

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM



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



Brazil World Cup:

WORKERS AND SOLDIERS MUST UNITE AGAINST WORLD'S BOSSES

Why has Brazilian president Dilma Rousseff authorized the use of the military during the World Cup? What are they afraid of? Who are these soldiers really protecting?

In the run-up to the World Cup, thousands of Brazilian workers have been working day and night for miserable wages, under dangerous, sometimes life-threatening conditions, to build the "quality stadiums" demanded by the International Federation of Football Association. (FIFA).

Hundreds of thousands of workers of all sectors of industry, especially in the twelve cities where games will be played, have joined massive protests against the upcoming event. One of the largest, in Sao Paulo, Brazil's largest city, had 10,000 people demanding "quality health care, education and housing."

Workers are enraged by the tremendous amount of money poured into the renovation and construction of stadiums and the infrastructure required to access these venues. The racist bosses also grabbed the land to build on, forcibly evicting over 250,000 families, mostly black workers living in horrific favelas like South Africa's shanty towns.

The biggest lie the bosses try to sell to the masses in the host country, with their campaign "Goal Brazil," is that it will improve the country's economy and therefore everyone's life. The truth

is that workers pay directly for these events and only certain groups see the benefits. Big corporations like Coca Cola, Anheuser-Busch, Volkswagen and other transnationals use the World Cup as an opportunity to advertise on TV to hundreds of millions worldwide.

Sports and Imperialism

The Chinese capitalists put their weight behind Brazil's bids for the 2014 World Cup and the 2016 Summer Olympics. Such mega-events require heavy construction of improved infrastructure such as roads, trains, and communications. These projects are also fulfilling the need to move industrial goods and natural resources from every corner of Brazil to port cities like Rio de Janeiro, Salvador, Santos, Belem, and Sao Joao de Barra. The Chinese bosses have made huge investments in these ports, which will help them compete with German imperialist investors who have been there longer and are Brazil's biggest investors..

Over \$12 billion have already been spent on infrastructure, and as much as 15 billion more will be needed. This will be the most expensive World Cup ever. Despite former President Lula da Silva's 2007 promise that no public funds would be used, some 85% has come so far from public funds and tax exemptions. This is the capitalist way.

Under communism, in contrast, all resources

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Garment Workers Walking the Walk: ORGANIZING FOR A COMMUNIST WORLD

LOS ANGELES—"Look at these garment workers, walking and eating, as they head to the factories," said a comrade while, together with other comrades, they distributed *Red Flag* to these men and women workers. City-wide you can see these images, men and women garment workers eating while sitting on the sidewalks, on the steps of the buildings or inside their cars.

"Put the paper in my purse," say many women workers, because they have both their hands full, in one a plate of food, and in the other a cup of coffee. Others, carrying their coffee and a piece of bread, ask that we put the paper under their arm. All are walking hurriedly toward the centers of exploitation.

Apart from this, many workers have to bring their own bottled water to the factory. This happens in many parts of the world. In their thirst to make maximum profits, the bosses do not provide adequate drinking water, but they enjoy clean water bought from the profits they make off our backs. What kind of system treats those who create everything of value like this? Capitalism.

This appears to be a normal situation, but its not. It's capitalist exploitation, the buying and selling of labor power to produce profits, and not to meet the needs of the working class. The bosses and their government do not care about the health or well-being of the workers.

The bosses buy the workers' labor power for 8 hours or more, at the cheapest price. According to the worker's ability, he or she is assigned a machine or other productive activity. What happens before or after these hours does not interest the boss in the smallest way. At the same time we workers have to sell our labor power to be able to survive. If we do not find someone to buy our labor power, we don't have food to eat or a place to live. That is how the capitalist system functions. A system like this should not exist. It has to be destroyed by a revolution.

In a communist system, the priority will be the workers. Selling and buying our labor power will not exist and therefore there won't be money or bosses. We workers will no longer be slaves; we

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COMMUNIST CLASS STRUGGLE IN MTA: A WAY FORWARD FOR THE INTERNATIONAL WORKING CLASS:

“Welcome back,” said a balloon that flew proudly and defiantly, tied to the tool box of the MTA mechanic who had been suspended.

Many mechanics came to greet him. Between taking pictures and cracking jokes they showed a comradely attitude of solidarity. This euphoria came in part from having realized that for lack of a deeper communist political understanding we did not show enough solidarity with our class brother to defend him collectively from MTA’s racist attack.

Self-critically, we didn’t see why he couldn’t go along with the program and instead was so determined in defending the position of inspecting the buses properly and not as the bosses wanted. We knew, however, that the position he defended was correct.

The bosses claim that the safety of the passengers is our highest goal, but reality is different. They want the buses in the streets, not in the repair shops. We have gotten used to accepting this bosses’ farce. We inspect the buses and ignore certain flaws: less work for us and fewer buses in repair.

We could have defied the bosses and done the right thing. But the majority of us know that to confront them individually brings repression, suspension from work, and firings. Under this pressure, we also submit ideologically to the bosses’ organizations, like their political parties or unions, whose main objective is to keep us enslaved forever.

Due to this mechanic’s struggle and the politi-

cal campaign waged by *Red Flag* to defend him, MTA started a re-education campaign for mechanic inspectors throughout the company. When this campaign got to the division of the suspended mechanic, some mechanics spoke up. “For putting into practice what you are teaching, a co-worker got suspended. If what you are teaching is true, then MTA has to change its attitude,” they told the instructor on several occasions.

And that happened. The next day the supervisor met with the mechanic inspectors and told us that in the future it was up to our discretion to road-test the buses on the streets when we thought it convenient, that they wouldn’t bother us during work hours and the only thing they asked was for us to have the inspection reports ready by 1 pm.

This would not have been possible without the leadership of ICWP through *Red Flag*. Our communist analysis always supported this co-worker under attack. We criticized his shortcomings and misunderstandings with his co-workers. But we said that these trifles should not divide us because communist unity and solidarity are needed to destroy capitalism.

This is a clear example of how communists and the working class must confront the bosses’ attacks. We should never forget that we are locked in a class war with them. In wars, there are no demands, only goals.

Our goals as the working class are to advance the communist understanding of the masses, to forge their unity and recruit them to the Party. As

our forces grow, we can advance this class war to the stage of armed struggle for state power.

We did not demand anything from MTA. We made a communist political analysis showing capitalism’s inhumane nature. This sharpened the struggle between communist ideas and capitalist ideas. It has led to the communist political growth of this worker and many of us in this division and throughout MTA. Confidence in *Red Flag* and consequently in ICWP has also grown tremendously. This is our real victory!

The MTA bosses were forced to make concessions because they tremble before the advance of communist ideas among the workers. They think that by doing this they will calm the workers down and then *Red Flag* won’t have anything to write to politicize the masses.

But they are wrong; capitalism cannot stop exploiting and attacking us, and we cannot stop struggling to abolish its wage slavery. In fact, the bosses began attacking another mechanic immediately, wanting to discipline him for not finding anything wrong on a bus. They sent him for re-training.

This war will not end until we get rid of the capitalists and their racist wage slavery. In a communist society, workers’ safety and well-being will be the most important thing (see “Wage Slaves” page 3). Let’s hasten that day by reading, distributing, writing for and contributing economically to *Red Flag*. Our final short-term and long-term victory lies in joining and building ICWP.



HELP BRING *RED FLAG* TO WORKERS & SOLDIERS International Communist Workers’ Party 2014 Summer Projects in Los Angeles, Oakland & Seattle Kick Off Picnic: June 14, noon, Los Angeles

- ★ Study groups
- ★ Social events
- ★ Rallies & more

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will go to improve the lives of billions of workers by allocating them where most needed, without misuse or abuse. We’ll all work to provide food, health care, education, housing, transportation and other essentials, as needed, with no money involved.

Bosses Fear the Masses

On May 27th, after 200 strikers in Rio de Janeiro surrounded a bus transporting the Brazilian team to their base camp, President Rousseff authorized the use of 70,000 troops to reinforce the 100,000 police already assigned to the World Cup.

Brazilian bosses fear that the increasing anger could spin out of control, possibly even forcing them to cancel the event, costing them billions of dollars in profit. They fear that these demonstrations can grow in size, as millions of workers took to the streets during the June 2013 Confederations Cup, and that they could be-

come more radical or even revolutionary. That’s why they are mobilizing the military now.

The bosses don’t want to take any chances when masses of angry workers rebel. They see poor working-class people as their real enemy and are willing to use military force to keep them in line. They know that the working class is capable of destroying them and their corrupt system.

The working class doesn’t need any bosses to exploit and repress us. Workers are capable of creating a better future for ourselves and our families.

Soldiers, Students, Workers: Unite for Communism!

Military service is compulsory for all Brazilian men, who must serve for 9-12 months. But most soldiers now in the armed forces volunteer to serve much longer. Most come from working-class backgrounds and join the army as a way to improve their lives.

We call on the men and women in the Brazil-

ian military to disobey orders to repress the workers. For the capitalists, the armies of the world are used to repress the working class or as cannon fodder in their wars for profits and empire. Instead, soldiers should join the millions of workers protesting in the streets. They should mobilize for communism.

Soldiers, workers and students have the same need to get rid of this racist system by fighting for communism. The Brazilian masses in motion are showing their great revolutionary potential. Soldiers, students and workers have more in common with each other than with the blood-sucking bosses who try to divide us with lies and pit us against each other for their own benefit. *Red Flag* readers in Brazil should join ICWP and concentrate their revolutionary aspirations on mobilizing the masses of workers, soldiers and students for communism.

Only in a communist society will the well-being of all workers and their families be the priority.



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Capitalism Attacks All Workers:

OUTRAGED BOEING ENGINEERS NEED SYSTEMIC SOLUTION

SEATTLE, WA--Puget Sound and Southern California account for 71 percent of Boeing engineering jobs today. In two years that number will plunge to 40 percent. No workers can escape the capitalist crisis; every worker has reason to mobilize the masses for communism.

Boeing will move these jobs to low-wage, non-union Huntsville, AL; North Charleston, SC; and St. Louis, MO. Workers there will earn \$60,000/year less in wages and benefits, meaning hundreds of millions in extra profits.

Local engineers will have to reapply to get jobs in other areas. Most will never be offered new positions--even at reduced wages. The Boeing bosses will fill the workforce gaps with temporary contract labor in the U.S. and overseas.

The Puget Sound engineers' union is the last with defined pensions. The union already gave away those pensions for new hires. All will most likely be gone when the next contract comes up in two years.

"[This move] has sown widespread dissent and distrust, according to internal employee feedback gathered by company managers," reported the *Seattle Times* (4/15). Boeing's excuses were "greeted by complete dismissal and outrage" in crew meeting after crew meeting.

Capitalist Crisis Brings War on Workers Worldwide

For decades, party members and others have calculated how long the average Boeing employee had to work to pay for his or her wage and benefits. The time remained relatively consistent, a little more than two hours. The other 5-6 hours went to the company ("surplus labor").

This legal thievery was bad enough. With all the cutbacks of the last few years, however, we only get, on average, the value of somewhat more than hour. The rate of exploitation has more than doubled.

Subcontractor workers, who are proportionately more black or latino/a, suffer even more intense racist exploitation.

Workers in the US are not alone. For example, Indian autoworkers have been taking company bigwigs hostage as plant after plant revolts. These massive rebellions are a direct result of the skyrocketing rate of exploitation since the bosses' economic crisis began in 2008. Here, too, "necessary labor" has plummeted from over two hours to about one hour.

It will get worse. Boeing already sells new planes at a 50% discount, facing competition from Airbus now and fearing the rise of other competitors, chiefly China, in the next decade. To meet the commitments it has already made, Boeing will have to attack workers harder.

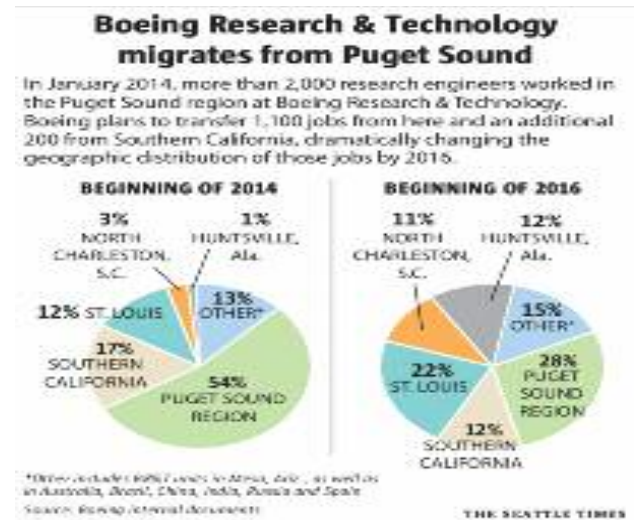
The communist Karl Marx predicted this crisis of overproduction and the impoverishment of the working class over a century ago.

Take Production Out of Capitalists' Hands

Trade unions have no answer. The forces the bosses can bring to bear overwhelm reformist trade union ideology.

A systemic problem requires a systemic solution: communist revolution. Take production out of the capitalists' hands. No more production for sale and profit!

Communist production will advance the struggle for all the world's workers. We can produce for our collective need. This changes, not only



the economy, but also the whole of culture and humanity.

Capitalism not only pits boss against boss, but also worker against worker. Local Boeing engineers, for instance, are pitted against engineers around the country and the world. In the face of this competition, trade unions partner with their particular boss. Communists, in contrast, build international class unity.

Under communism we welcome helping hands. They give us extra time to use in the struggle for revolutionary production and culture. We can turn factories into educational and cultural centers. Our work will no longer depend on whether some bosses can make money off of us, but on our contribution to society.

The bosses divide mental labor (engineering) from manual labor (production), and in the end we all get the shaft. Join us in struggling for a world based on collective labor that destroys artificial divisions of mental and manual labor, nation, location, race and sex that hurt us all.

There's a future worth fighting for!



"We Are Wage Slaves"

COMMUNISM = SOCIALLY USEFUL, COLLECTIVE WORK

LOS ANGELES, CA. "What do you know about the contract? Are we going on strike?" asked an MTA bus operator.

"They are not saying much," answered the *Red Flag* distributor. "They might give you all the same wage increase the mechanics got. Then, there might be no strike."

"That [raise] is not enough given the work we do. Besides, we will still continue to be wage slaves," answered the bus operator.

"I agree with you. No amount of money could ever change that, only a communist revolution can," added *Red Flag*.

"We only work to pay the bills. We are nothing but wage slaves," repeated the operator.

"That is why we need a different world – one with good mass transportation...250 million cars off the streets in the US alone. Millions trained to operate buses and trains. We need a world without wage slavery. That is why you should join us!" said the *Red Flag* distributor.

The operator smiled and drove off with her copy of *Red Flag*.

This operator is expressing her dissatisfaction with capitalism and her longing for a different system. Many MTA operators are expressing the same longing in different ways. Some are turning to *Red Flag* as hundreds read and help distribute it. Others think their aspirations can be achieved by decertifying the union (UTU) or replacing the union hacks with honest leaders.

Two recent decertification attempts have

failed. The latest one would have the operators leave the UTU and join the ATU. But, the ATU is as treacherous as the UTU. So is the whole US labor movement. Choosing any union is cutting one's own throat.

Replacing the current crop of union officials with honest, militant and dedicated leaders won't cut it either. Communists in ICWP don't want union leadership positions because it would still make no difference.

The problem is capitalism. No matter how "good" a contract is, we are still wage slaves. The contract only justifies and legalizes our enslavement. We need to abolish wage slavery with a communist revolution to destroy capitalism.

Unions, however, perpetuate capitalism. They strive to reform it to meet our needs. They preach respect for and obedience to the bosses' laws, and that change comes through the bosses' electoral farce. Thus, trade union ideology diverts us from revolution.

"The bosses suck our blood," an MTA operator once said, "The unions only try to limit the size of the syringe and how much blood they extract from us."

Our task, however, is to destroy these blood suckers and their racist, sexist, inhumane system. That requires mobilizing the masses for communism and waging a protracted armed struggle to build communism worldwide.

Only communism can give us the creative,

socially useful fulfilling work we need. Work makes us human. Capitalism's jobs dehumanize us.

Even US bosses realize this. *The New York Times* (6/1/14) wrote an article titled "Why You Hate Work." Referring to a worldwide 2013 Gallup survey of white-collar employees, it concluded that "around the world, across 142 countries, the proportion of employees who feel engaged at work is just 13 percent. For most of us, in short, work is a depleting, dispiriting experience, and in some obvious ways is getting worse."

The bosses are concerned because "the willingness of employees to voluntarily expend extra efforts" is lacking. This impacts their profits: the life-blood of capitalism.

But, where the bosses see danger, we see opportunity. Billions of workers in all job categories who are disgusted with capitalism's dehumanizing wage slavery can and will be won to be the driving force of revolution.

So can and will be hundreds of MTA drivers, mechanics and service attendants who read and distribute *Red Flag*. Let us organize a political strike against capitalism to consolidate and advance the movement that will put an end to our wage slavery.

See San Francisco Muni sick-out, page 4

THE IMPERIALISTS HAVE CREATED THEIR OWN GRAVE DIGGERS!

In the last thirty years the world has changed dramatically. For the first time in history the majority of working people live in towns or cities and not in the countryside. The global labor force, including service and industrial workers, now adds up to three billion human beings, over half of whom live in East or South Asia.

For the first time, the majority are not most immediately threatened by crop failure, flood, or famine, but by the boom or bust cycle of world capitalism. For the first time in history the masses live or die by the wage system, while their capitalists (the owners of the land, mines, factories and banks) live or die by the rate of profit and the amount of surplus value they can extract from our labors.

Today we are all wage workers...wage workers in the US or in South Africa or El Salvador and so on. The development of capitalism has uprooted subsistence farmers, forcing many into capitalism's reserve army of labor, and brought together workers of the world with an undeniable force.

In so doing they have created a world of three billion wage workers. They have concentrated those workers in huge urban cities. This has laid the basis for the revolutionary slogan "Abolish the wage system" to resound with a relevancy and anger it has never had before. It is this development that **Red Flag** is setting out to ignite with its call to fight for communism.

The Birth of the ICWP

This development of capitalism has been met by the organization of the International Communist Workers' Party (the ICWP). Our fledgling revolutionary communist movement was created not only because the old fight for socialism failed

but because, organized along national lines, the old movement no longer reflected the conditions of the world's masses. We saw that the workers need to fight directly for communism, that the fight for reforms diverted the old movement from fighting for communist revolution.

Yet, side by side with the changes workers face, the imperialists themselves confront new challenges. Up to World War II, the thrust to dominate the globe centered on grabbing access to minerals and raw materials while expanding markets. Today, the aim of controlling cheap (and cheaper) labor to exploit has become the main thrust of the imperialists' competition.

These developments began as a response to the serious crisis of overproduction that exploded in the 1970s and lasted through the 80s. The productive capacities of Japan and Western Europe (re-built after the devastation of World War II) now flooded world markets, competing against US industrial might. Profits dropped, social tensions mounted and, among some second-ranked capitalist powers, war erupted. The Iran-Iraq war saw the biggest tank battle since World War II and Malvinas-Falklands War saw huge naval operations.

Capitalist Crisis, Imperialist War or Communist Revolution?

These wars looked like precursors to a World War in the same way as the Spanish Civil War and the Japanese invasion of Manchuria proved to be precursors to World War II. However the development of open market capitalism in China proved a savior to world capitalism. The triumphant capitalist Party bosses opened up China to direct industrial investment. Since the late 1980s they have engineered the migration (legal

and "illegal") of some 750 million farmers from the countryside to the city as industrial workers. "The China Price," as the cheapest industrial work in the world was called, returned a workable rate of profit to manufacturing and temporarily saved world capitalism from war.

However, in 2007 a new crisis of overproduction broke out. This time the rising militancy of Chinese workers combined with a crisis-driven drop in world trade prompted the Chinese capitalists to protect their investments by expanding their domestic market. They pumped an astronomical \$2.5 trillion credit into all aspects of their industrial capacity.

As a result "The China Price" is no longer the cheapest industrial work in the world. India, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Ukraine and other parts of Eastern Europe as well as Africa now vie for that title. Clearly, if the Chinese capitalists are to secure their investments they must search in part for cheaper labor to control. Just as the German imperialists increasingly exploit the cheap labor of East Europe, and the US imperialists build their maquiladora empire in Mexico and Central America, it appears that the Chinese are looking to Africa. At its birth the capitalist powers hunted the world for slave labor; today the imperialist powers hunt it for cheap (and cheaper) labor.

Today their fight over the world's resources, markets and cheap labor is sharpening even more. The specter of World War that haunted the world in the 1970's again haunts the world today. The mighty international working class is on the move. United with soldiers, workers can mobilize the masses to destroy capitalism-imperialism and build communism. Join us!

SAN FRANCISCO TRANSIT WORKERS STAGE ILLEGAL WORK STOPPAGE

June 3—Monday morning a mass sick-out of Muni (San Francisco Municipal Transportation Authority) workers began. Half of the 2,200 workers did not come to work, leaving two-thirds of the buses, cable cars and trains out of service and passengers facing over one hour delays. The sick-out continued on Tuesday and Wednesday as we went to press.

The sick-out was provoked by a contract "offer" by Muni requiring workers to pay for their own pensions, making the 7.5% contribu-

tion which in the past was paid by Muni, while "offering" them a possible wage increase of up to 11.2% over two years. This would mean a pay cut of over \$1/hour. Ninety percent of the workers rejected the contract in a vote last Friday. Their action, despite the no-strike clause in their contract, shows that workers can break the bosses' contracts and laws. The workers can and need to fight to destroy capitalism.

Even though Muni workers are among the US's highest-paid transit workers, they are still wage slaves chained to the capitalists and subject to growing attacks like workers everywhere. We need to mobilize massively for communism, where we won't be wage slaves and we won't need to rely on a pension. We will all



work and contribute our whole lives and have our needs met collectively—without bosses, wage slavery, or money.

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will decide the way we will work and our needs. In the centers of work, study, medical care and recreation, there will be dining areas with amenities for the well-being of the same workers.

In Los Angeles County, over 70,000 men and women garment workers are working. They create an enormous amount of clothes and big profits for the bosses.

About 1000 copies of each edition of **Red Flag** are distributed among these workers. The majority of these workers come from Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. Potentially they are an enormous force to help liberate the working class. These workers and their families can become communist organizers and massify these ideas and our International Communist Workers' Party, helping to distribute **Red Flag**, the newspaper of the international working class.



The men and women garment workers in Los Angeles, Bangladesh, Mexico, China, Honduras, El Salvador, and many other parts of the world must take our future in our hands, fighting for a communist world.

The problem of capitalism is not only that we the workers are forced to eat while walking or to

take water to work, but that worldwide it destroys our lives and families with its poverty, exploitation and wars. Therefore it's worth it to fight for a new communist world, in which we will not be seen as a pair of strong arms, but as human beings.

To Stop India's Fascist BJP and Chinese Imperialism:

COMMUNISM IS WORKERS' ONLY OPTION

The newly elected government in India, led by fascist BJP and its Prime Minister Modi, was congratulated by the Chinese Premier Li Ke-qiang. A similar call from Obama was politely ignored. Barely a week after the formation of the new government in India, the Chinese premier Keqiang will be in New Delhi to promote a "robust relationship" between the "two giants" India and China. Premier Keqiang said, "China and India are important neighbors to each other and the top two emerging markets in the world. China-India relations have moved beyond the bilateral scope and have taken on global strategic significance."

The rise of the Modi-led fascist government in India takes place against the background of a very rapid US decline globally, especially in Afghanistan and Iraq, which are closer to India. China is now India's leading trading partner and, to cement their strategic tie with India, China is expected to allow India to export more goods. One of the key supporters of the Modi government is an Indian multinational, the Adani Group. The Adani Group specializes in power generation and ports. Many Adani projects were either financed or built with Chinese infrastructure. When Modi was campaigning for the recent elections, the Adani Group provided a fleet of luxury airplanes for Modi's travel.

The rise of Indian multinationals such as Adani

Group not only requires Chinese finance but Chinese influence around the world. The giant power plant owned by the Adani Group relies on coal from South Africa, Australia and Indonesia – all heavily indebted to China. The Adani group plans to sell electricity to neighboring Pakistan. China is also a crucial partner for India to implement an oil pipeline from Iran.

The alliances among capitalist bosses are unstable because the profit they seek creates crisis and uncertainty. The Indian ruling class built and nurtured the fascist movement to bargain hard with both the rising Chinese bosses and weak US imperialists. By unleashing racism and terror against the minority Muslim workers they have come to power. Police, judges and government officials who supported racist massacres are given leadership positions in the new fascist government. Just as in Nazi Germany, history books are being rewritten to glorify Hindu fanaticism.

As the tide of fascism rises, the working class is also gathering its strength. "A call to arms now," is how an angry worker reacted when two young girls were gang-raped and lynched in the heartland of Hindu fascism. The fatal mistake of the old communist movement not to destroy wage slavery eventually misled the working class into

nationalism and acceptance of the bosses' dictatorship. The working class is desperately looking for leadership to destroy the very foundation of capitalism.

Exposing Modi's fascism alone will not liberate the working class. The International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) has been patiently struggling to win workers and students in India to fight for communist revolution by joining our party. The working class has no other option to fight for the world we need. India has the world's second-largest standing army, comprised of soldiers who come from the most oppressed working class families. Our goal is to win these soldiers to unite with the working class to smash the capitalist profit system and build communism.



India Bank Tellers Strike 2014

IMPERIALISM: #1 PERPETRATOR OF SEXISM

The recent kidnapping of over 300 girls in Nigeria by Boko Haram, and the threat to sell them as slaves, has created international outrage and anger. This barbaric act pales in comparison to the atrocities committed by US imperialism in last 50 years. During the Vietnam war, then defense secretary McNamara encouraged the Thai government to create 'Rest and Recreation' facilities in Thailand for US troops. This policy resulted in widespread prostitution in Thailand and the brutal rape of hundreds of thousands of girls.



Bomber Pilot--Vietnam

To build the 'Rest and Recreation' resort facilities, the Thai government borrowed heavily from international banks. By the early 1980's, the Thai government was in severe debt and unable to make loan payments. The IMF and World Bank forced the Thai government to institutionalize sex tourism

to pay this debt. This policy not only enslaved millions of Thai girls and women into prostitution, it also forced girls from neighboring countries like Myanmar, Lagos, and Cambodia into deadly prostitution. The IMF has implemented the Thai model of paying debt by sex tourism in Brazil, Nicaragua, Russia, Eastern Europe, and Ghana, among other places.

The division of labor and the oppression of women began with class society. The capitalist wage system super-exploits women workers while exploiting all workers. Capitalism insures that sexist violence against women takes many different forms. For example, in India to boost agriculture output to feed the growing urban working class, capitalist bosses introduced high yield hybrid seeds in rural farms. The increased debt for more

costly food production forces men to migrate to cities to work and women in rural areas to take more responsibility to grow food. But the hybrid seeds require pesticides and fertilizers in large quantity. The rural households can only sustain their farms by borrowing money from banks. It is estimated that every year over 100,000 young women in rural India commit suicide by consuming pesticide because they cannot pay their debts.

Working women and men deserve a different society. We need to smash the foundation of wage slavery, which breeds sexist violence, degradation and super-exploitation. Vietnamese communist women gave valiant leadership in the struggle against the French and US imperialist invaders. Throughout history women workers won to communism have played a crucial role. Our party is determined to carry on this important struggle from South Africa to El Salvador and every corner in the world.

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

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LETTERS

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CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

May 27--Protests erupted in Barcelona, Spain, against the closing of CanVies, a community center which had operated outside the bosses' laws for the past seventeen years. Rioting in this working-class district over a period of several days threatened to disrupt the tourism industry in Barcelona, and brought a vicious police response.

Working-class youth in Barcelona, like all over Europe, have faced soaring unemployment rates since the global economic crisis began in 2007. (The Spanish bosses admit to a 50% youth unemployment rate.) This violent protest is taking place in the context of nation-wide protests against the monarchy and continent-wide protests against the austerity agenda of the G-7 Summit in Brussels.

Hatred of capitalism is a mass sentiment in these protests. ICWP is working with these youth to win them to communism. (see letter below)



Spain: Don't Be Fooled by Fake "Left"

Today, as usual at election time, the political parties sell their souls to the devil.

The PSOE (Socialist Party of Spain) criticizes the ruling PP (Popular Party, Spain's right-wing party) for actions like cuts in health care, education, infrastructure, and social security. The PP, in turn, claims a miraculous "success" of getting out of the economic crisis, the biggest lie that we live today.

But now other opponents have appeared on the scene: the party PODEMOS (We Can) which until now has refused to call themselves a political Party, but instead a Platform, whose program includes all types of citizen proposals.

Amidst this struggle among capitalists, obviously the fake left and the right wing of Spain have stolen the people's money, but we also have to talk about the new ones: PODEMOS. At first their platform called itself "radical leftist," calling for unconditional support for platforms like that of 15-M and various collectives of the Occupy movements in Spain.

They also emphasized that everything will move and be operated according to the collectives and their needs. But now PODEMOS has participated in the elections for the European parliament, winning 5 seats. They promised to leave the Eurozone, and to create better programs to help the neediest. Now, after seeing themselves as moderate winners, their discourse with one "depends." Now they talk of "common sense."

It is clear that capitalist political parties everywhere on the planet will never be the solution to the workers' problems. They always make promises that later they forget, or afterwards are simply not convenient for their pocket books. The capitalists are always in motion to create new fake "left" tendencies and thus try to stop the advance of the masses.

The International Communist Workers' Party always proposes an internationalist vision about these serious problems, when seeing the masses fooled by all the capitalist propaganda. We bring communist ideas to the working class in a mass way. This includes talking about these deceptions and being self-critical in the collectives, studying *Red Flag*, discussing how we address the issues and how we communists carry them out in action. The clubs, the main basis for our advance, should train leaders to bring the ideas everywhere in an organized way to defeat the false ideas of democracy.

Let's fight for communism and defeat capitalism with more members in our ranks. Let's fight for Communism because it is the only political line to get out of the crisis, racism, sexism, and wage slavery in which capitalism keeps us.

--Comrade in Spain

Discussing communism with my family, through Red Flag

I visited my family and brought them *Red Flag* for the first time. There hadn't been a chance to discuss the paper with them before. One of my brothers read it and when I visited them again, he asked what it was about.

I told him that *Red Flag* is a communist paper, written by workers in different countries. It shows how bad the capitalist system is for the working class and lets us know how workers are fighting for the destruction of capitalism and the construction of communism.

He said that he had already heard of communism. I asked his opinion about what he had read in *Red Flag*. He said that in *Red Flag* he read ideas that are very good for the working class, but he thought that the distribution of *Red Flag* is dangerous because the repressive government is watching the workers, and that we should be careful.

On this last point, we discussed how governments defend the interests of the bosses. We communists are aware of that and we should learn to take security measures, but it is worth it because only communism will liberate the workers from exploitation.

He commented that it will be hard to get to communism, because his experiences working in government programs training older women had made him realize that it's complicated to change ideas and to get people to be responsible. Also, when one talks to them about new ideas or about organizing, many people just expect to get something from you.

I told him that the capitalist system has educated the workers with individualistic ideas. Through its material base, which is money, it has instilled the idea that we shouldn't organize ourselves if there are no economic benefits. However, the ICWP is educating people with communist ideas, struggling to get rid of individualistic ideas, inspiring an organization without narrow economic interests, to destroy capitalism and build communism.

We discussed that the destruction of capitalism might be slow, but this will depend on how quickly we spread communist ideas. The majority of people don't want to keep being exploited. This shows that they are against the system, but they lack the communist ideas needed to fight for the destruction of capitalism.

I told him that in many parts of the world, like in South Africa, many workers have recently joined ICWP because they have personally suffered from exploitation. They have learned that we shouldn't fight for reforms within the system, but that the only solution for the working class is communism. Lastly, we talked about how important it is for him to keep reading *Red Flag*, because in that way he will understand the reality of the capitalist system, which ex-

ploits and creates class differences everywhere in the world.

--Comrade in Mexico

FMLN = More Capitalism! We Need ICWP

EL SALVADOR, May 28— "We are three days away from the inauguration of the new President!" This was said excitedly by someone who was with some friends.

One of them answered him immediately. "Yes, so that everything will be the same." The discussion concluded with this comment. The first only smiled and said weakly and resignedly, "There's no other choice."

The next weekend there was a gala inauguration of the President-elect Sánchez Cerén of the FMLN. What do the election and this inauguration mean for a new five year term? Simply the continuation of the inhuman capitalist system.

History has shown us that voting and periodic elections have never given the results the working class needs, only reforms that don't change anything so that exploitation marches on. Thus elections mask the reality of the poverty that capitalism creates. They are displayed in the media, also under the command of the oppressor class, the bourgeoisie.

Comrades, hearing this exchange of words is a call to continue unceasingly in our struggle, the struggle of all. Capitalism is responsible for killing the hopes and aspirations of humans, making them believe that the way we live now is the way we will always live, and that there is nothing we can do about it. There are workers who are outwardly resigned, who think that there is nothing that can be done, and that's not true. Everything remains to be done.

The electoral political parties of the "Left" sell themselves as the solution to these evils. But it's not true. The accelerating rightward movement of these parties is clear and irreversible. They are now leading accomplices in the betrayal of all who have fallen in the struggles that they now praise hypocritically.

An X on a voting form does not change anything. Only the masses under the *Red Flag* of ICWP can achieve the world that we so long for and for which millions have fought.

Workers of the world, women and men, we have a duty to history and to the future. It is not about putting ourselves in front of a cardboard box and electing someone to diplomatically administer bourgeois exploitation. It is about organizing ourselves and mobilizing the masses for communism, because this is the only way to shed our chains. Let's stop being pawns in this deadly game. We will continue advancing and on the way we will meet each other and march together towards communism.

--Young Comrade

LETTERS

LETTERS

LETTERS

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

To End Sexist Violence: Fight for Communism

Class society has only existed for ten thousand years. Before that, for about two hundred thousand years, human beings lived in nomadic gathering and hunting societies.

The archeological record and the evidence of societies like the !Kung San in the Kalahari Desert of southern Africa show that these societies practiced a fierce egalitarianism. People, being nomads, had few possessions. Food and water had to be shared for the survival of the group. Children were raised collectively. Women had as much access to food, protection, and social support as men did.

The emergence of agriculture, private property in the means of production, and class society brought with it the beginnings of the oppression of women.

Sexism is not innate; men and women in

pre-class society lived in mutual respect and cooperation. The oppression of women is the product of class society.

I need to remember that, because I, like every other woman I know, am deeply angry.

We are angry at the violence that has been visited on women and girls around the world, from the schoolgirls in Nigeria, to the cousins raped and hanged in Uttar Pradesh, India, to the women (and men) killed in Santa Barbara, USA. Millions of women have responded in anger, echoing the fear of women around the world that we will be the recipients of sexist violence. Millions of men have responded in solidarity.

Sexism doesn't exist on its own. It intensifies the racist oppression created by capitalism—a system where the rich and powerful

maintain their position by increasing the exploitation and oppression of the masses.

I want a world where our nieces, daughters and granddaughters will be respected. And I want a world where our nephews, sons and grandsons are taught to see women as comrades and equals.

The only way to achieve that is to be clear about the cause of sexism and sexist violence—class society—and the solution—a communist world, without money and exploitation, where we work together for the common good and share what we produce.

That's where our anger—and the anger of our brothers and male comrades—must be focused. Fight for communism!

--A comrade

SALINAS, CA—On May 20th, the police murdered Carlos Mejia, 44. They were caught on video shooting him to death as he was trying to walk away. That night and the next, over 1000 people gathered to protest the racist cops. On Sunday, May 25, thousands, including many farmworkers and their families, marched against the racist cops. It was the third police murder in 3 months. Politicians called for Federal investigation of the police. But the growers and all bosses use their cops to terrorize workers to super-exploit them.

“I came out today because you never rest,” said Salinas resident Maria Marquez. “The police cars are out everywhere. Our family, our children, are out on the streets and we don't know if they are safe. It has to end one way or another.” This will end by masses of angry workers joining ICWP to fight for communist revolution to wipe out the racist murderous profit system, building a communist system to meet workers' needs.



Understanding Dialectics: THE INTERNAL IS PRIMARY

I was glad to see the article on dialectics in the last *Red Flag* by a collective of comrades from Mexico. Their article used concepts from dialectics to analyze various important contradictions in the world today.

Although the article makes many correct points, I think there is a better way to express some of them. In particular the article's use of the concept of “external contradiction” leads to some confusions. The article defines “external contradictions” as those between social classes, and calls contradictions within a class as “internal.” I think that a better way to analyze contradictions is to see them all as internal to some system or process.

Contradictions between classes are internal to the capitalist system and imperialist rivalries are internal to the international capitalist class. Contradictions like racist or sexist conflicts can exist inside the working class. Contradictions like wanting to overthrow capitalism and also wanting to become a boss are sometimes present inside an individual worker.

There are several reasons that it is important to see all these contradictions as internal. Contradictions can only happen when the two sides have some kind of unity. The contradiction is a struggle inside this unity.

Some important principles of dialectics make use of the fact that all contradictions are internal to something. Dialectics explains change as happening from internal causes, that is, from contradictions. Marx's statement that human history is the record of class struggle illustrates this idea.

Mechanical materialism, the opposite of dia-

lectics, says that change in something is only caused from the outside. The dialectical principle “Internal contradictions are primary” says that the main causes of change in any system or process are internal, although external circumstances can make a difference as well.

Although causes are internal, when systems are contained inside other systems, we need to focus on the right system. The cause of a particular worker's being unemployed is not usually internal to the worker. Instead the worker's unemployment probably results from the momentary needs of some group of bosses, within the capitalist system.

The difficult question of how to understand contradictory systems inside larger contradictory systems is the difficulty that the article's authors are wrestling with. *Red Flag* should have more articles that make dialectical analyses of our movement and the system we fight against.

--Dialectics Fan

“Think and act as you and me, instead of you or me”

It is heart-wrenching to see a positive working attitude vanishing little by little. It is obvious that new employees don't see driving a bus as a long-term career. Management in its efforts to increase efficiency, aided by our supposed defenders union leaders, has crossed the threshold in demoralizing the drivers, especially the new ones.

Older drivers see where most of the company's growth has been. They no longer think it is a good company to work for and are getting ready to leave. The only message new drivers get is, “Be glad you got a job!”

An incentive for working at MTA was that, if you started young as a driver, after 23 years of service you could retire. Now you are forced to work until 60 years of age, regardless of years of service. If the environment isn't employee positive, studies show that after 7 years the employee's productivity and efficiency greatly decrease, not to mention the negative psychological effects on them.

When the rulers (management) and their assistants (union leaders) lose their senses, then the ruled must come to their senses. If we are dissatisfied, we must act. The Contract and Elections are around the corner. Every long journey requires a first step. Let us stop making excuses. Our present actions will dictate the future that we deserve. The Present is a product of our past; our future will be a product of our present.

Let's start thinking and start acting as you and me, instead of you or me. If we act, there is a chance to succeed or fail but if we do not act, we would have failed automatically. If plan “A” does not work, the alphabet has 25 more letters. Smart people know that there is a lot to learn, and that, there was a time when they did not know what they know now. When smart people get criticized, they learn from it.

We have to get out of denial and face what is not working for us, no matter how uncomfortable or challenging it may be. To succeed we must take action. Our words say how we think, our actions say who we are.

If we do not act, it is like giving our consent to be neglected and harassed. Those who are not willing to help others will never be able to help themselves.

--An MTA Operator

WORKING CLASS UNITY

Exposes Capitalism's Weakness

TV Lies about the Communists in the Anti-Nazi Resistance

Escape from Sobibor teaches an important political lesson of unity and courage which is an inspiration to the entire working class.

The movie, however, leaves out a key feature of the rebellion, and of anti-Nazi resistance all over: the crucial role of Communists. The movie features a young woman named Luka who Sasha Pechersky pretended to be in love with so he could conspire with the other planners of the escape. But it leaves out that Luka, the daughter of a German communist, had refused under torture to tell the Nazis where her father had escaped to—when she was only eight years old.

The movie also leaves out the key role played by a Polish Communist named Solomon Leitman who served as interpreter and liaison between the Polish Feldhandler and the Russian soldier Pechersky.

Readers who want to know more about this could read Pechersky's account in Yuri Suhl's *They Fought Back*, Richard Rashke's book *Escape from Sobibor*, or Allan Merson's *Communist Resistance in Nazi Germany*. They would learn of the underground networks of resistance, the communist leaflets, graffiti, neighborhood and on-the-job actions throughout occupied Europe, the bravery—and mistakes—made in this struggle to the death against capitalism and fascism.

It's no surprise that a movie shown on TV in the US would leave out the role of communists. But our critique of the communist movement in the 20th century—that they didn't get rid of the system that breeds fascism—shouldn't lead us to making that mistake. Their heroism and principled class struggle provide us with plenty of lessons we can learn for the fight ahead for a communist world.



The picture above, drawn from memory by a survivor of the Saschenhausen Concentration Camp near Berlin, shows Communist prisoners (identified by the red triangles on their uniforms) secretly performing surgery by candlelight on a Jewish prisoner (identified by his yellow Star-of-David). It shows the unity of Jewish and Communist prisoners in the Resistance.

MOVIE REVIEW: ESCAPE FROM SOBIBOR

Escape from Sobibor is a 1987 British-made film that aired on television in the USA shortly after being produced. It is the **story of a mass escape from a Nazi death camp in Sobibor on October 14, 1943**. The full movie is available on YouTube <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DNjRR9Sfl2c>.

Jews have often been accused of going to their deaths during the Holocaust like “sheep to the slaughter,” but this wasn't true. Many resisted; however, **their resistance is often left out of our school history books**. Instead we are mostly presented with stories of individuals or of small families dying or simply surviving the Holocaust.

Escape from Sobibor and stories of the Anti-Nazi resistance are important lessons of our capacity to fight back especially when united. **The mass escape from Sobibor was only made possible because prisoners lived and identified as a collective**. Individual resistance often failed and often meant retaliation by the SS who would kill twenty, thirty, or more for the defiance of one. **Prisoners at Sobibor valiantly and against all odds decided to change their situation despite extreme control and power over them**.

First Lieutenant Alexander “Sasha” Pechersky as well as a few of his men planned and led the escape. Sasha was a Soviet prisoner of war. He had been sent to the eastern front in October 1941, but had been captured near Viazma. After having been transferred to several camps, the Nazis discovered that he was Jewish, and sent him to Sobibor.

Sasha made a big impression on the other prisoners of Sobibor. Leon Feldhendler, who had been discussing escape with a group of other prisoners, now found someone who not only had the military background to plan an escape, but also someone who could inspire confidence in the prisoners. There were 600 prisoners at Sobibor and about half of them escaped.

Next time we are discouraged by the reality that those that oppress us have a lot of power over us, let us remember the prisoners at Sobibor. **Divided we are weak, but united we are unstoppable!**

We must work together to form worker, student, and soldier unity. Some believe that the odds of overthrowing capitalism are too great. However, if we **unite under one flag, one party, one class, we CAN and WILL overthrow our oppressors and change the world. THE ONLY SOLUTION IS COMMUNIST REVOLUTION**



ALL OF US OR NONE

By Berthold Brecht (1945)

Slave, who is it that shall free you?
Those in deepest darkness lying.
Comrade, only these can see you
Only they can hear you crying.
Comrade, only slaves can free you.

Everything or nothing.

All of us or none.

One alone his lot can't better.

Either gun or fetter.

Everything or nothing.

All of us or none. ★

You who hunger, who shall feed you?
If it's bread you would be craving,
Come to us, we too are starving.
Come to us and let us lead you.
Only hungry men can feed you.

Everything or nothing.

All of us or none.

One alone his lot can't better.

Either gun or fetter.

Everything or nothing.

All of us or none. ★

Beaten man, who shall avenge you?
You, on whom the blows are falling,
Hear your wounded brothers calling.
Weakness gives us strength to lend you.

Come to us, we shall avenge you.

Everything or nothing.

All of us or none.

One alone his lot can't better.

Either gun or fetter.

Everything or nothing.

All of us or none. ★

Who, oh wretched one, shall dare it?
He who can no longer bear it.
Count the blows that arm his spirit.
Taught the time by need and sorrow,
Strikes today and not tomorrow.

Everything or nothing.

All of us or none.

One alone his lot can't better.

Either gun or fetter.

Everything or nothing.

All of us or none.