's expense. World war and fascist control of the working class then become the bosses' inevitable solution to their intractable crises.

We communists don't welcome crises and war. But we prepare our class for them. Crisis and war put masses of workers and others worldwide in motion against the capitalist system, as is happening today. This is our opportunity. Lacking communist leadership, workers can be won to fighting for futile reforms, fascist attacks on immigrant workers, and to blindly follow the bosses' politicians to war. Our responsibility and urgent need is to win these masses in motion to mobilize for communism to put an end to capitalism's unending crises and wars.

Under communism there will no longer be crises of overproduction because there will not be competition of any kind – especially for profits – because without money nothing will be bought or sold. We will collectively plan, produce, and distribute everything to satisfy the needs of the international working class.



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

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

2012 ICWP Summer Projects: Mobilize Industrial Workers and Soldiers and Youth for Communist Revolution

The global crisis of capitalism, particularly the declining competitiveness of US capitalism, mean war sooner rather than later. The ICWP Summer Project is helping young revolutionaries to seize this opportunity to get into industrial training programs, factories, and the military to organize for communism. We invite you to join or help them!

There's work for everyone in the ICWP Summer Projects!

- *Bring *Red Flag* and the ICWP manifesto *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* to military personnel, aerospace and transit and garment workers, and others in Los Angeles, Seattle, and the Bay Area.
- *Visit workers to learn from them and to recruit them into the Party.
- *Attend study-action groups on communist history, theory, and practice – participate in the communist organizers' school
- *Bring friends to social events
- *Help produce *Red Flag*
- *Raise and donate the money we desperately need to make all this possible!

To find out more, call (310) 487-7674 or email icwp@anonymousspeech.com or ask the person who gave you this paper.