

# RED FLAG

**MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM**



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

May 15 -- Tens of thousands of anti-government marchers in Istanbul (right) and other Turkish cities confronted cops, water cannons, and tear gas in protests against the Soma coal disaster. Workers (below right) held a one-day general strike. In Soma, (below) a rock-throwing crowd of thousands attacked the office of Prime Minister Erdogan's "Justice and Development" Party.



## **INDUSTRIAL WORKERS WORLDWIDE MUST ANSWER TURKEY MINE DISASTER BY MOBILIZING THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM**

Thousands of workers in Turkey held a one-day strike on May 15 as part of a massive wave of protests after the May 13 Soma coal mine explosion and fire that killed at least 300 miners and possibly hundreds more.

This political strike was fueled by mass anger at privatization and lax regulation, and by the corrupt government's heartless response to the disaster. "Explosions like this in these mines happen all the time," Turkey's Prime Minister Erdogan told an angry, grieving crowd in Soma.

Soma protesters chanted: "Burn the government with Soma's coal!"

Leaders of the Association of Progressive Trade Unions are channeling this anger into reform demands for better safety. If workers instead organize political strikes against capitalism, they will inspire others worldwide and lay the basis to mobilize the masses for the communist world we need.

Many survivors rushed back into the burning mine to rescue others, joined by miners from all over Turkey. Meanwhile, company and government officials were busy lying to TV cameras that they were not responsible.

But in 2010, Turkish engineers and architects warned of major safety issues in the Soma mines. Just two weeks before the explosion, Erdogan's government rejected a proposed investigation into mine safety.

### **Miners' Lives Mean Nothing to Capitalist Rulers**

*Company officials didn't even know how many workers were in the mine!* "We are not even counting outsiders who come here as part-time, unregistered workers," a miner said. He added that in some sections "we have no idea how many people were stuck."

Most miners "are part of an unregistered economy," said a spokesman for the Association of Progressive Trade Unions. There are ten million (or more) "unregistered" workers in Turkey. Some are underage. Most migrant workers (from Bulgaria, Romania, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Armenia and Azerbaijan) are unregistered workers in the textile industry. Most women workers are also unregistered.

Union officials support the company's claim that no "unregistered" miners worked at Soma. However, suspicions remain that an uncoun-

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## **ICWP IN MAY DAY MARCH IN SPAIN**

SPAIN -- Once again, we the workers demonstrated that when we are united, capitalism fears us. In Spain, after the recent clashes in previous May Day demonstrations, the cops and the forces of "law and order" doubled their number in the streets.

There are more than 24 million unemployed people in Europe. More than six million of them live in Spain and they took to the streets to protest against the crisis. Starting early in the morning there were confrontations, and *Red Flag* circulated again.

The 250 *Red Flags* we had weren't enough, but we are happy because people already recognize our newspaper. Although there are also a lot of detractors of communism, we keep working to popularize communist ideas massively and to achieve a better organization for our party.

The unions, as always, presented reformist projects, demonstrating one more time that they only care about making noise for one day and collecting their paychecks at the end of the month. The unions in Spain, like those all over the world, don't fight for the welfare and improvement of the working class. They are always faithful servants of the bosses who give them subsidies and juicy salaries. It's on days like today that they earn these salaries, and sell false ideas to the workers such as "producing jobs," the lowering of interest rates, more bank loans and a long list of requests that insult the working class.

The International Communist Workers' Party once more rejected these petitions by the union sellouts and reformists. We spoke about more mobilization of the masses for communism as the way to destroy capitalism. ICWP shouted that we need to form an army to fight directly to win communism around the world. The working class urgently needs a new system, and this system is COMMUNISM. We will continue fighting and spreading communist ideas all around the world. **HAPPY MAY DAY! LONG LIVE COMMUNISM!**

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## Nigeria: When the Masses Rebel, Boko Haram Hides

### IMPERIALISTS HUNT FOR PROFITS, NOT KIDNAPPED GIRLS

When Boko Haram kidnapped 276 Nigerian school girls for the “crime” of going to school, it caught the eye of the world’s press. For years, however, US bosses had refused to list Boko Haram as a terrorist organization. Now, as their struggle intensifies with their Russian and Chinese imperialist rivals over the control of Africa, they are using this hideous sexist crime to expand their military presence there. Obama has already sent US troops to Chad to “help fight” Boko Haram in Nigeria.

Now we see the grotesque spectacle of US imperialism’s agents like Nicholas Kristof and Michelle Obama shedding crocodile tears for the girls taken by Boko Haram. Their campaign to “Bring Back Our Girls,” is just a cover to further US imperialism’s plans in Africa. Many in the world understood this by answering the picture of Michelle Obama with signs saying “Obama has killed more girls with drones than Boko Haram.”

Of course, Boko Haram is a sexist, terrorist organization. It needs to be wiped out. For years now it has bombed, maimed and kidnapped mainly Christians in Northern Nigeria, using religion as an excuse. However, the biggest terrorists are the world’s capitalist-imperialist rulers. Communist revolution will wipe them off the earth, together with their creations like Boko Haram.

Communism will destroy the material basis of sexism and racism, used by the capitalists to divide the working class with the lie that women and non-white workers are inferior. The Nigerian ruling class learned this from the days of British colonialism. Now, since independence they have promoted deep divisions among the masses. Wherever they can, they exploit regional, tribal and religious divisions. The Moslem North versus the Christian South is one of the main ones. In this, Boko Haram, the wanna-be rulers of Northern Nigeria, are no different.

#### Capitalism = Terrorism

Nigeria is a country of 150 million. It is ranked as one of the fourth fastest growing economies in the world. It pumps some 2.5 million barrels of oil a day, which sells for up to \$100 a barrel. In terms of capital, Nigeria is a triumph.

Yet, 70% of the population lives on less than \$1 a day and 91% are living below the \$2 a day poverty line. Life expectancy is

barely 45 years. Year after year, millions die in what should be the prime years of their productive lives. Has the world press shown up to report on this carnage? No!

Are Boko Haram bombs responsible for this? No! The normal relations of capitalism produces mass murder on this scale.

Like the rest of Africa, Nigeria is the scene of a sharpening inter-imperialist rivalry. The new imperialists like China are turning their attention and money to the whole continent. In terms of investments they are fast catching up to the older imperialist powers like France, Britain and the US. Of course, all of them want to grab oil and raw materials from the continent but they also want more.

#### From Egypt to Nigeria to South Africa: A Powerful Working Class is Organizing

In all this Nigeria, which is Africa’s largest economy, is both central and problematical. Nigeria has a youth population of over 80 million, of which 64 million are unemployed. There is a lot of energy on the streets. Compare the wealth of the elite to the poverty of the masses and there is a lot of anger on the street. Nigeria is awash with struggle.

In 2012 it exploded. On January 1st, the government declared it was going to remove the gas subsidy. By January 3rd 200,000 people marched through Lagos and five other major cities across

Nigeria,  
January, 2012



the country. Each day the marches grew. By January 9th, the trade union movement was forced to call an indefinite general strike. The cops shot protesters, but the marches grew. The official strike lasted five days before the trade union movement called it off, after the government had partially restored the subsidy.

Yet, like any insurrectionary movement, when the masses move, they toss aside sectarian divisions with contempt. In Minna, for example, the town that had witnessed the Christmas bombing of Christians by Boko Haram, Muslim youth guarded the churches on Sunday and directly challenged Boko Haram to show their faces. Likewise, in the south Christians surrounded and protected the mosques where Muslims were praying. Boko Haram was noticeably absent in the days of rebellion.

The strike was contained but the spirit of struggle has been lit. This year May Day events organized by the official union movement saw masses of workers defying police and marching to the stadiums for the rallies. Meanwhile, soldiers ambushed a Major General who had sent them to fight Boko Haram with little ammunition and shoddy equipment. Mass movements of villagers are arming themselves and battling the terrorists, as did the kidnapped girls.

The imperialists have plans for Africa, but African workers from Egypt to Nigeria to South Africa have plans for the imperialists too. This is a struggle that *Red Flag* intends to enter, influence and, one day, lead. Racist, sexist capitalism offers a future of wage work for \$1 per day. Masses of workers mobilizing for communism will make a future of men and women workers working and caring for each other. We know which future offers the better prospects for workers of the world.



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2014 Summer Projects  
in Los Angeles, Oakland & Seattle**



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## “We have to find a bigger meeting place”

### SOUTH AFRICAN COMRADES DEVELOP COMMUNIST POLITICAL LINE

This brings Revolutionary Greetings from South African workers and the poor. We are holding our meetings every Sunday. Yesterday we held another exciting meeting in spite of the chilly weather.

The meeting place was full of excitement as new comrades joined in. We will have to find a bigger meeting place in future. We looked at the recent issues of the *Red Flag* and decided that we need to identify areas where we need clarity and further elaboration.

At our next meeting, we will attempt to respond to any questions seeking clarity. We are all going to do the exercise together as a collective. In that way we will help each other to grow in articulating the ICWP political line of communist revolution.

Our last meeting was mostly dominated by the recent national general election circus. The nationalist, pro-capitalist African National Congress was returned to power by the overwhelming majority of voters. As we reflected on these elections, we emphasized that these elections will only bring misery to us like all the previous ones.

Mineworkers at the platinum mines continue to lose lives. Recently four miners are reported

to have been killed. Employers are desperately engaged in dirty tricks and threats to woo the workers back to work. They are by-passing the unions by sending text messages to workers directly to return to work or face retrenchments. They are restructuring the mines and workers will bear the brunt of these restructurings. They have issued an ultimatum for workers to return to work by Thursday this week or face the consequences.

There is another strike by workers at the Coega Harbor which has been going on for three weeks. They are militantly stopping scabs and demanding safe working conditions, better pay and an end to the use of labor brokers. They want permanent jobs as opposed to the worldwide plague of informal work. These militant strikers need *Red Flag* and to fight to eliminate wage slavery with communism.

In summary, we as members of ICWP, held a successful a two-day 12 April dinner and conference and May Day events, even though the official May Day celebration was hijacked by nationalists and made into a lousy electioneering affair.

We continue to distribute *Red Flag* to our comrades and friends to mobilize the masses for communism.

The struggle continues! Amandla!!!



Workers on strike at Coega Harbor, South Africa

### TURKEY MINERS from page 1

number of nameless miners are buried in the burning coal mine.

While rescue efforts proceeded in Soma, two more miners died in a West Virginia (USA) coal mine.

They were doing very dangerous “retreat mining,” cutting and collecting the coal in the pillars left during the main dig to support the tunnel’s roof. This collapses the tunnel and sometimes causes remaining pillars to explode.

Only capitalism’s insatiable drive for maximum profits would place miners’ lives in such danger! That same deadly institutionalized greed is at work in Turkey, where coal has been key to capitalist economic development since 2002.

#### Communism: Less Mining, Safer Mining

Capitalists love coal because it’s cheap. But coal-fired electricity contributes greatly to global climate change. Mining destroys forests and agricultural land. That’s behind the mass protests against Mahan Coal Ltd. in Madhya Pradesh (India) and indigenous demonstrations in Bolivia, among others.

When the working class takes power for communism, there will be much less mining.

When workers held power in the Soviet Union in the 1930s, they built a network of renewable-energy hydropower plants and began researching solar energy—in spite of the country’s huge coal reserves. Their accomplishments were limited, however, because Soviet socialism was a form of state capitalism. By the 1960s, when free-market capitalism had become entrenched, the use of cheap, dirty coal skyrocketed.

In communist society, renewable energy sources will replace coal and other fossil fuels. We won’t risk lives and health mining diamonds, rubies, and gold for status-enhancing “bling.” We will meet everyone’s real needs instead.

Research in science and technology will be in the hands of the workers themselves. Organizing production to meet needs instead of making profits will motivate workers to develop alternatives or synthetics for many substances that are now mined.

And when mining is necessary, safety really will come first, because those who work in the mines will themselves organize production. We will constantly seek safer methods. We will slow or halt work whenever a safety issue arises. And we will cherish and account for each and every one of our sisters and brothers, always.



Protestors in Soma rally at a monument to coal miners

### Bolivian Miners’ Struggle Shows: SOCIALISM IS NO SOLUTION



A Turkish labor activist blamed the privatization of mines for a sharp increase in accidents “because profit is always more valuable than miners’ lives in the private sector.” But state-controlled public-sector capitalism is no better.

Since April, mass demonstrations of Bolivian miners’ cooperatives have fought police, protesting a new mining law signed by the indigenous socialist president Evo Morales. After police killed two miners and injured fifty more, forty-three policemen were taken prisoner by dynamite-wielding miners.

As with the Marikana massacre in South Africa, this struggle is extremely sharp because the ruling party had counted miners among its strongest supporters. In Bolivia as in Turkey, the mining industry is the mainstay of capitalist growth.

The new law gives the mining industry rights to public water (which it then pollutes) while denying water rights to rural workers and farmers. It criminalizes protests against mining operations. These provisions reflect Morales’s commitment to the century-old socialist lie that building state capitalism in “underdeveloped” areas is a path toward eventual communism.

But cooperative miners also oppose the law’s provisions limiting the ability of private tin, silver, and zinc miners to sell these minerals to foreign companies. Their small-producer outlook drives them into the arms of imperialists such as Japan’s Sumitomo and India’s Jindal Steel, while the State-run hydrocarbon conglomerate YPF seeks deals with Russia’s Gazprom and China’s Shengli.

From Bolivia’s state-owned enterprises to Turkey’s privatized ones, class struggle and inter-imperialist conflicts are sharpening. Miners and other industrial workers must mobilize the masses for COMMUNISM.

# INDIAN ELECTIONS CREATE OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNIST CLASS STRUGGLE

Narendra Modi, leader of the openly fascist Bharatiya Janata Party, BJP, came to power as the next Prime Minister of India by winning the recent elections. His victory was guaranteed by the billions of dollars spent on his campaign by the five largest Indian multinational corporations that control over 90 percent of India's economy. Now the BJP, a violent Hindu nationalist party with a long history of racist mass murders, is set to rule India for the next five years.

The victory of the BJP comes as inter-imperialist rivalry sharpens and US imperialism rapidly declines. The Indian capitalist bosses desperately need to expand their market share and control of natural resources worldwide. They see the US decline as an opportunity to grow by making both short-term and long-term alliances with rival imperialists China and Russia. Chinese imperialists have supported Modi for years. Now the US is courting him.

By winning a large section of the Indian working class to fanatic Hindu nationalism, the BJP-led government will confront other capitalists in the world by building a strong military and attacking Indian workers. About 15% of Indians are Muslim and 80% are Hindu. The main section of the Indian ruling class built an anti-Muslim mass movement by financing the BJP, which accuses Muslims of being pro-Pakistani terrorists.

In the last 60 years the BJP has carried out successive pogroms where impoverished Muslim workers were murdered, and pregnant women were gang-raped, savagely tortured and burnt alive to win the masses to Hindu nationalism. However, masses of Hindu workers and students have risked their own lives to save the lives of the Muslim workers.



Partition of India

In textbook fascist style, the BJP has built a base among the urban professionals to spearhead Hindu nationalism. The bosses have praised the elections in India as an overwhelming mandate for the BJP. This claim exposes the class dictatorship that is democracy. Of over 800 million eligible voters, 66 % participated in the elections. The BJP received 31 % of those votes. That works out to only 1 out of every 5 eligible voters actually voted for the fascist BJP.

Historically Hindu nationalism was built by the British ruling class during their colonial occupation to keep Indian workers divided. All the political parties in India have modified this racist ideology in different ways to attack the working class.

However, India also has a long history of the working class fighting back in unity. In the 1920s, the Communist Party of India was formed in exile by five young communists from both Hindu and Muslim backgrounds. During two world wars, the CPI built a mass base in some areas of India and was winning armed struggle against the Indian nationalist ruling class.

After WWII, the world communist movement led by the Soviet Union instructed the CPI to participate in the peaceful democratic process rather than continue armed struggle. This was consistent with the Khrushchev position of peaceful coexistence in which the Soviet Union would catch up with US imperialism in the production of consumer goods. The foundation of such a reactionary line was already unfolding in the Soviet Union during WWII when nationalism along with religion was used to mobilize workers to fight the Nazis. By the war's end, internationalism was replaced with nationalism.

After World War II, in response to a mass movement for independence and mutinies of Indian soldiers in the British Army, India became independent of the British Empire, and was split into two countries, India and Pakistan. (Pakistan was split again in 1971 into Pakistan and Bangladesh). The 1947 partition was accompanied by ethnic cleansing and one of the largest forced migrations in history, with over ten million Muslims moving from India to Pakistan and Hindus and Sikhs moving from Pakistan to India. In the accompanying riots, more than a million peo-

## Communism will smash the barbaric wage system

Mukesh Ambani is the CEO of the largest Indian multinational, Reliance Industry. The home he built for his family, the most expensive dwelling ever built in the world, cost over one billion dollars. The 28 story home has three helipads, hundreds of luxurious bedrooms, swimming pools, tennis courts, multimedia theaters, and tropical gardens. It is decorated with the most expensive furniture and diamond-studded chandeliers. A staff of over 600 people works round the clock to maintain the house. Tellingly, the house is designed to withstand thermo-nuclear war.

In stark contrast, over 800 million workers in India live on less than 50 cents a day without running water or electricity. Hundreds of millions in the slums of Indian cities have no access to basic services like toilets or clean water.

No reform can end the brutal life capitalism creates for the workers who produce all value in society. Only communist society, built for the needs of the working class, will end the barbarism that capitalism creates.

ple died.

The International Communist Workers' Party, ICWP, identifies wage slavery as the material basis of the reversal of workers power in the Soviet Union and China. The existence of the wage system creates the foundation for nationalism, racism, sexism and world wars for profit.

The emergence of the BJP as the ruling party in India opens doors wide for our party to build a mass movement for communism. Millions of Hindu and Muslim workers and students are angry and ready to fight fascism. Many already are fighting. Only communism can put an end to fascist capitalism.

Only ICWP organizes the international working class to end the tyranny of wage slavery. Workers and students in and from India, Bangladesh, and Pakistan read *Red Flag*. Many of them are immigrant workers in the Middle East and Europe. We will intensify the struggle for readers to become active members of ICWP to fight for communist revolution.

## MEXICO: TO ABOLISH WAGES!

MEXICO, May Day, 2014— Why do we have to work for a boss? Since when has it been like this? How did slavery end? How did feudal serfdom end? Do you know that there was a caste war in Mexico and other countries?

What has distinguished one society divided into social classes from another is who gets the value produced above the remuneration to the worker: the slave master, the feudal lord, or the capitalist.

The Communists originated the May Day marches. In 1886 in the world's major cities the working class paraded demanding an 8-hour work day. Eventually this was achieved. However, the goal of the communists was and is: abolish the wage system, the right of the capitalists to use our labor power in exchange for a wage. We produce more than that and this creates their wealth.

We fight for a society where, freely associated, we produce what humanity needs, not what the bosses need. Products won't be bought or sold, so money will not be needed. The buying and selling of products is for the market. We communists are for the disappearance of the market

economy, for the disappearance of the exploitation of the workers by the capitalists.

### Capitalism leads to wars for profits

The evils suffered by humanity are caused by the market economy. Capitalist businesses fight for market share and the sources of raw materials, especially oil, causing wars in which workers are killed. By instilling nationalism, they win us to believe in the "defense of the country." But the country is their companies, private or state owned (Pemex Oil in Mexico, Venezuelan Oil, Petrobras of Brazil, etc.).

The Ukraine and Venezuela are examples of the fight between the great imperialist powers: the US, European Union and Japan on one side, and China, Russia, Iran, etc., on the other. Currently the Chinese capitalists are competing for business in Latin America. Venezuela and China maintain a "strategic alliance," initiated by the late Hugo Chavez, which last March allowed the third renewal of the Chinese-Venezuelan Fund, a mechanism that has allowed Venezuela to receive \$15 billion.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of China, Wang Yi, came to Venezuela on April 21, 2014,



on the second leg of his Latin American tour which began in Cuba and which continued to Argentina and Brazil. Wang Li is preparing the second official visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping to Latin America, scheduled for this July. They intend to boost cooperation in the automotive industry, housing, technology and infrastructure.

Chinese expansion directly challenges US imperialism. Latin America in particular has historically been the US's back yard. They won't let rival imperialists dominate it without a fight.

The drums of war are beating now. The working class needs to be conscious of this and not take sides with one or the other imperialist. Both sides defend and are based on the use of our labor power. We need to free ourselves from the domination of one or the other capitalist. We need to overthrow them! Join us!

**Vietnam-China Clash:****INDUSTRIAL WORKERS MUST LEAD FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM,  
NOT NATIONALISM**

In mid-May, US President Obama had just returned from his military-diplomatic trip to Asia. A summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was starting. The Chinese state-owned oil company CNOOC chose this moment to park a huge oil rig in Vietnamese coastal waters (also claimed by China) surrounded by a large armed flotilla.

Vietnamese and Chinese ships rammed each other and fired water cannons while the US did nothing and ASEAN expressed vague concern.

ASEAN was founded in 1967 (with US encouragement) by Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. It includes Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam. But today, most ASEAN countries have strong economic ties with China. Caught between US and Chinese imperialism, many are choosing China.

The Vietnamese government mobilized huge nationalist anti-Chinese protests. Suddenly the ruling “communist” party – supposedly allied with the Chinese “communist” party – started publicizing the 1979 China-Vietnam border war which had largely been covered up. Instead of squashing rallies as usual, it sent cameras to cover them.

But the mass movement spun out of the Vietnamese rulers’ control. Workers and youth swept through foreign-owned factories, some attacking Chinese workers and some burning down entire plants. A thousand were arrested.

Vietnamese “communist” officials were horrified, but not by the anti-Chinese racism. “We must take concrete action, otherwise investors will hesitate to come here,” one said. Now police and military are deployed to prevent further demonstrations.

This is the bitter fruit of the nationalist politics that misled the heroic struggle of the Vietnamese masses against French and then US imperialism in the 1950s-1960s.

**Racism and Nationalism –  
Or Class-Consciousness?**

Workers and youth who are won to Vietnamese nationalism and its flip side, anti-Chinese racism, are digging their own graves.

Western media claim that Vietnamese workers burned down South Korean, Hong Kongese and Taiwanese factories “by mistake” because they couldn’t tell the difference between these countries and China. This is an insulting lie.

A Taiwanese researcher explained the real issue: “The influx of foreign companies in Vietnam has widened the wealth gap there... [T]he core anger and fear is against foreign exploitation.”

Since 2005, workers have mobilized in wave after wave of massive illegal strikes against



**The Association  
of Southeast  
Asian Nations**

sweatshop conditions in factories run by Nike, Foxconn, and other capitalist enterprises encouraged by Vietnam’s socialist government. The unions suppress these strikes, which continue to grow. “The labor union was set up only for the sake of abiding by the law,” said a Vietnamese

**“The labor union was set up only for the sake of abiding by the law,” said a Vietnamese worker in a Taiwanese-owned factory.**

worker in a Taiwanese-owned factory.

As in El Salvador and South Africa, Vietnamese and all workers must draw the correct conclusion from the political errors and betrayals

of parties once respected by the masses as revolutionaries: Our hopes and our fights for a better life must lead us to mobilize for COMMUNISM and nothing less.

**Inter-Imperialist Conflict Makes Communist  
Mobilization Increasingly Urgent**

China’s oil-rig adventure directly challenges Obama’s “pivot to Asia.” China may have been emboldened by US imperialism’s passivity in Ukraine and Syria. The cover of *The Economist* (mouthpiece of British imperialism) wondered, “What Would America Fight For?”

US allies also wonder. Pro-US analyst Carl Thayer predicted that the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, and Indonesia will “shore up their own maritime capabilities and seek reassurance of support from the United States and other maritime powers such as Japan, Australia, and India.”

The increasing militarization of the region includes Japanese Prime Minister Abe’s campaign to reconsider “Article 9” of Japan’s constitution, which prohibits Japanese military involvement outside its own borders. Also, Vietnam is building up its submarine fleet, helped by Russia and India. It’s seeking closer military ties with Russia.

“Between the certainty that any president will defend America’s own territory and the strong belief that America would not fight Russia over Ukraine lies an infinite combination of possibilities,” wrote *The Economist*. This “risks making the world a more dangerous, nastier place.”

Some US imperialists want a stronger response. The US should “offer support to Vietnam through an increased naval presence,” say Elizabeth Economy and Michael Levi of the Council on Foreign Relations.

We’ve heard it said that a US-China war is unlikely because of their economic interdependence. History should squash this dangerous illusion.

In the 1930s, 60% of US foreign investment was in Nazi Germany. Even in 1941-42, companies like ITT, Ford, General Motors, Standard Oil of New Jersey and Chase did business with Germany, including sales of military materiel.

Neither the US rulers nor the Chinese rulers seem to want war now. But both want control of South China Sea oil and gas. An Exxon-Mobil rig is operating near the Chinese rig. And both need to defend or extend their empires in Asia-Pacific and elsewhere.

Global capitalism’s internal logic propels it toward world war. The urgency of mobilizing for communism has never been greater.

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“Without revolutionary theory there can be no revolutionary movement.” Lenin, *What Is To Be Done*

## CONTRADICTIONS WITHIN AND BETWEEN CLASSES ARE A DIALECTICAL QUESTION

MEXICO -- The working class must understand that relationships in society are dialectical. This understanding will help free the working class from capitalism. That's why collectives of the International Communist Workers' Party in Mexico are conducting study circles on dialectical materialism.

We understand that dialectics is the philosophy of change and development. Its study allows us to understand that all relationships follow these laws, from molecules to the universe as a whole.

One of the main laws of dialectics that we studied was “the unity and struggle of opposites.” This says that elements or processes are connected to form unity, but at the same time mutually interfere. A comrade explained that the unity of opposites defines the actual state of things, objects or processes. However, when the interference between them intensifies, change, development or transformation is generated. The interference between elements comes basically from its contradictions.

We analyzed society as a unity, and learned that its contradictions are different ideologies, politics or interests among groups or individuals. There are external and internal contradictions. The external contradictions are the differences between classes, while the internal contradictions are the differences between the individuals of the same class.

A comrade explained that in the capitalist system, the bosses and the working class form a unity and the differences in their interests are the contradictions. The bosses want to increase exploitation to increase their profits and the workers want to free themselves from exploitation. This generates the class struggle (the struggle of op-

posites). Right now, these contradictions are sharpening. This has created a situation in which millions of workers are organizing and mobilizing against the bosses all over the world.

Another comrade analyzed the bosses dialectically. They form a unity of exploiters, but the interests of each one in total economic and political domination create a big contradiction. This contradiction has sharpened in recent years. Two groups have formed: the group led by the US bosses wants to keep its dominance, while the group led by Chinese capitalist wants to take control away from them.

To resolve this contradiction will lead inevitably to a third world war, where workers will be cannon fodder. One group of bosses will win, but the working class will continue to suffer the ravages of capitalism. The only solution for the working class is the destruction of the capitalist system and the construction of communism.

We also analyzed the working class as a unity (of the exploited) with contradictions such as: 1) the aspiration of a worker to be a boss who will exploit his class; 2) the idea of fighting for a fairer capitalism; 3) the idea of struggling against a certain group of bosses and allying with the lesser-evil bosses; 4) the idea that the solution is state capitalism (socialism) where resources and the means of production are under the control of the state, or in other words, it's the state that exploits. In opposition to these ideas, for ICWP the only solution is to fight directly to destroy capitalism and build communism.

In the study circle we concluded that the internal contradictions are the most important ones (differences within the working class) because, to liberate ourselves from capitalism, workers must sharpen our contradictions and resolve them.

In Mexico, analysis of the struggle of opposites has allowed us to increase the spread of communist ideas. For example, recently we attended a meeting with a group of students with different ideologies. We talked with them about our political line and we've made contact with more people for our study circles. In that way, we've understood that the entire working class, including those who have reformist or pro-capitalist ideas, must get to know communist ideas.

--Collective of Comrades in Mexico.



Comrades in Mexico distributing Red Flag on May Day, 2014

## LENIN FIGHTS FOR MATERIALISM

In a previous issue we described Lenin's fight against the anti-materialist philosophy called “neutral monism.” Neutral monism claimed that everything is made up of “elements.” Elements were advertised as something that is neither mental nor physical, but they turn out to be just sensations and thoughts. In this column we outline Lenin's arguments against neutral monism.

### Lenin's Main Arguments

Lenin's arguments concentrated on four points: (1) neutral monism is just a disguised version of subjective idealism, which says there is no world outside of individual minds, and objects are just “complexes of sensations.” (2) Neutralism is incompatible with natural science. (3) Neutralism promotes religion. (4) Neutralism is internally inconsistent.

#### Neutral monism is just subjective idealism

The neutralists liked to claim that they were not idealists but had overcome the opposition between materialism and idealism. Analyzing the writings of the various neutralists, Lenin showed that despite their disagreements with each other, they all claimed that the physical universe is a product of sensations and thoughts. This is the direct opposite of materialism, which recognizes that sensing and thinking can only be done by material beings with nerves and brains.

#### Neutralism is incompatible with natural science

In the science in Lenin's time, it was already well known that the earth was far older than humans or other living beings. That means that it is impossible for the earth to be a product of sensa-

tions or thoughts, since there was nothing that could feel or think when it came into existence.

This point is a variation on a standard objection to subjective idealism, that if it were right, a tree that fell in the forest would make no sound, since no one could hear it. The standard answer from idealists is to claim that God exists, perceives everything, and hears the falling tree.

Most of the neutralists avoided appealing to God, but tried to wiggle out of their contradiction in other ways. Some claimed that the earth really did not exist before people did. Others claimed that people can mentally “project” themselves into the past, a past that would then consist of their “projected” thoughts. “If we ‘mentally project’ ourselves,” Lenin wrote, “our presence will be imaginary — but the existence of the earth prior to man is real.”

#### Neutralism promotes faith and religion

Alexander Bogdanov, one of Lenin's main opponents, defined truth “an ideological form — an organizing form of human experience.” Bogdanov said that “socially organized or objective experience” must “harmonize with the rest of collective experience” and “with the chain of causality.”

But Lenin explained that Catholicism fits this definition well. “Catholicism has been ‘socially organized, harmonized and coordinated’ by centuries of development; it ‘fits in’ with the ‘chain of causality’ in the most indisputable manner; for religions did not originate without cause, it is not by accident that they retain their hold over the masses under modern conditions.”

The neutralist approach to truth can't tell the difference between true ideas and false ones that are organized and widely believed. It not only has to say that religions are true but it promotes faith and “fideism,” the idea that people should accept as true ideas that aren't supported by the evidence.

#### The inconsistencies of neutralism

Generally speaking, just looking at the consequences of a philosophical theory is not enough to understand it thoroughly, and critical evaluation of its coherence and consistency is important as well. Lenin included this kind of criticism in his attack on neutralism.

Solipsism is the absurd idea that my mind is the only thing that I can know to actually exist, so that the rest of the universe may exist only in my imagination. Neutral monists were anxious to reject solipsism because accepting it would make their position inconsistent. You can't say that truth is a socially organized experience if society may exist only in your head.

Starting from the neutralist premises, however, Lenin argued that “it is impossible to arrive at the existence of other people besides oneself.” If I can't infer that my sensations are caused by real things beyond me then I can't infer that any mind exists other than my own. Thus neutral monism cannot reject solipsism, and hence is absurd as well as reactionary.

In the next column, we will look at some of the errors and shortcomings of Lenin's book, *Materialism and Empirio-Criticism*.

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

### Violent Class Struggle, not Pacifist Prayers

*“César Chávez,” the movie, portrays Chávez as a pacifist hero and the struggle of farmworkers as a victory for pacifism. In the last issue of Red Flag, we exposed the ruling class lies about Chávez, including the truth about his attacks on immigrant workers, and the militant struggle of farmworkers during that period. This letter from a veteran farmworker comrade continues this exposé.*

There were other violent incidents during the farmworkers' strike in California in the 1960's and 70's. I remember that the ranchers formed an organization of women called “Mothers Against the Strike” led by the wives of contractors and ranch owners. They promised women who joined that they would be treated with respect and given good working conditions—a lie.

I remember that once one of these women was working at the side of the road in front of the strikers' picket line. The strikers, tired of pleading with the woman not to break the strike, and of her not paying attention to them, began to talk to her in very strong words, but the woman jokingly answered: “Say what you want; words don't break bones.” Scarcely had she spoken these words when a huge lump of hard dirt hit her in the back. She let out a tremendous shriek and walked away through the grape vines, still screaming.

Another scab crossed the picket line every day to break the strike, protected by the police. He always drove a truck covered with a tarp

beneath which all his family hid. No one ever stopped him. But one day when he was working very close to the strikers, the same thing happened to him as to the woman mentioned above.

That was enough. Very early the next day he came to the strike headquarters to talk to the person who had attacked him. He said, “Listen, Sir, I came to tell you that the beating you gave me yesterday still hurts, but here we are, me and my whole family, to join with you in the strike. We want to help.” And he continued, saying “Damn, it takes this to make a person understand and blah, blah, blah.”

Another time a crew of scabs was working, breaking the strike. At about ten o'clock in the morning the strikers in this area arrived ready to run them off. The security guards wanted to stop us but they couldn't, and we all entered the field. The scabs ran like rabbits, but some were hit with rocks.

When we were already leaving, someone shouted, “There is a woman tied up!” The guards had grabbed a girl who was left behind. They handcuffed her and tied her to a post, but some other strikers quickly went and rescued her and, with the handcuffs still on, they helped her into the car. Once on the road, we wanted to take off the handcuffs but, since she had small hands, she had already taken them off easily. Someone still has the handcuffs as a souvenir.



The police were on foot. In the confrontation, they had left the keys in the car, and a striker put the car in gear and it went into a ditch.

These are not rare, isolated incidents. Where there is a strike and the strikers defend it with all their heart, they do all kinds of things, except pray, which was what many did on Chávez's orders during the strike in the 1960's and 70's.

Although these were relatively small incidents, they weren't pacifist. That is why they do not appear in the movie about Chávez. This movie was made for the youth, to win them to believe that we should not use violence in the struggle against the ruling class, against capitalism; that everything should be resolved peacefully. No! Only with communist revolution can the working class be liberated.

—Veteran farmworker comrade

### Gabriel García Márquez: Bourgeois Writer

Gabriel García Márquez did not have an answer to societal problems. He was alien to all ideological contamination. He developed as a writer with the least risk possible.

He revealed injustice, but he never fought it. With his so-called magical realism he created his classic masterpiece *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, an imaginary territory called Macondo in a fascinating space. He emerged with his narrative, extracting the maximum economic benefit possible, with millions of copies sold and translated into 35 languages. With this he won the Nobel Prize in literature in 1982. With his literary works published by the ton, uniting the real and the unreal, or by escaping at the end we would say.

He could have generated a qualitative change in his readers, synthesizing their social concerns, but he did not dare. He lacked a strategy of struggle to support and defend the workers of the world. Unlike what Márquez portrays, social events are not mysterious or tragic. The enemies of workers, in Colombia, in Mexico and the rest of the world, are the same. The same harsh reality in the universe, the same enemies here, there, the class struggle,—the rich against the poor.

His prose was not revolutionary heavy artillery. In the ideological camp he was not combative. He never revealed his political essence. In Mexico he lived conditioned within the boundaries of conventionalism—unless Mexico is an earthly paradise for Mexicans.

He did not belong to any political party. Neither was he a militant, His prose did not openly mix in with politics, nor did he protest against this or that. Why? It is well known that to be

shoulder-to-shoulder with workers' struggles creates enemies, exile, prison and even death. But he was not willing to risk any of that.

His lukewarm denouncements, full of charm and magical realism, allowed him to conquer fame among bourgeois intellectuals, who awarded him the Nobel Prize.

We can compare Márquez with writers from other periods who were more politically committed, for example Ricardo Flores Magón who helped spark the Mexican Revolution. Another, Vargas Villa in Colombia, who said, “Undoubtedly my reputation is composed more of hatreds than of sentiments; I have a pedestal of enemies. My life was one of struggles and persecutions. I don't know how to lie to power nor how to be silent faced with duty.” He fought openly against all the tyrants of Latin America, a liberal of that period, but different.

--Comrade lover of literature

### “As a Communist, I am not alone”

When recently asked to join the party officially, I said “yes” right away. Not a week later I was asked, by the same individual, why I decided to join. A brief period of contemplation followed before I felt able to properly transcribe my response.

After some serious thought, I believe I joined the party because capitalism isn't pushing humankind in the direction we should be going. With no basis of justification other than greed, most of us are forced to live a menial existence in comparison to

the privileged few.

Repugnant is the creature who would squander the ability to fulfill the needs of every individual even after the acquisition of basic necessities. The struggle for financial gain and elevated social status through that financial gain is not, was not, and never will be the intended purpose of the human race.

Divided we are in a time of such great dissonance, when the very future of humankind depends on our harmonious coexistence. Only through equality can we advance our civilization and elevate humankind to a more dignified species, which brings me back to why I joined the party.

Frankly, I cannot sit idly by as we thrust ourselves into a more oppressive age of wage slavery and widespread poverty. However, I am also a realist and fully aware that my efforts alone cannot bring about the all-encompassing change that I hope to witness the human race undergo. Aware am I also that for this change to come about, revolution is necessary.

Having not much confidence in my single-handed effort to abolish capitalism through revolution, allying with a group of like-minded individuals seemed like a step in the right direction.

Presently, I am not sure what my role in the party will be or what I can offer the party for the advancement of its goals. What I am sure of is what the existence of the party does for me. It reminds me that as a communist in a capitalist world, I am not alone.

—New student comrade



Los Angeles Youth Collective:**LESSONS FROM ORGANIZING FOR MAY DAY**

“Communism is what we want: a world without borders, racism and war, a world where everyone is equal. I wanted to be part of the march, doing my share for change. I know that we will change the world with united efforts, like strong pillars that no one can knock down. United, we will be invincible and we will remove all borders,” said a young man who joined the Party after marching on May Day.

Capitalist governments treat us like slaves. Every day we struggle for food, while governments live off the blood, sweat and efforts of workers

On this day the working class hits the streets against the capitalists’ government and the wage system.

“I attended this march because some day I’ll be part of the working class. The things ICWP says, I find interesting. A world without borders, without capitalist governments and without money can work. I am encouraged to continue this struggle against capitalist governments and this is why I decided to join the party,” added another young man.

On the day of the march, some friends didn’t want to come for fear of the police. This is a perfect example of why we need communism. It is true that the police do not protect us: they protect the bosses’ interests.

Afraid of being deported? With communism that fear will no longer exist because borders will not exist. Some think that change cannot be achieved. They do not realize that we have the strength and capacity.

“We are all forced to submit to the power of the government, but we can make a difference and make history. It may not be in the short term, but everything we do for the communist party will someday impact on society and we will live with the satisfaction of knowing that we were part of that small but big change,” said another student who also joined the Party after the march.



Many students are busy with their college-credit exams and other activities or events. These things seem important to some people in relation to the lives they are planning. But they do not yet realize that they can’t realistically “prepare for their personal lives” without committing themselves to mobilizing the masses for communism. Capitalism itself robs us of the chance to reach our full potential.

Initially more than sixty students planned to attend the march, but various obstacles prevented many from coming. About forty actually came. We have to struggle to overcome these obstacles. The masses will not mobilize themselves for communism. We the Party members must mobilize them.

“The march takes place every year. Students won’t skip things they think are important for a march that they can attend next year anyway. We have to be convinced to make room in our schedule, to make adjustments for the day. The Party needs to make preparations and announce them in advance,” said a young woman.

Some students’ parents did not allow them to participate. A couple said it was too hot to be

marching. These, too, are questions of commitment.

We have to carry out the political and ideological struggle and point out the daily madness of capitalism even in the smallest situations. We do this in the pages of *Red Flag*.

“Some of the obstacles for me were work and school but I still made time to attend the march,” said a young woman comrade.

There were other advances. First, many young people took their responsibilities on the day of the march very seriously: distribution of *Red Flag*, leading and chanting slogans, carrying banners, red flags and signs.

Many helped to prepare for the march. A young man designed a banner that read “Political Strike! Mobilize for Communism!” in both English and Spanish and others painted it. Many brought their friends to the march.

New comrades have joined, new study groups have formed, and a deeper collective understanding of mobilizing the masses for communism is developing. Our Summer Projects in Los Angeles and Seattle will take this to a new level.

**RACIST DONALD STERLING, RACIST CAPITALIST SYSTEM**

LOS ANGELES — Donald Sterling, owner of the LA Clippers basketball team, has been the talk of the town ever since a black woman-friend made public a tape recording of his sickeningly racist rants. It turns out that Sterling has been successfully sued as a racist landlord. The other filthy-rich owners in the National Basketball Association responded by fining him and banning him from the league.

**Sterling is a racist capitalist. All the capitalists are racist; the whole system is built on racist exploitation.**

Many people are righteously angry at Donald Sterling’s racist attacks on Magic Johnson and all black people. But we need to ask why the US capitalist press is making a huge deal about the Sterling case.

It’s to hide the fact that the whole profit system is racist to the core. The NBA owners gave away T-shirts saying “We Are One.” This promotes the lie that the US is a “post-racial” society.

Sterling’s racist remarks reflect a system where over 60% of all prisoners in the US are black and latino/a even though over 60% of all US residents are white. Almost 40% of prisoners are black even though only 14% of the population is black. The unemployment rate for black workers is double the rate for white workers.

Racism means that black and latino/a workers get paid less than white workers, bringing the wages of all workers down. The bosses’ super exploitation of black and latino/a workers helps them exploit all workers.

The bosses use racism to justify their exploitation of all workers and their super-exploitation of black and latino/a workers in the US and darker-skinned workers all over the world. They need to divide the working class. They need us to think that we can’t unite as a class to overthrow them and build a world based on communist collectivity to meet all workers’ needs.

**Getting a new owner for the Clippers is not how to fight racism.**

We don’t need owners of anything—not profit-making sports teams or profit-making factories that exploit workers. The way to end racism is to fight to destroy capitalism by mobilizing for communist revolution.

Getting rid of the money system will wipe out the material basis of racism. As millions plan and produce collectively to meet all workers’ needs, we will create the material basis for a culture of solidarity and collectivity.

Communist workers’ power will mobilize millions to stop racist language and acts. We won’t be divided by “race” or borders. We will be one working class fighting for and building one communist world.

**Struggle to raise communist line massively**

Some college students got into a heated discussion about what Sterling’s woman-friend was willing to put up with for the money she got from him. A few blamed her for being greedy.

“She’s doing whatever it takes to survive, like everyone else working for Sterling,” replied a male comrade who saw the finger-pointing as

sexist. Nobody is blaming the Clippers players for putting up with Sterling’s racism.

“The players are just higher-paid slaves,” said a high school student.

“The players are millionaires but the owners make billions by exploiting them,” said a young comrade.

“The owners make their money off the workers who clean the stadiums and all the other workers involved, not just the players,” someone pointed out. “The NBA and FIFA (international soccer association) are multi-million dollar companies.”

“Once players make a lot of money, they invest it and become capitalists,” offered another. Michael Jordan, for one, profits from Nike sweatshops and is himself an NBA owner. Magic Johnson has a net worth of over \$600 million.

“The players are not doing socially useful work,” insisted another comrade. “Under communism we will not have professional entertainment, including pro sports.”

Most students in the high school discussion thought that communism “will never happen” because of “human nature.”

“What would it take to change society and the way we think?” asked a teacher. “What did it take to end slavery?”

The students agreed that it took a civil war.

“So what would it take to end racist capitalism?”

“I get it,” a student exclaimed. “Civil war and revolution!”