

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

Teachers
Protest in
Tegucigalpa,
Honduras



WORKERS NEED COMMUNISM, NOT TRADE UNIONISM

BETRAYED LOCKHEED STRIKERS MUST CHANGE RULES OF THE GAME

FORT WORTH, TX, June 28 -- Mark Blondin, International Vice President of the International Association of Machinists (IAM), recommended that Lockheed strikers accept the new contract that would eliminate traditional pensions for newly hired workers.

"It was a victory for the company, which had pushed for the pension change to cut costs [for profits and the Pentagon]," reported the New York Times after the contract was railroaded through, ending a ten-week strike.

Texas Lockheed workers would have been better served had they responded the same way Seattle Boeing workers did to Blondin's plans to postpone our strike four years ago. When he and District president Wroblewski announced that they were holding off the strike at the request of the Washington State governor, union members pummeled them with

chicken bones and water bottles. They were forced to flee the stage.

Not only did the Texas strikers lose pensions for the next generation, but also, returning workers will face strict new work rules.

For example, cellphones and music players are forbidden in production areas. Phone calls, text messages are banned. Forget about using these devices for family emergencies!

Food won't be allowed in work areas. Even ad-hoc break areas will be dismantled.

Petty attendance rules will now be enforced. You're in trouble if you are a minute late from breaks or lunch. You'd better be already working at the beginning of the shift and work to the whistle at the end of the shift.

Lockheed plans to use this petty harassment to force people to retire, replacing them with lower paid young workers. Then the

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RED FLAG TAKES A STEP FORWARD IN HONDURAS

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS, June 28— "We reproduced *Red Flag* and now we're passing it out," said a comrade. "There, the workers in the march have it already," said another. The distribution of communist literature, our newspaper, presents itself as the real alternative for the Honduran working class: to put an end to the blight of capitalism and to expose the rhetoric of the union leaders who prefer to sit down to negotiate with the oppressors of our class instead of fighting for revolution.

Thousands of workers mobilized in Tegucigalpa to demonstrate against the new escalation of repression against the working class by the government of Porfirio Lobo, the president elected in Honduras after the coup three years ago.

In the enormous mobilization on June 28, in which students, teachers, farmworkers, men and women workers from the cities participated,

we comrades from ICWP were also present to distribute our newspaper *Red Flag*. This is an expansion of the process of organization being generated in Honduras, to undertake a sharp struggle to destroy brutal capitalism and build a communist society.

Thousands of teachers mobilized, shouting slogans denouncing the disappearance and murder of teachers and the debt that government owes to thousands of teachers whose wages they stole.

But the Honduran teachers shouldn't have illusions that reforms can come with the coming of other, supposedly lesser evil, governments, which promise improvements to the workers. This is the mistake of the teachers who are promoting, through a new political electoral party, Liberty and Refoundation (LIBRE), the candidacy of Xiomara Zelaya (wife of deposed President Zelaya), as the alternative that

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Mexican Elections: U.S. Bosses Imposing Their Plans for World War

WORKERS NEED COMMUNISM

With every passing day, it is more and more obvious that there is only one class and one system capable of meeting the aspirations and needs of the masses of the world. That class is the working class and that system is communism! Capitalism-imperialism has been around for too long. It is time for our class to stride victoriously onto the stage of history and sweep this “unending house of horrors” from the face of the earth forever.

The times, however, are fraught with tremendous dangers as well as opportunities. Every major event in today’s world can be linked to the deepening crisis of capitalism and the bosses’ need for fascism, wider wars and world war. The July 1st Mexican elections are a case in point.

Survival of Pemex crucial to Mexican and US bosses

Mexico, always strategically important to US imperialism, is now more important than ever. In times of global war, its proximity can guarantee the US bosses an abundant supply of crucial natural resources, especially oil, a large industrial base for war production, and a large, young workforce to slave in those factories for low wages or to join their imperialist army.

The main bone of contention in the Mexican electoral circus was Pemex, the Mexican national oil company, the world’s second largest oil company. Ever since they were kicked out in 1938, the US oil majors have been trying very hard to get the Mexican government to privatize Pemex.

Peña Nieto’s victory over Obrador, staunchly opposed to Pemex’s privatization, seems to set the final stage for the US bosses’ privatization scheme. During his campaign, Peña Nieto stated that his top three priorities would be energy, fiscal and labor reform. The last two are intimately related to the first.

To privatize Pemex, Peña Nieto needs to change the constitution. This will require a 50 plus majority in the Senate and a 2/3 majority in Congress. With Josefina Vazquez Mota, the candidate for the governing party, PAN, also supporting privatization, garnering the required votes seems more likely than ever.

**Mexico Stability
Vital For US
Imperialists’ Plans
Pemex oil production**

has been declining rapidly since 2004. If drilling continues at the same rate, it is feared that Mexico will be importing oil by 2020. This would be a national catastrophe since Pemex contributes 40% of the Mexican government budget.

Without Pemex’ contribution to the government, Mexico, already a tinder box, with 40% of its 114 million people living with less than \$5 a day, would explode. The instability and chaos thus created – with its great potential for a communist revolutionary movement to grow exponentially – would destabilize, not only the US, but the whole continent.

To avoid this scenario, the Mexican oil industry must be privatized in order to get the capital and technology needed to exploit reserves which are more expensive and technologically challenging to extract.

Fiscal Reform: US-Mexican Rulers Disciplining Their Own Class

Pemex pays \$65 billion in taxes yearly, while the rest of the 100 largest Mexican and foreign corporations only pay \$6.5 billion. Once privatized, much of Pemex’s revenues will be for increasing oil production, and as dividends to investors. Peña Nieto’s fiscal reform will force all bosses in Mexico to pay higher taxes to make up for the shortfall.

We can also expect the working class to pay for the “shortfall” with higher taxes and cutbacks in governmental services.

Peña Nieto’s Labor Reform: Fascist



Disciplining of the Working Class

Pemex has a unionized force of some 150,000 workers. They are the highest-paid Mexican workers, with generous benefits and pensions. By 2019, the company could face a \$115 billion pension shortfall because of insufficient funds to pay benefits owed to tens of thousands of retiring workers.

Peña Nieto’s reform will target the oil workers’ union—to drastically reduce their wages, benefits and pensions. He is further consolidating the fascist military state US rulers and their Mexican allies have been imposing with their “war on drugs.” Pledging to continue working closely with the US, he said, “We will widen our fight on organized crime, fighting drug trafficking.”

Obrador: Just Another Servant of Capitalism

Obrador represents a sector of the Mexican capitalist class that wants a bigger share of the loot that all the imperialists and their Mexican allies steal from the Mexican working class. Illusions in Obrador stand between the working class and communism. We need to shed these dangerous illusions as well as illusions in the bosses’ whole electoral circus and their “rule of law.”

Mexican workers and all workers, soldiers, students and their allies have a historic task to accomplish: to destroy capitalism-imperialism with a communist revolution and build a communist world without money, the bosses and their divisive ideologies of racism, sexism and patriotism. Join International Communist Workers’ Party to hasten the bosses’ last days.



Mexican students protesting the PRI must shed their illusions in elections

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workers in Honduras will favor. But no matter who is elected, there will be the same exploitation and climate of terror that the capitalist system is imposing on the working class. That’s why it’s necessary to retake the road of mobilizing the masses for communism.

During these efforts, comrades from other countries joined in. Teacher readers from other parts of the country also met together after the demonstration to plan more communist work in Honduras. “I still have the copy of *Red Flag* that you gave me,” said one friend. The purpose of this meeting was to talk about how to fight the reformist role of the unions and how they assume

the role of servants of the bosses, how to fight reformism with communist revolution and to show that workers’ struggles have no borders.

Honduran comrades have taken up the task of spreading the ideas that will lead to the advance of communism. This is an important step that ICWP is taking in Honduras, with the activation of clubs and proletarian action.



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

FARMWORKERS NEED COMMUNIST PRODUCTION, NOT HANDOUTS

A *Red Flag* reader commented, among other things, that in spite of all the bad things that Cesar Chávez did, he did one good thing: to fight for unemployment insurance for farmworkers. When we told him that this hadn't been Cesar Chávez's idea and explained how it was achieved, the reader couldn't believe it.

Before the second Convention of the United Farmworkers' Union in California in 1972, some delegates talked to Cesar Chávez, then president of the union, about the need to fight for unemployment insurance for farmworkers. Cesar Chávez said categorically that the union would



GARMENT WORKERS MUST FIGHT TO END WAGE SLAVERY

When we tell garment workers, and others, that communism will have no bosses, many ask: If there are no bosses, who will employ us? But, the real question we should ask ourselves is: How can we workers end capitalism's wage slavery?

Under capitalism, we workers are wage slaves, which means that for a wage, and for a given number of hours a day, we sell our labor power to the capitalists. During that time, they treat us like they own us. We are forced to do what they order us to do, not what we want or need to do.

Today's factories and places of work are like the plantations and mines where slaves toiled: they are jails which we can only leave with the bosses' permission, otherwise we can be fired.

The crack of the whip forced slaves to work. We are forced with the threat of being fired. In many factories, the bosses use assembly lines to force workers to continuously work at accelerated rates. In garment, to speed us up, the bosses use the piece rate, like at Jean Mart; or the modular system like at American Apparel.

In slavery, the slaves could see and feel the slave master's chains and whip and knew they were slaves. They could also see clearly that the master lived from their exploitation and that they did not need the slave master. That's why they ran away or organized to get rid of the master.

We, the wage slaves, can't see our slavery with the same clarity. Our chains, the wages that bind us to the bosses, are almost invisible. Besides, the bosses make us believe that we are free because we supposedly have the "freedom" to leave a job or a boss that we don't like.

But, that is only an illusion, because we always end up enslaved



not waste its time fighting for this, because if they got it, the workers wouldn't want to fight any more. They argued with Chávez that what the farmworkers would get as unemployment insurance wouldn't be a fortune to make them stop fighting back.

The delegates couldn't understand why Chávez so strongly opposed fighting for unemployment insurance for farmworkers. However, when the convention arrived, the delegates who had talked with Chávez about this came to the convention. With the help of other delegates, they had the opportunity to present the proposition that the union should fight for unemployment insurance for farmworkers. The proposition was approved unanimously by the 300-plus delegates present. Soon after that, farmworkers became eligible and received unemployment insurance.

However, unemployment insurance, as helpful as it is, doesn't resolve the workers' problems. It's only a small benefit among many that workers have won through their struggles and that the bosses constantly attack. In a capitalist system, no victory won by the workers can end exploitation. Only when we make a communist revolution and have a communist society will

the workers no longer need strikes or struggles to win what is ours. It is we workers who produce everything and production in communism must be to meet the needs of the working class, sharing everything together in scarcity and in abundance, with programs of distribution well organized by the mass party of the working class, the International Communist Workers' Party.

In the agricultural sector in California, for example, in some places, ironically, the families receive every month from the State a small box of food as charity, because you can't really call it "aid" given the small amount they receive. While the families receive this charity every month, the workers, men and women, produce tons of grapes, almonds, oranges, vegetables, etc., every day, making millions and millions of dollars in profits for the bosses. And with the minimum wage that these workers are paid, they can only buy a very small part of what they themselves produce. That's why communism, without bosses, or money, where we produce only to meet the needs of the workers, is the only alternative to this way of life in which the workers are forced to live by asking for aid.



SPAIN: Thousands of workers went out to the main streets of Madrid in support of the miners who marched from Asturias against the cutbacks of President Rajoy.

by another boss. Contrary to the slave, we just don't have one master, but the whole capitalist class is our master.

Also, our exploitation is more hidden. It appears that we are not being exploited because the bosses supposedly "pay us for our work." The essence, however, is that we produce much more value than what the bosses pay us.

Here we can ask these questions: Who steals from whom? Who lives off whom?

As Los Angeles garment workers we each produce a minimum of \$150,000 a year. How much of that is ours? A pittance. The average yearly wage in the garment industry is \$15,000, without vacations, paid holidays, health benefits or pensions.

The stores' owners, the manufacturers and contractors and other bosses exploit us viciously, keeping the enormous amount of \$135,000. This is what they steal from what our labor produces. However, the bosses at Jean Mart, and many others factories, have the audacity to search us when we leave to make sure we don't "steal" anything.

The bosses are, however, the biggest thieves in history. They are parasites that live from sucking our blood. They enslave us because they own the means of production, and if we don't work for them we can't survive. That is why the appearance is that without them we can't live. The

essence, however, is the opposite. They live from our labor. Without us they are nothing.

We can and we will live without the bosses. That is why we are organizing a communist revolution to destroy them, their lackeys and their money. Then the means of production will collectively belong to the international working class and we shall use them to collectively produce to satisfy our needs.

Who is going to hire us in a communist society? No one. There won't be bosses or jobs. Jobs mean wage slavery. We are only going to have communist collective work to contribute to society according to our abilities and commitment.

For example, we workers will produce the clothes, the food, the homes, the health care services, etc. that everyone needs. Then, collectively we will distribute what we contribute according to need.

In today's world there are over 1.2 billion unemployed workers because the capitalists can't employ them and make a profit. Under communism these arms and brains will be welcomed so that we may produce more, work less and live better.

Communism is the future of the working class and of humanity. Let's join the International Communist Workers' Party and let's help shape our future.

“Obamacare” is no solution

WORKERS’ HEALTH DEMANDS COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

Our most basic need is for health. That requires clean water and air, nourishing food, adequate housing and sanitation, social relationships that sustain us, and meaningful work. We need both physical and mental activity that develops and doesn’t drain us. When accidents or illnesses happen, we need care using the most appropriate science and technology.

Capitalist society allows us none of these things. The masses can’t get what we need to stay healthy, and we can’t get the care we need when we’re sick. Even when care is available, there’s a huge contradiction between what’s best for the patient and what’s best for the pocketbooks of the huge medical/pharmaceutical industry.

The answer is not “Obamacare” or “single-payer” health insurance or even a “national health care” system like those in other capitalist countries. How can we remove inequality and the profit motive from health care and assure that our basic needs are met? Only by ending capitalism by mobilizing the masses for communism.

“Mandate To Buy Coverage: Health Insurance Industry’s Idea, Not Obama’s” – Forbes, 6/17/2012

“Obamacare” rests on an “individual mandate” requiring each household to buy health insurance or pay a penalty. This was first proposed in 1989 by free-market cheerleaders from the Heritage Foundation. Republicans proposed two such bills in 1993, and a bipartisan bill was introduced in 2007. Obamacare is mainly designed to meet the needs of the dominant capitalist-imperialist class.

Insurance companies will profit hugely from young, healthy workers now required to buy insurance. This more than compensates them for no

longer being able to completely deny coverage to sick people. AHIP (America’s Health Insurance Plans), the major industry lobby, has actively promoted the “individual mandate” and other features of Obamacare since 2008.

Obamacare will make US industries more competitive globally by shifting costs onto individual workers and working-class taxpayers. “For General Motors, health care costs add \$1,525 to the price of every car that leaves the lot, and the company estimates that it spent \$5.2 billion on health care benefits in 2004, more than it paid for steel,” wrote conservative analyst Igor Volsky in 2008.

Employee health benefits are already under sharp attack. Public and private employers are shrinking the union workforce, shifting costs onto workers, and implementing two-tier systems. Obamacare is likely to speed up this process.

Some low-income families are supposed to benefit from the Medicaid extension to families making less than \$15,000 annually—but not all states will participate. Those making \$15,000 - \$45,000 may get federal subsidies. Twelve million undocumented immigrants will be excluded from Medicaid, and the insurance “exchanges” and won’t get subsidies. And questions remain about how good will the insurance plans be and how much we’ll pay out-of-pocket.

Will patients still face long waits and unnecessary tests, procedures, and medications? Will many still lack the resources needed to stay healthy, and the care they need when sick? Will the rich still get better care than the rest? Definitely.

Having insurance doesn’t mean that doctors,

clinics, and hospitals will accept the insurance benefit as “payment in full.” Masses in the US – especially black and latin workers – will still lack access to adequate health care, whether or not they are insured.

Health Care Reform: Preparation for Imperialist War

The “broken” US health care system, like the “broken” immigration system, directly attacks the working class. But these systems also represent contradictions for the US capitalist-imperialist rulers as they prepare a generation for world war.

Widespread unhealthiness already creates problems for military recruitment. All-out war will require a massive military draft, meaning a healthier draft-age population more committed to US capitalism-imperialism. The bosses hope that Obamacare, immigration reform, and anti-obesity campaigns will accomplish these goals. But clearly, escalating wars mean more injuries, illness, and deaths among the masses.

The outrageous profits reaped by capitalists in the health/medical/insurance sectors also aggravate the general crisis of the capitalist system. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation (April, 2011), “Health spending is rising faster than incomes in most developed countries.” The US “spends much more per capita on health care” and has “one of the highest spending growth rates.” Still, the US “does not achieve better outcomes on many important health measures.”

The sick capitalist system can’t be healed even by the most drastic reforms. We need communist revolution to bury it forever. The next article will discuss how communism will keep the masses healthy.

COMRADES BRING RED FLAG TO WALMART PROTEST

LOS ANGELES, CA, June 30 —Thousands marched against the construction of a Walmart store in Chinatown. The Los Angeles County Federation of Labor and community groups organized the march. “It was pure reform,” commented one of the comrades who distributed hundreds of Red Flags to marchers. Unlike some union-sponsored demonstrations in the past, workers were eager for our communist newspaper, many crowding around **Red Flag** distributors.

The reform message was contradictory. Printed signs said “Walmart, RESPECT Workers Now” and “Change Walmart to Rebuild America.” There was nothing about stopping this or any other store. But the leading banner “Walmart = Poverty” spoke for many who seem to think that this one company – not capitalism – is the problem. They see “mom-

and-pop” businesses as the answer. Big mistake! The inner logic of capitalism dictates that bigger businesses drive out smaller ones, increasingly consolidating power in the hands of a small ruling class that drives the masses into misery. Our future depends on winning industrial workers and soldiers to mobilize the masses for communism.



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company will be free to eliminate traditional pensions for veteran workers as well.

The new regime is laid out in a nine-page document that the union posted. Machinist spokesman Robert Wood said the workplace rules were the company’s prerogative.

“They informed us they were going to do this,” Wood said. “We let our folks know.”

You Can Trust Union Leaders As Far As You Can Throw Them

Workers applauded when Blondin said the Machinists would never abandon the next generation of workers at the strike sanction vote before the last Seattle strike. At three meetings just weeks before this capitulation, about a

thousand Lockheed members of IAM District Lodge 776 reaffirmed their commitment to the strike.

What then has led to this change of heart? If the truth be told there never was a change of heart.

The IAM leadership believes in capitalism. Their trade union ideology means they have to support the bosses as capitalism enters a crisis.

As gratifying as it may be to chase these bosses’ labor lieutenants off the stage, even these more militant tactics have limited success. Four years after the chicken-bone incident, the Seattle union paper reads like company bulletins on increasing productivity and speed-up (more next issue).

Communism Changes Rules of the Game

The only worthwhile speed-up is speeding up the mobilization of masses for communism.

Communism won’t need traditional pension plans or stock market schemes. All will be provided according to our needs throughout our whole lives. All the society will ask in return is that everyone contributes to production collectively to the best of his or her ability and commitment.

Jobs that depend on the bosses’ ability to exploit us will be a thing of the past. Work will be organized according to the needs of the collective. No more petty bosses with petty rules.

The trade unions have no answer for the bosses’ crisis. Communism does--by changing the rules of the game.

The Bosses Plan to Bring Back the Draft

TIME TO MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM!

On June 29, General Stanley McChrystal, former top US commander in Afghanistan, called for a military and civilian draft. This is the first time in recent years that a high-ranking officer has called for the draft, opposing the all-volunteer army.

The bosses are pushing to mobilize millions of soldiers, workers, and youth to fight for the “national interest,” meaning the bosses’ interests, profit and empire. This must become an urgent call to mobilize the masses for our class interests. We must turn the bosses’ fascist attacks and wars into a fight for a communist society without bosses, exploitation or imperialist wars, a society where the masses mobilize to meet the needs of the international working class.

McChrystal cries crocodile tears about the troops whose multiple deployments are hard on families and have led many distraught soldiers to commit suicide. He doesn’t criticize the lack of care for returning soldiers with PTSD or the deployments themselves. He calls for the draft to spread the burden of expanding imperialist war

to millions of workers and our children.

Next Thomas Ricks, a fellow at Obama’s favorite think tank, the Center for New American Security, wrote in the *New York Times*, (7/10) “Let’s Draft Our Kids.”

Ricks, worried that the current army is spread too thin, calls for universal national service for men and women with three “options” for all 18-year-olds. The first is 18 months of military service, doing non-combat jobs with low pay and some tuition help. The second is the military “professional force” that does the fighting—for a little higher pay and benefits. The third would be two-year non-military slave-labor jobs: cleaning parks, schools, teaching, rebuilding the infrastructure, etc. Those who don’t do any of these wouldn’t be eligible for Medicare, college loans or mortgage guarantees.

Ricks emphasizes that the 18-year-old non-military conscripts would replace unionized workers in many jobs. This is a very sharp attack on the whole working class that would drastically bring down the wages and benefits of all government workers. Young conscripts to the military would get lower pay and the government wouldn’t have to pay for family military housing. Those eligible for military retirement benefits would have to serve ten more years than they do now. This is a fascist plan.

As usual, when the rulers attack the whole working class, they begin by viciously attacking one sector of our class. Obama’s first steps were his executive order to halt the deportation of 800,000 16-to-30-year-old undocumented youth, and his support of the DREAM Act and Comprehensive

Immigration Reform to force millions of undocumented youth and workers to be soldiers and low-paid factory workers for the bosses’ arms industries. With this comes a proposal for a national ID card that everyone in the US would have to present to get a job, proposed by Senators Charles Schumer and Lindsey Graham (*NYT* 7/2).

About 4 million youths turn 18 every year in the US. The fascist plan of “national service” is not new. Why do the bosses need it now? Because capitalism in crisis requires that they vastly cut all workers’ wages and conditions, as they plan and prepare for wider wars, possibly invading Syria and Iran and eventually confronting their main capitalist-imperialist rivals, China and Russia, in World War III.

The bosses need the military draft for vastly more troops. But they also fear rebellion inside their military as a result. So they call on all to “share the sacrifice.” In their build-up to world war, they must mobilize millions. Their “caring” rhetoric will be shown to be vicious lies as the realities of fascism and war become clear to masses of soldiers and workers.

Millions of angry workers, youth and soldiers must be motivated by the vision of a communist world to meet our class’ needs through a revolution to destroy imperialist wars and capitalist exploitation for good. Then these millions will fight alongside their parents, sisters and brothers in the military and factories to turn the guns on the war makers and mobilize for communism.

The coming draft, the DREAM Act and the bosses’ growing fascist attacks present an opportunity to mobilize masses of soldiers, workers and students for communism. This is more and more urgent and do-able as the bosses put their fascist plans into practice. Join the battle for our communist future!



Czarist soldiers played a crucial role in the Russian Revolution.

MISERY OF MISERIES: WHAT HAS THE ARMY DONE TO ME?

Eighty thousand are being relieved of their duties. Others are being forced to either learn a new skill or get out. Worker is pitted against worker, forced to compete in order to maintain his/her job. Senior officials are finding any excuse to fire those in lower level positions in order to take some of the pressure off themselves. Sounds like just another company trying to stay afloat, right?

Well, this isn’t just another company. This is the US Army doing this to soldiers. Now that the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are winding down, the Army is organizing a shake-up, a reorganization to cut costs and discipline its ranks. So how does it honor its soldiers, many of whom risked their lives in combat? It doesn’t, it simply sends them home. Soldiers of all professions, some with hope of retiring from the military with benefits someday, are kicked to the curb, to save money they’ll use to get ready for bigger wars to come, possibly wars against Iran, Syria and even a World War against China.



Those who aren’t getting fired aren’t in the clear either. One of the conditions being placed on many of the Non-Commissioned Officers (NCO’s) is that in order to extend their contract they must “re-class” (change jobs). It’s either you go where and do what the Army wants you to do or feel free to leave. For an organization that takes pride in calling itself the largest volunteer army in the world, it sure makes its base do a lot of involuntary things.

The ones being affected the most are those who went to combat. NCO’s with combat tours under their belts are being forced to compete against their battle buddies in order to maintain their jobs, being forced to relocate much sooner than expected. As well as take jobs that they did not want to do.

These NCO’s thought they had a “job for life.” They thought the Army was a “safe haven” where, true, you risk death but if you’re not killed you have a job and retirement benefits. Most come from the poorest sections of the working class: black and latin@ workers from poor urban neighborhoods and white workers from rural areas whose families once farmed but have been kicked off their farms by giant agricultural corporations. This is similar to their counterparts in many other countries. Capitalism-imperialism in crisis has no “safe haven” for the working class anywhere.

Due to this, many NCO’s are lashing out at privates. That’s a way to take pressure off themselves and their jobs. Many NCO’s are getting rid of and disciplining privates even at the training

levels. The method of choice is Article 15’s. Privates are now getting Article 15’s for every minor infraction. Things like chewing gum, which once earned a slap on the wrist, are now offenses which could lead to loss of money as well as rank. Because of this, some privates are exiting the army permanently.

Those who have suffered the most are those who have been killed or injured in Iraq and Afghanistan for the profits and empire of the capitalist bosses. Also, those who have come back from these wars with untreated PTSD are committing suicide once every 80 minutes! These are rank-and-file soldiers who can’t live with the horrors they have seen or participated in.

These are more examples of how capitalism exploits all those who serve it. Students, workers and soldiers may all fall victim to the wrath of the beast which is capitalism. We cannot allow a system which does not even value those willing to lay it out on the line to continue exploiting us. Students, workers and soldiers must all rise up and say no more to capitalism by organizing for communism through ICWP and its newspaper, *Red Flag*.

Together we’ll build a mass party and Red Army made up of men and women mobilizing collectively to get rid of capitalist bosses and build a system that meets our needs. It will be an army without rank or special privileges for anyone, where we share in the political struggle, planning, fighting and in producing and distributing what we produce to meet the needs of our class.

LESSONS FROM THE STRUGGLE IN GREECE: ELECTIONS ARE DEADLY

Belief in elections is a fatal error. Unfortunately, in spite of the failures and horrors of capitalism, many workers still trust in capitalist politics. Far from liberating us, the secret ballot box provides a screen for hidden political agendas. In contrast, communist politics are now and will always be a matter of open social debate and direct mass mobilization. Elections will be eliminated. Hidden agendas, no matter how powerful, will have no place to hide.

Look at the elections in Greece. In May, the left-wing party Syriza “won” but couldn’t form a coalition government. This forced a new election in June. Despite getting even more votes the second time, Syriza lost. Within days, the new Prime Minister Antonis Samaras pledged loyalty to the European Union (EU) and to US, German, and



Greeks Protest EURO Zone Austerity

British banks. He insisted that all the cuts in wages, pensions and social programs would go ahead “with special emphasis on the privatization agenda.”

Syriza misguided the struggle of the masses with its electoral outlook. Throughout May and June, Syriza diverted the anger of the working class into the dead end of electoral politics. The real loss was entering the elections in the first place. Even if Syriza had won, the working class would have lost.

Mass Mobilizations

Before May, this working-class anger had fueled eighteen general strikes. It had organized hundreds upon hundreds of occupations of high schools, universities, and hospitals. Striking newspaper workers published and distributed their own paper. Demonstrators trapped politicians in their own Parliament.

Workers decided in mass meetings at their work sites what laws they would or would not implement. Power workers decided not to cut off power to the unemployed. Government workers closed down buildings that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) capitalist-imperialists needed to work in.

In short, the working class began to show that it could run society. But destroying capitalism has to be our aim. And it isn’t, yet, for the masses in Greece.

Hidden Agendas

The imperialists took advantage of the elections to advance their hidden agenda. The open agenda left no one in doubt. The bond market’s assault on the budgets aimed at making workers in Greece destitute. The hidden agenda aimed at making the Greek state itself destitute, too.

Samaras’ pledge to place “special emphasis on the privatization agenda” aims to strip Greek government departments of any power – espe-

cially the Ministry of Energy. In December 2010 that Ministry formed a special group to search for oil and gas in Greek waters. It succeeded: some 26 billion barrels of oil were discovered, putting Greece in the top-ten oil-rich countries, and up to \$9 trillion worth of natural gas!

No wonder the EU and IMF “privatization” plans call for DEPA, the Greek state-owned natural gas company, to sell off 65% of its shares. No wonder that in July 2011, Hillary Clinton descended on Athens with a proposal that all the oil and gas reserves be divided between Turkey (20%), Greece (20%), with the remaining 60% going to the US-backed Noble Energy Company of Houston, Texas. Behind the sovereign debt crisis, behind the electoral politics, lies a dirty imperialist land-grab for oil and gas!

Raise the Red Flag

In spite of – or because of – these new-found energy resources, politicians, bowing to the need of capital, ordered the cut-off of gas and electricity to the unemployed. Workers at power companies, understanding that we must fight for the needs of our brothers and sisters and cousins, refused to carry out the orders. The needs of capital oppose the needs of the working masses. Thus capitalism can never meet our needs. Only communist revolution can.

As the crisis deepens, sharp contradictions like these will surface again and again, building toward a pre-revolutionary situation. Whether we seize it or waste it depends on us. ICWP is training ourselves and other workers to seize the moments. We have a long way to go and need all the help we can get.

As the “election season” ends in Mexico and begins in the US, we must learn from the ups and downs of the struggle in Greece. Join us in the ICWP Summer Projects in Los Angeles, Oakland and Seattle, and for the rest of your life!

LETTERS

LETTERS

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CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

First impressions of the ICWP summer project

In middle school I learned that the most advanced phase through which societies pass is communism, and to get there, you have to pass through socialism. (Now I know that it’s not true, that we need to go through socialism to get to communism). Nevertheless, in spite of having been interested since then in communism and having participated in several social movements in Mexico like the UNAM strike in 1999, I didn’t have a clear idea of what communism was or what communists were like.

So when a comrade invited me to participate in the ICWP summer project in California, I didn’t have to think twice. An opportunity presented itself to get to know the communists in the US. This seemed to be a contradiction. Communists in the most capitalist of all countries? In the base of the empire? What are they like? What do they do? Where do they live?

With preconceptions instilled by capitalist propaganda and its means of conditioning of the

masses, especially the TV and the movies, I thought that they would be isolated, untrusting, with serious, dry expressions, different clothing, and military bearing. Nothing could be further from the truth; the American communists that I have met are nice, friendly, open, attentive, respectful and good-mannered. In short, very warm people. They laugh and joke like everybody else. They don’t wear uniforms, austere clothing or just one color. They don’t have beards or wear black berets. At first glance they don’t stand out from a group. You could be next to a communist without every realizing it!

But looking more deeply, they are different. To start with, they aren’t racists. They disagree with the concept of races and say that there is only one race: the human race. They worry about others and show it, starting with their relatives, because they don’t agree with the exploitation that the capitalist system imposes on people. They want a world where workers are not drowning in debt, practically impossible to repair, no matter how hard you work. That’s why

they put forward their idea of a world without money, without exploiters, intermediaries, supervisors or cops. And they do their best to reveal the big lie that the supposed owners of the means of production are necessary. Being the workers--the ones who operate the means of production--it’s their legitimate right to use them for their own benefit and not for that of the bosses. In other words, they put forward the need to build a better world.

And how have I verified all this? Well, it’s because, without knowing me, they have opened the doors of their homes and I have lived with them several weeks. Nobody has told me this; I have seen it for myself. And I have lots more good impressions, some of them which surprised me, such as that in the meetings of the party people from thirteen year old girls (Imagine!) to older adults attend and participate, but I will try to relate my other impressions in another letter in the next edition of *Red Flag*.

—a new ICWP comrade who is interested in knowing and participating more in the party.

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LETTERS

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CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

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.

MTA Red Flag readers comment

"After reading the article in *Red Flag* about Alex Dinuzzio, I remembered a number of incidents that I lived through during that period. On one occasion, a racist white supervisor was harassing me for three days running. Trusting in the union, I decided to write up a grievance against this hatchet man, where I demanded that this racist stop his abuse. I gave it to the union rep, who gave it to the director, who was Dinuzzio. Dinuzzio came to my workplace one morning and told me, "Don't pay any attention to the supervisor. He's just a 'good old boy' (a term used to indicate a racist)." We've had lots of conversations with this worker about the need to put an end to racism and the capitalist system with a communist revolution.

A worker told us, "This system is racist to the core. The jails are full of black and latin young people. They put the prisoners to work in the factories where they pay them pennies, and those that benefit are the companies and the government. It's a huge business and it contributes to unemployment." This worker said that she would come to the next ICWP Communist School.

Many MTA workers respond positively to *Red Flag*, and this is a step toward the awakening of consciousness which will lead them to join and develop our Party massively.

--ICWP organizer

"MTA bosses are afraid of Red Flag"

We went to Division 7 to distribute *Red Flag* to MTA drivers and mechanics. Two supervisors walked by, and recognized *Red Flag*. One sped up and he threatened one of the drivers who had taken the paper.

The driver gave us back the newspaper. One of us told the supervisor, "You can't prohibit the workers from reading it."

Another worker came out and defended the supervisor. "He's our supervisor, and we work here," said the lackey. "No," we answered. "No worker should submit to this control." After a couple of minutes of this, the frustrated supervisor went inside.

Quickly a black worker appeared. She said, "They're all afraid of what the newspaper says. They don't want us to find out what's going on." This isolated the supervisor's defender, and he quickly left, shaking his head.

We continued with the distribution of *Red Flag*. After ten minutes a driver came out of the parking lot and told us, "The supervisor just announced over the loudspeaker that if you're going to take the newspaper that they are distributing outside, you can read it, but don't leave it laying around," said the driver with a smile on her face. "We should make a copy of the article and put it up all over the division," she added.

Then another worker left the division and

told us, "The problem is this," while he pointed his finger at the word "capitalism" that appeared on the headline of *Red Flag*. Another MTA worker told us that the union and the leadership of MTA were working hand-in-hand to attack the workers. In the end dozens of MTA workers took *Red Flag*.

Red Flag is not only well known by the MTA supervisors, but it's feared, as well. And many workers like the paper and defend it. We not only have to confront the supervisors, but we also have to mobilize the masses of workers for communism.

In communism, there won't be supervisors or unions. We will all work. Transportation, health, housing, and everything necessary for the maintenance of a good life will be collectively organized by a massive, international communist party.

Fighting for communism is the only alternative MTA workers and the other workers of the world have. Join ICWP! Mobilize the Masses for Communism!

--*Red Flag* distributors

**READ
WRITE
DISTRIBUTE
SUPPORT
RED FLAG**

Put the bosses in the dumpster, not the pizza!

The last edition of *Red Flag* had an article that said that for the capitalist bosses, the exchange value of a commodity is primary over its use value. No matter how hungry you are, if you don't have the money you can't buy the bread on the grocery store shelf. The bosses would rather let it spoil than give it away.

Well, I work in a pizza place, where the state law says that if a cooked pizza is sitting at room temperature for more than twenty minutes, you have to throw it away. And it's my job to put those pizzas in the dumpster behind the pizza place. Where I work is in a pretty poor area of town, and there are always homeless, hungry people waiting around for the pizza. It really makes me hate capitalism even more to have to make sure that

the homeless people don't get the pizza—if I just gave it to them, I'd lose my job and we'd all be screwed. So my task is to make sure the dumpster is locked up after I put the pizza in so the homeless people can't get it. Let's just say that I'm not always successful in my task.

Being put in this situation helps me think about how we'll organize a communist society. We won't produce pizza or anything else just for sale, and we won't throw away perfectly good food because we can't sell it. We'll produce what people need, and make sure that people get it. The capitalist crisis is affecting everybody in my neighborhood (as well as the rest of the world) really hard. It's time to mobilize the masses for a communist society where there won't be any bosses forcing us to destroy what people need and where we can work together to meet everybody's needs.

--Young Red

Caught between a rock and welfare

Claudine was a 1974 film that depicted the life of a black working class single mother struggling to provide for her children through welfare and working secretly. It included a song called "Mr. Welfare," portraying the government assistance program as an abusive spouse with whom all ties must be severed for the woman to have a chance. The song and the movie brought attention to women who are faced with the racist, judgmental system that stereotypes people on welfare (mostly women of color) as lazy. It shows the role of racism and sexism under capitalism, but it's up to *Red Flag* to point out that only communism can save the entire working class from the clutches of an abusive spouse such as Mr. Welfare.

There are many jokes in the film about African-American single mothers with a multitude of children who "choose" to live off of welfare. In reality, families on welfare receive barely enough to survive. Media portrayals of them living the "high

life" are racist stereotypes, used by the ruling class to justify attacks on welfare programs. In recent years similar stereotypes have been promoted about Latinas on welfare. A comrade whose mother was a social worker who fought to keep women on welfare recently explained to me that more whites are on welfare than people of color, which shows that no matter your race we are all at an economic disadvantage under capitalism.

Speaking from experience, most families who receive welfare live in poverty-stricken neighborhoods in homes that they can barely afford to rent. Women on welfare, like Claudine, have to work secretly to earn enough money to take care of their families, while lying to their social worker to avoid being kicked off welfare. The movie says it's a hard sacrifice, made by many mothers who provide for their families, while ironically being stigmatized as lazy. Only communism can emancipate women and all workers from an indentured life under capitalism.

Under communism, women, men and children will all have their equal share. Welfare promotes the illusion that you can get rich having more children, a disturbing and false idea. Communism will make all members of society protected and useful members of society. There won't be food stamps because we will all share the food there is. No one will have to worry about rent because there will no longer be money. In the song, the resolution is to "divorce Mr. Welfare and cut all ties with him" because his ways make her sick. Well, we are all sick, sick of a system that allows women to be treated this way. We must all divorce Mr. Welfare and our terrible father-in-law Capitalism along with him. This can only happen when we are all mobilized as one massive party through reading, writing for and distributing *Red Flag* and *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*, our communist manifesto.

—College student



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

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

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

BOSSES DON'T WANT US TO LEARN REVOLUTION FROM HISTORY

We continue to explore the question, “Does history always repeat or are truly new things possible?” Last issue we discussed “Laws of Motion.” Laws are universal within a given system. They say that only certain outcomes are allowed and, ultimately, inevitable. For example, the laws of motion of capitalism determine that crisis must follow crisis in this system.

The bosses want to deny that laws of motion play any role in history. It puts their dictatorship at risk. Hence, they come up with bogus philosophical objections.

Many capitalist philosophers even claim that there are no real laws in nature. There are several variations on this line (called “constructivism,” “empiricism,” etc.), but they all represent idealism. They claim that what nature seems to dictate—what makes it seem that there are necessary constraints in natural processes—is really just something that human thought puts there. These idealists recognize patterns in nature, but claim

that the “must happen” character that a law requires is not really in nature itself, just in our minds.

Other capitalist philosophers claim that while there are laws of nature, there can be no laws of human history, but just a series of accidents. A famous example is the claim that Napoleon lost his empire because of his hemorrhoids. At the battle of Waterloo, Napoleon’s hemorrhoids hurt so much that he avoided riding his horse onto the battlefield and left some early decisions to his lieutenants, who made mistakes. Those mistakes lost the battle, so the story goes, and thus the empire. A scientific analysis of the battle is very different from this, however, emphasizing the relative strengths and weaknesses of the French Army and its opponents, and contingent factors such as the weather.

History is not fully determined by laws, and accidental or contingent causes sometimes play an important role. When fruit seller Mohamed

Bouazizi set himself on fire in January 2011, it triggered the revolt that overthrew Tunisian dictator Ben Ali and started the Arab Spring. Although oppression always provokes resistance, laws do not fully determine what form this resistance will take. Mr. Bouazizi’s action was contingent, that is, not determined by the laws of motion of politics in Tunisia.

If the “everything is an accident view” were true, however, it would mean that people could not make their own history, because they couldn’t learn or use laws of economics, politics or war to determine what must result from their actions or what is impossible for them to do.

Next issue we will discuss the laws of motion of socialism. These laws show that socialism must eventually return to open capitalism despite the best efforts of revolutionaries. That’s why we mobilize directly for communism.

IS PROFIT MADE IN THE FACTORY OR IN THE MARKET?

In the last issue of *Red Flag* we learned that every commodity contains a contradiction between its exchange value and its use value. When we buy a commodity in a market, this contradiction is not visible. However, when we take a closer look, we see fierce antagonisms emerging.

At the beginning of the industrial revolution in England, rich landowners used their control of the state to enclose the common land of the peasants, forcing them off the land and into the cities. The former peasants, with no means of production and only their labor power to sell to the capitalists, became the working class. This process has been repeated throughout the world where subsistence farmers are forced off their land and forced to sell their labor power to the capitalists to survive.

Labor power – a unique commodity

Our labor power is a commodity that we have to sell to survive. Just like any commodity, it has exchange value and use value, and there is a contradiction between them. The exchange value is the wage we are paid for our labor, mainly determined by the cost of our subsistence. We get just enough to keep us coming back for another day of work. But our labor power also has use value: producing commodities for sale.

Exchange value (wages) and use value (the

work we do) are contradictory aspects of labor power. It is the contradiction between the use value and the exchange value of labor power that makes exploitation possible.

Profit and Exploitation:

Capitalists invest money in the means of production: machines, tools, and raw materials. Then they hire workers. At the end of the day, they have commodities that are sold in the market for more than the cost of the means of production and wages. Now they have more money than they started with. How is this possible?

It appears that buying and selling commodities creates value. However, this is impossible. Buying and selling merely changes the ownership of commodities. This process cannot create value.

Karl Marx solved this mysterious puzzle by looking not at the market, but at the production process itself. Labor creates all value. The capitalists buy workers’ labor power and use it to create value, turning raw materials into commodities



like furniture or bread. Labor power is bought at its exchange value and commodities are sold at their exchange value. But workers produce more value in a day than what they receive in wages. Profit comes from the difference between the value that we create and the value that we receive.

Workers work longer every day than it takes to create the value of their labor power. This extra labor that the capitalist does not pay for is called “surplus labor.” The capitalist’s profit comes from selling the product of this surplus labor that is embodied in every

commodity. Thus, the key to capitalist profit is exploitation of labor, taking the product of workers’ unpaid labor and selling it in the market, “realizing” a profit. Exploitation does not happen in the market. Labor power is bought at value, commodities are sold at value. No profit is made in these exchanges. The profit does not come from market at all; it comes from the labor process.

Because the profit is realized in the market place, the bosses’ culture is based on the sacred market, and in ignoring exploitation in the process of production. The apparent freedom to buy and sell in the marketplace disappears in the coercion of the production process where we are forced to sell our labor power to survive.

In a communist society our labor power will not be a commodity to be bought and sold. Nothing will be bought and sold; we will freely give our labor to produce the necessities of life of the international working class.

In the next issue of *Red Flag* we will expand more on the contradiction between exchange value and use value that results in a class contradiction between capitalists and workers. We will talk about crisis, surplus value and profit. A question for study groups: why can’t machines create value?



When workers seized a factory in Ireland