



# RED FLAG

**MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM**

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



Above: Turkish youth Demonstrate  
Left: Masses In Brazil Take to the Streets to Protest Capitalism  
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## TRANSIT WORKERS ON THE MOVE NEED POLITICAL ACTION AGAINST CAPITALISM

LOS ANGELES, June 22 –MTA workers' simmering anger against MTA's hideous reign of terror is beginning to spill over. Realizing that neither the UTU nor the "new" union SMART will help them, the operators are taking concrete steps to fight the company's fascist onslaught.

Last week, while we were distributing about 800 *Red Flags* at 7 MTA divisions, operators told us of plans for collective actions to protest MTA's latest arbitrary enforcement of petty rules.

"The reason?" we asked.

"The company hired too many operators, who get paid whether they work or not. Their starting salary is little more than a third that of a tier-one and one half that of a tier-two operator. Suspending higher-paid drivers for 'violating' these rules, MTA solves its payroll problem, saves money and makes the future firing of these operators easier," explained an operator.

### ICWP Applauds the Fighting Spirit of These Operators

Whether or not these actions were successful, the important thing is that workers are breaking with the bosses' treacherous union officials and are willing to fight.

Mistakes will be made, but workers always learn from them to improve and move forward. Some workers will become informants, but that has never stopped the working class. We are confident that the majority of workers will eventually organize to take on the company.

### The most important question is: What do we fight for?

ICWP says capitalism can't be reformed to meet our needs. We must fight to destroy it with a communist revolution. History proves us right.

The Communist Party USA expended all its energy trying to reform capitalism and failed miserably. In the 1930s, they built the once-militant CIO, won the 8-hour day, better salaries, health benefits, pensions, social security, etc

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## END WAGE SLAVERY AND BOARDSERS WITH CLASSLESS COMMUNIST SOCIETY

"Obama wants to help but they won't let him," said a participant in a conversation between a group of garment workers at Atomic Denim and a *Red Flag* distributor.

"Obama doesn't want to help anyone. His Immigration Reform is to increase the super-exploitation of undocumented workers," replied the *Red Flag* distributor.

"But, it has some good aspects. For example, people will be able to travel to see their families who they haven't seen for years," interrupted another worker. Turning to a third worker, he asked "You, for instance, how many years since you last you saw your mother?"

"It has been twenty years," replied that worker,

"You see," said the worker who asked the question, "Half a loaf is better than none."

**"Half a loaf is better than none" is not good enough for the working class!**

Contrary to what capitalism teaches us, our working class is the most important class in society. We

produce and transport all that society needs to survive, and provide all of its services: education, health, cleaning, etc. Without us, nothing gets done.

The bosses are portrayed as smart, hardworking and noble people, without whom we can't live. But the opposite is true: they can't live without us. They are parasites feeding off our labor, stealing most of the value we produce (see article page 7).

### Ancient slavery versus modern or wage slavery

Ancient slaves knew that they didn't need their master, that he lived off them and was their bitter enemy. They constantly fought to get rid of their masters and of slavery.

Modern slavery is wage slavery, which chains us to the bosses. Daily, for a given time we must sell ourselves to them. During that time, like ancient slaves, we have to obey the master's command. Disobeying in ancient times meant the whip, or death; today it means

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**THIS IS A 3 WEEK EDITION**

## Turkey: Mass Protests Defy Government Repression

### CRISIS AND SYRIAN WAR CREATE CONDITIONS FOR REVOLUTION

June 17—Thousands of Turkish workers and youth continue to brave the vicious attacks of Turkey's fascist government, displaying the same unbeatable spirit as workers from Bangladesh to South Africa. Defying clubs, water cannon, rubber bullets, and tear gas, they show the potential of our class to end murderous capitalism forever. Already they have emboldened others from Egypt to Brazil.

As Prime Minister Erdogan's troops cleared Taksim Square, protests spread elsewhere in Istanbul, Ankara and other cities. On Monday, public workers, transit, construction, health care workers, and others answered the capitalists' police attacks with a nationwide strike.

The protests began June 1st against the destruction of popular Gezi Park in order to build a massive shopping center in a replica of Ottoman Army barracks. The developer who stands to profit from this symbol of Turkish nationalism-imperialism is Erdogan's son-in-law. Protesters refused to leave the Square despite some leaders' capitulation, rejecting Erdogan's plea to rely on the courts.

**"This is not just about trees,"**

said a furious demonstrator. The underlying cause of the revolt is the crisis of Turkey's capitalism which, with its rising unemployment and its government's increasing involvement in the Syrian war, is unable to meet workers' needs.

This unpopular war is sharpening contradictions within Turkey, in the whole region, and between the US and Russian imperialists. For example, a proposed Iran-Iraq-Syria natural gas pipeline threatens Turkish capitalists' dreams of domination of natural-gas transport. US rulers

were counting on Turkey to kill this project through regime-change in Syria, but the anti-Erdogan protests are getting in the way.

Turkey's economic growth slowed in 2012 because of a drop in demand from its major trading partners due to the war in Syria and the crisis in Europe. A Bank of America spokesperson claims that "Political stability has become a very big asset for Turkey over the last decade." That is now at risk. Erdogan hoped he could squash the protests, making

foreign investors happy. But the rebellion is spreading.

#### Crisis and war: opportunity for revolution.

The Turkish masses are in motion against profit-driven capitalists and their bloody wars for empire. In times of crisis and war like these, the objective situation is ripe for the masses to mobilize to end capitalism-imperialism with communist revolution. That's the only way for workers to decide how and what to produce, and to organize society to meet our needs. Nothing less will end the crisis.

What's lacking is the subjective factor: a mass communist party with roots among industrial workers and soldiers who mobilize for and lead a communist revolution. Turkish workers, soldiers and youth must join and build the International Communist Workers' Party to mobilize for communism.

In communist society, all the world's resources will be in the hands of the workers who will share and develop them solely to meet the needs of the masses. Through their Party, the workers will plan, fight and produce to meet

these needs in harmony with a healthy environment.

#### Workers need communism, not democracy

Turkey was touted as a stable democracy whose President was legally elected, and as an economic success. Many in the Middle East and Africa took it as a model. But many Turkish youth and workers now see they have no freedom. Erdogan's attacks show that capitalism, no matter what its form, is the enemy of the working class. Democracy is exposed as the dictatorship of the ruling class over us. When we participate in elections, we are choosing our own oppressors.

#### "We won't be soldiers for the imperialists"

Eight months ago, Turkish anti-war demonstrators made this vow in answer to Erdogan's desire to have the Turkish army, fourth largest in NATO, spearhead an invasion of Syria.

On May 11, three weeks before the Gezi Park protest, twin car bombs exploded in the Turkish town of Reyhanli on the Syrian border, killing 51 people. Many linked the attacks to the Syrian "rebels." Others linked them to Assad.

Erdogan has offered refuge for the Syrian "rebels" families and a safe zone from which they can launch attacks across the border. Most Turks oppose the war and Erdogan's support for the "rebels." As they made clear last October,

they don't want to be cannon fodder in the imperialists' war for oil pipelines and empire. But, to put an end to imperialist war, they need to mobilize for communist

revolution.

**Red Flag** readers need to mobilize international communist solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Turkey and spread **Red Flag** and ICWP to workers, students and soldiers in as many countries as possible.

## JOIN ICWP

### FROM ISTANBUL TO RIO: MASSES RISING UP ANGRY

June 19 – Hundreds of thousands marched in Brazil's major cities this week, many inspired by the recent upsurge in Turkey. The trigger was an increase in bus and subway fares, but (as in Turkey) the underlying causes go to the heart of the global capitalist crisis. A third of the people in this rising world power live in dire poverty.

Fanning the flames of revolt, the government is spending of billions of dollars on the upcoming World Cup and 2014 Olympics. "We don't need the World Cup," says a sign that's going viral on

social media, "we need money for hospitals and education."

Actually the Brazilian masses, like their sisters and brothers worldwide, don't need the World Cup OR money. They need to abolish the capitalist money system altogether by mobilizing for communist revolution.

"The social movements in the world are learning from each other," said a professor in Sao Paulo. When the communist movement makes a breakthrough anywhere – such as Los Angeles transit, Seattle aerospace, or the maquila sweatshops in El Salvador – workers and youth around the world will get one of the best lessons ever. We call on **Red Flag** readers to make this happen.



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## Class Struggle in Sweatshops Sharp Contradiction Between: **REFORM AND COMMUNIST REVOLUTION**

EL SALVADOR—"In addition to fighting against the bosses, we have to fight with those of the union who reveal us as communists and say that we have ruined their reformist work, and that's true," said a worker, very upset.

"You don't need to show fear of those in the union leadership. We already know they defend the bosses, comrade. We have to continue distributing **Red Flag**," responded a maquila worker emphatically.

The problems occurring inside the maquila factories in this country are essentially because the sellout unions are the main defenders of the bosses. They attack the comrades of the International Communist Workers' Party for their pro-working class ideas.

A comrade pointed out, "With much pride and with my left fist raised high, I, as an exploited worker comrade in one of the biggest factories in El Salvador, where for years the exploitation and inequality among the workers have persisted, will continue to fight until my last breath.

"Nevertheless, we workers, being repressed more every day, meet inside the factory and concentrate in the production area, where we demanded our rights, lost for many years. And we demanded that the boss comply by giving us some crumbs that had been won with some reformist agreements. But when we spoke out this way, the owner of the factory began sending the orders to other factories nearby that are owned by the same capitalist.

"All of this has made the workers feel depressed and desperate because there are no positive responses to these problems. And those from

the union accuse us and say that it's because of the communists that these things are happening."

These statements by a dismayed and upset worker show that the class struggle is an all-out war between workers and bosses.

These men and women workers face the bosses and the union every day, and each time the confrontations are sharper. Greater workers' solidarity is needed. Workers from other factories around the world need to speak out and act in favor of their same working class brothers and sisters.

Every struggle that takes place in these factories is carried out also thinking about the complete liberation of the workers from capitalist repression, to advance the struggle for communism. That's why the members of ICWP stand together with these men and women workers, concerned about these problems and confronting the servants of capitalism and the owners of the means of production.

"We continue

with our heads held high in the march forward because it is clear that the bosses' exploitation of the working class must end. It must disappear by organizing for communism in the International Communist Workers' Party. We will put an end to the problems and miseries that we are living through today. It is clear that communism is the answer to these thousands of problems. We need to destroy this capitalist system and build a new communist system which will be led by the working class," concluded a worker from ICWP.

For a new world!

Long Live ICWP!



## Boeing Workers Show How to Defeat Bosses' Spying:

### **WORKERS' SECURITY DEPENDS ON BUILDING UNBREAKABLE BONDS WITH EACH OTHER**

"What gets me is the [U.S.] politicians," joked a Machinist. "They get up on their high horse declaring that in democratic America we don't spy on our own people."

Then a few days later: "Oops! We do spy on our own people."

Then we talked solutions, mostly versions of what we've read in the bosses' press.

"The problem is the NSA has become more powerful than the CIA," said another worker.

"Are you kidding me? What difference would it make if the CIA ran the surveillance programs? Bureaucracies are organized to serve the interests of the ruling class. No matter what the form they serve the bosses."

"You're probably right," conceded our friend. "Even if these things are set up with good intentions, people mess it up."

Then it got serious. "No, it's not the people, it's the system. You can't expect anything different until you have a communist revolution – particularly now that capitalism is in this crisis," argued a comrade.

"Now we've gotten into the different philosophies we have, between capitalism and communism," disagreed our friend, not ready to take the leap.

#### **Illusions in Reforming Capitalism Play on Cynicism**

The bosses never tire of telling us people can't be trusted. According to capitalist logic we need laws to rein in human nature. The separation of powers among the three branches (the presidency, the Congress and the courts) of the US govern-

ment is also supposed to provide a check on untrustworthy humans.

Trying to justify NSA snooping, Obama whined that if you can't trust the executive, the laws passed by Congress and the edicts of the (secret) court, "Then we have a problem."

We do have a problem and it's called capitalism. No laws, no checks and balances can stop the bosses from attacking us.

The Roman Empire also set up an elaborate spying network as their empire crumbled. The elites stole the wealth created from the slave society for themselves and only them. They became increasingly leery of a disenchanted public, even among the free commoners.

It's hard not to make an analogy to U.S. imperialism, notwithstanding the different particulars of capitalist exploitation. It's gotten so bad that the bosses' government is spending \$billions trying to develop technology to spy on the spies who spy on the rest of us. You just can't find enough good little Nazis like you used to!

Communists trust the masses, as the bosses can never do. Mobilizing the masses for communism is a winning strategy for the working class.

Security is a class question. In a communist society, technology will be less important than the active participation of millions in building and securing our new society, free of exploitation and oppression and those that would sabotage it. We will be fighting for our collective needs, not to secure the bosses' profits. Collectivity is stronger than the best computer surveillance the bosses can buy.

#### **Taking the Leap**

A third Machinist was furious after reading the front-page article in **Red Flag** (6/6) the same day we debated the bosses' spying programs. "You guys exposed the company's productivity scheme and global capitalism, but our union won't do squat about it," he said, handing back the paper.

"And that's not just because of bad leadership. The logic of trade unionism is that we can reform capitalism to somewhat meet our needs. That's impossible. We need a revolution. Only a revolutionary communist organization can build for that."

"Yeah, we need a revolution," he agreed. "How long will it take?"

"I got no crystal ball, but circulating this paper [**Red Flag**] won't hurt!"

"Give me back that paper, I want to show it to another guy."

The bosses want us to believe they are invincible. It's true that we must take our enemy into account tactically, but we will defeat them strategically.

Principled struggle with disenchanted fellow workers like the new **Red Flag** distributor produces modest advances today, particularly as the crisis forces the bosses to resort to greater repression.

Unbreakable personal and political ties in the workplace are the tactical answer to the billions the bosses spend spying on us. Strategically, mobilization for communism will be built on these advances.

## MTA DRIVERS

from page 1

In the 1950s US bosses expelled the communists from the unions they built. Today, these unions are aiding US bosses dismantle all those “gains.” From having hundreds of thousands of members and leading millions of workers, the CPUSA has been reduced to handful of Democratic Party supporters.

### Socialism: Another Failed Attempt to Reform Capitalism

History also shows that even Communist Parties that led armed revolutions to overthrow capitalism, like in Russia and China, failed because they fought for Socialism. Socialism kept capitalism’s money, banks, markets, and wages. Socialism was the working class in power attempting to reform capitalism. It was an abysmal failure.

Today, learning from those mistakes, we fight directly for communism. To win the world we need, we must mobilize the world’s masses for communism.

### Let’s Not Fight for Reforms

This means organizing against MTA’s reign of terror with political actions that attack capitalism, the source of all these horrors, and put forward communism as the only way to end them.

As capitalism’s crisis intensifies and the bosses spend more on wars, the attack on our wages, benefits and working conditions will be brutal. The bosses will be in no mood for concessions. Some might not be able to grant these without going under.

A good example is Greece. In the last 3 years, Greek workers have staged 21 general strikes to stop their bosses from cutting their salaries and benefits. Yet, these have

been slashed by more than 50%.

Besides, whatever we “gain,” the bosses can and will always take back. Our energy should be spent organizing for revolution among all industrial workers and soldiers.

### Let’s Organize ICWP

Many MTA workers are questioning capitalism. More are reading *Red Flag*. We are confident many will eventually join us to fight for communism.

Trade unionism is a capitalist ideology. It states that capitalism is basically good and can be reformed to meet workers’ needs. This is impossible. We don’t need another union nor worker committee. We need *Red Flag* readers’ groups in all MTA divisions to organize and give political leadership to our struggles.

We will start small but eventually will be able to mobilize thousands of workers to strike politically against capitalism-imperialism. We can have an explosive influence on millions of workers, nationally and internationally.

### A Spark Can Start a Prairie Fire.

A handful of environmentalists refusing to allow trees to be bulldozed detonated the massive protests rocking Turkey today (see page 2). Let’s advance our struggle by doubling to 1,600 the circulation of *Red Flag* at MTA. Take another copy for a co-worker and help hasten the end of capitalism-imperialism and the birth of the world we need.



## GARMENT/IMMIGRATION

from page 1

unemployment, poverty and hunger.

Unlike former slaves, we do not have only one master. This creates the illusion that we are free: “free” to change jobs and bosses when we “wish.” But, we always end up selling ourselves to a boss. Thus, we “belong” to the entire capitalist class.

### Only with communist revolution can we end wage slavery

The bosses enslave us because they own the means of production - land, mines, factories, etc. They also have their state - courts, police, army - to protect this “private property” and beat us into submission, if we rebel.

We need a communist revolution to destroy the bosses, their money, state, and all their divisive anti-worker ideologies. We will then produce to collectively meet the needs of our international working class.

Our historical role is to abolish all social classes, the basis of humans exploiting humans. Under communism, we will be free workers producing and deciding collectively how to distribute everything according to need.

We will end the capitalists’ curse of “let us exploit you or starve to death.” Nobody, even if they don’t work, will be denied the essentials for a dignified life. We will, however, struggle for everyone to contribute according to their ability and commitment.

We’ll eliminate all borders and racist immigration laws, which serve to divide and super-exploit us. The world will again belong to humanity, not to a handful of capitalist-imperialists. No one will be forced to leave families and friends

to in pursuit of a job or a “better life.” Without borders or money, we will travel anywhere and always be welcomed.

### Obama’s Immigration Reform: An Inferno for Our Class

US capitalists are fiercely attacking citizens and “legal” resident workers with drastic cuts in wages and benefits. They need this to better compete in global markets and rebuild their industrial base for future wars, including World War.

Obama’s Immigration Reform is to advance this goal by further super-exploiting undocumented workers and recruiting undocumented youth for war. Before becoming able to apply for a green card, these workers will have to toil continuously for a minimum of ten years. Before applying for citizenship, most undocumented youth will have to serve four or more years in the military.

Being unemployed more than two months could mean deportation. This will impose slave-like conditions on these workers, which the bosses will use to further attack all other workers. As for the undocumented youth, the Pentagon can double to eight years the time it will force them to bleed and die in US imperialist wars.

“A half of loaf is better than none” always ends in an inferno for our class. The bosses’ system separates us from our families. Now, we’re supposed to be grateful that we might get to see them again after being absent ten, twenty or more years. It is time for us to learn that “nothing is good enough for our class, except communism.” Let’s join ICWP and fight for it.

## MTA DRIVERS DISILLUSIONED WITH UNIONS

Many MTA operators were enthusiastic about the “new” union SMART.

In the first meetings they announced that they would have classes for 20% of the members so that they could gain confidence in questions like how to understand the collective contracts and how to negotiate these so they could have more participation in the process.

The classes would also be about the union rules so that the members would better understand what happens in the meetings and would have more control over them.

The problem for the SMART officials is that the drivers have been going to meetings to complain about the attacks they suffer from MTA. They have been demanding solutions for these problems from the UTU officials, in particular from General Chairman James Williams.

The fact is that the classes taught very little or nothing. Instead of classes, they have been converted into meetings where the drivers denounce the UTU officials. The drivers openly yell at Williams. “Do your work. That’s what we

pay you for.” Lately they have booed and insulted him.

Since the attacks on Williams have become more frequent, they have decided to abolish this type of meeting, perhaps convinced by Williams.

They changed the place of the meetings. Now, with the excuse that the new meeting room is too small, they only allow a smaller number of drivers to participate. What’s more, these will be chosen by the chairmen of the sections. There will be five by each local chairman, for a total of 30, including the 5 chosen by Williams.

Possibly both SMART and Williams are looking among these 30 operators for those who have more “glibness and charisma” to be the new officials who will replace Williams and his

henchmen. He has already been General Chairman for 20 years.

An MTA Driver

### Red Flag Comments:

These workers’ anger at and hatred of their treacherous union officials must be channeled into the movement to destroy capitalism which breeds them. We call on workers to read, distribute and economically support *Red Flag*, and join ICWP to advance the revolutionary struggle for communism.



## HOW CAN WE REPLACE MONEY WITH COMMUNIST CONSENSUS?

(This is the second part of a report about a recent study group in Los Angeles.)

"I've been reading a lot about hunter-gatherer societies," said Mark. "I'm sure we can live without money. But I don't know how we'd make the transition. Everyone wouldn't be ready all at once. It seems like there would be chaos."

"There is already so much chaos in many places around the world," Laurie responded. "We are in the midst of a growing environmental crisis and a profound crisis of global capitalism. Increasingly, the masses of people can't live in the old way. If you think about it, the rulers in many places can't rule in the old way, either."

"And then regional wars will expand into world war. The system itself is creating chaos. The work we do now is to prepare the working-class to take power and create a new social order under those chaotic conditions."

"Hard times bring out the best and the worst in us," said Mark. "Look at Hurricane Katrina."

"I'm always thinking about ways to get away from money," said Tony. "We have to find ways to practically and symbolically chip away at it, and call it out for its evil."

Joanna chimed in: "Do you know that EBT (food stamp program) is run through Bank of America? That is evil. But I'm stuck in my head about what would take the place of money. Credits, work-points – it's hard to get away from it."

"More of my consumption is based on shar-

ing," Taylor offered, returning to Tony's point.

Mark summarized the discussion with a question: "So how do we replace money with consensus values?"

This profound question reveals a contradiction among our group members.

Many of us try to live our daily lives according to essentially communist values. On one hand, our own experiences – and those of others – help to convince us that communism could work.

On the other hand, these very valuable discussions tend to divert us from a question that sharply divides us: Can there be a "convergence of collective spirit and values" that leads to communism through a peaceful evolution? Or must it develop through revolutionary class struggle?

The Party members in this study group need to be bolder in taking this question on.

### One World, One Working Class

"Without money, we'd have to cooperate and build consensus globally. But that would be hard, if not impossible, if there are too many people," Mark commented.

He wasn't referring to "over-population" but to the fact that the examples we have of societies without money generally involve villages of no more than a thousand people. We can easily imagine how the workers in a factory could develop the shared values and relationships that would enable them to make and carry out decisions collectively. But how would this work

world-wide?

"The whole system of dividing the world into peoples and nations, of globalization and technology, grew up together with the inherent logic of capitalism, cheap-oil democracy," Mark continued. This system has alienated us from each other and from the earth itself.

We all like the idea of being more closely in tune with the places where we live. Where does our water come from? How can we feed ourselves locally? At the same time, we want to be more closely connected with the masses around the world. We want bioregionalism without racism, nationalism, or a narrowly local world-view.

"We need a wider vision of what brings dignity to people," Tony suggested.

"With the spread of communist consciousness, I see humanity developing all around," declared Araceli.

That's why we need to build one International Communist Workers' Party, now and in the future.

Since the meeting described here, three of us took part in a rally in the LA garment district in communist solidarity with Bangladeshi garment workers. Also, after a discussion of the *Red Flag* articles on Bangladesh, some of us planned an August "International Social and Fundraiser" for ICWP's international work.

## EGYPTIAN MASSES IN MOTION NEED COMMUNISM, NOT ELECTIONS

June 19—The Egyptian coalition Tamarud ("We Refuse" or "Rebellion") is preparing for a week of mass actions demanding the removal of President Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood from power. Tamarud says that since May Day it has collected 10-15 million signatures from all over Egypt on its "no confidence" petition. Egypt has an adult population of about 45 million people.

A mass mobilization is planned for June 30, the second anniversary of Morsi's rise to power. The Army has told Morsi not to count on its protection. Prominent members of the Muslim Brotherhood have already begun to send their wives and children out of the country. Some predict that it may once again be forced underground.

The Tamarud campaign appeals to the masses who are suffering from fuel and energy shortages, increasing unemployment, inflation, and economic hardship. Also, many are angry at Morsi's policies, based on his Muslim Brotherhood ties, like banning alcohol and persecuting religious minorities. There are fears of severe water shortages, and possibly a war, due to a dam planned by the Ethiopian government and Israel for the Blue Nile.

Morsi is trying to use the water crisis to build Egyptian nationalism and defuse the Tamarud movement. So far he's had little success with this typical capitalist tactic. At the same time, like politicians worldwide, he's trying to use religion to divide the masses and rally support around himself.

But you can't fool all the people all the time. The Egyptian masses dumped one dictator

(Mubarak) only to get another (Morsi) and now many are looking for solutions beyond "democracy" (elections). "Even the old man sitting by the roadside is talking politics," said an Egyptian reader of *Red Flag*.



**Egyptian activists are watching the situation in Turkey with great interest.**

In the past, many saw Erdogan's Turkey as a "democratic Islamist country" that could serve as a model for Egypt. But now the mass protests in Istanbul and elsewhere have unmasked Turkey as just another dictatorship. We hope they'll see that elections are just a front for the dictatorship of the capitalist class over the masses.

A dozen or more Egyptian electoral parties eagerly await the possibility of new elections if Morsi is forced to resign. "I don't believe in any of these parties," our friend added. "Something is missing. We need more information so we can understand other choices."

What's missing is the revolutionary outlook of mobilizing the masses for communism. Our

friend has promised to help spread this information, which can be found in *Red Flag* and on our website [www.icwpRedFlag.org](http://www.icwpRedFlag.org).

As the Egyptian situation makes clear, it is especially important to win rank-and-file soldiers in Egypt, the US, and everywhere, to ally with industrial workers and youth. They are key in this fight for mass communist power and the destruction of capitalism in all its forms, nationalist and imperialist alike.

The Egyptian generals, however, form a large section of the capitalist class there, controlling perhaps as much as 40% of the economy. Since Mubarak's fall, they have "inaugurated projects in sectors ranging from maritime transport to oil, gas and renewable energy ... bringing in Gulf conglomerates, as well as Western and Asian multinationals, as partners."

In contrast, most Egyptian soldiers are conscripts whose pay (usually around \$1/day) may be their impoverished families' main source of income. They form the largest army in Africa and the Arab world, and the 10th largest in the world. Were these soldiers to turn their guns against their capitalist bosses and fight for communism, they could inspire military personnel around the world to do the same.



## 60 Years ago, it was Emmet Till...

### TODAY IT'S TRAYVON MARTIN!

In 1955, Emmet Till, a 14-year-old African-American youth, visiting relatives in Mississippi from his native Chicago, was brutally murdered because he whistled at a white woman who was a clerk in a store. The two white men who murdered him were acquitted by an all-white jury. Soon afterwards, they admitted that they murdered the youth. Mass protests followed the racist verdict.

On Feb. 26, 2012, Trayvon Martin, a 17-year-old black youth, was walking back from the store to his father's home in a gated community in Sanford, Florida when George Zimmerman, a community watch volunteer, stopped him and shot him to death. Zimmerman is now on trial for 2nd-degree murder after a series of postponements.

ICWP members and a friend distributed a leaflet and *Red Flag* at a demonstration in Oakland, where participants were demanding that Zimmerman be found guilty. The leaflet pointed out the following:

#### Racism is as old as capitalism.

It is deeply embedded in our social, political, economic and emotional life. It will take a revolution to uproot and smash it.

Racism is in fact a product of capitalism. Without slavery and the European settler imperialism of the Americas (massacring the indigenous population), industrial capitalism could not have taken off.

Later, without the colonial occupation of Africa and Asia, industrial capitalism could not have developed. Racism was central to both these stages.

Built on the exploitation of the masses, capitalism creates social classes. Racism has proven a key way of producing division within the exploited masses.

To take a stand against racism, then, is to take a stand against 500 years of capitalist development. It raises the question: what are we for? What must replace capitalism? We say communism!

We are not talking about the socialism pro-

duced in the Soviet Union and China. Those revolutionaries thought socialism would lead to communism. They were wrong. Socialism was state capitalism. Although modifying it, socialism still kept the class system of capitalism: at top were political heads, bankers and managers, at the bottom wage workers!

#### The communism we are talking about is a share-and-share-alike type.

It sets out to build a society where social needs (not money and profits) are the source of all production. Organized together in a mass communist party we will share the decisions, the difficulties and the successes of society. Such a movement won't be built overnight but unless it's built, capitalism will survive.

And if capitalism survives, so will racism. History tells us that. U.S. Slavery (at first, the dominant form of racism) was destroyed in the Civil War, but capitalism remained and produced Jim Crow and sharecropping racism.

Segregation (then the dominant form of racism) was defeated by the Civil Rights movement, but capitalism was untouched and produced the "New Jim Crow" and mass incarceration. In all these forms, racist super-exploitation continued.

Today we are protesting the vicious murder of Trayvon Martin. Sixty years ago it was Emmett Till. A hundred years ago it was lynching and before that slavery....

#### The lesson of the great fight against racism tells us in no uncertain terms that we can't fight racism without fighting capitalism, and the way to eliminate it from the face of the earth is by building communism.

In the International Communist Workers Party (ICWP) we have already begun to build the communist alternative. Join us.

Read and distribute *Red Flag*. Smash racism and the Capitalism that breeds it. Fight for communism.



#### HOW WOULD RACIST, VIGILANTE, RACISM BE DEALT WITH UNDER COMMUNISM?

By eliminating money, wages, and profits, communism will eliminate the material basis of racism.

Under communism, racism will not be tolerated. It will be smashed. A mass ICWP will liberate and promote workers' collective anti-racist consciousness. This antiracism already exists, as evidenced in multiracial fights against the Klan and actions against local racist incidents. In the US masses of workers have fought the Klan and anti-immigrant racists from Connecticut and New Jersey to California. In Greece, workers fought the anti-immigrant racists of Golden Dawn.

Racism is not inborn; it is not natural. People aren't born racist. Racism is born from capitalism. It is promoted through their culture, religion, laws, wage system, media and education in order to divide, disempower, and exploit workers. Therefore, racism is profitable for capitalists and deadly for workers.

Under communism, workers in the fields, factories, schools and barracks will mobilize the masses to go to the streets to smash racist organizing. And if there is a racist remnant like a vigilante, the collective will decide, in their best interests, how to deal with him/her. We will have continuous antiracist ideological education and organizing through meetings, debates and study groups.

## "COMMUNISM WILL TRIUMPH"

Oakland, June 13—In two areas of this city we distributed 60 communist leaflets about Trayvon Martin and we sold some copies of *Red Flag* in the demonstration against the death of this black youth. A few minutes were all it took to see that we were in an area where many black and latino workers live. We talked with some of the spectators at the demonstration about communist ideas. Immediately a man gave us money for *Red Flag*. Those of us who came included a family, a comrade from the area, and a friend. Our small daughter had the most success in distributing the leaflet. Almost everyone she offered it to gladly took it. Even though the demonstration was small, it was a very important experience.

Returning to the house, we asked our friend what he thought about what we did and he answered, "For the people to demonstrate, they have to get to extreme poverty and live in very difficult situations so that they are against the system...but the majority live in a bubble and have illusions about capitalism."

We answered that in part he was right, but that the most important thing is revolutionary ideas in the minds of the people, because even in extreme situations, without communist ideas, the revolution won't happen automatically. We

said that what's primary at this time is to build a mass communist party internationally.

The friend has personally felt in these days the dimensions of racism in the US, as in other parts of the world. He is understanding that racism is a fundamental part of capitalism to exploit the working class; and that if we don't destroy capitalism, racism will never disappear. We are all having a surprising experience about how negative racism is, but also about the fundamental impact of the ties of comradeship that the working class can build, without allowing origins, languages, cultures or colors to be obstacles. We all have the same needs as workers, and only our class knows how to meet them. We also have the



same enemy. We don't need bosses or money. Our class needs communism. We are convinced that communism will triumph and that every day that passes the tomb where capitalism will be buried gets deeper. Join ICWP.

#### READ, WRITE, DISTRIBUTE RED FLAG

## LETTERS

## LETTERS

## LETTERS

## 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.**

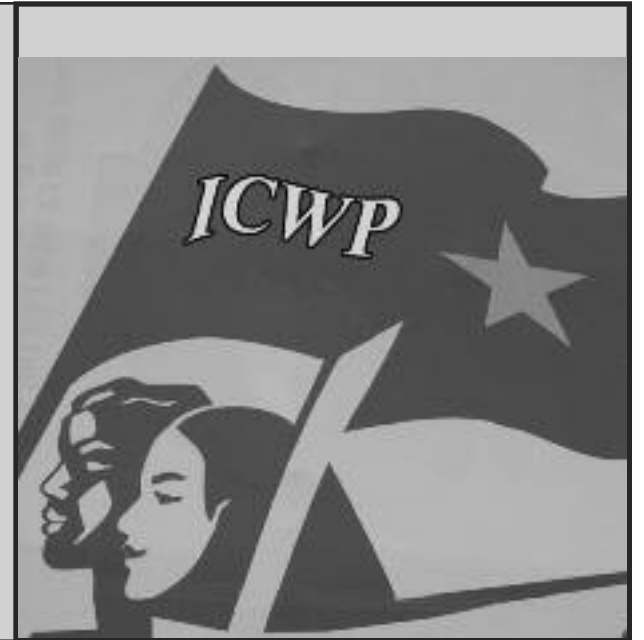
Due to the work that we carry out in Mexico, we had to temporarily move to the US. The change that we made is crucial in our work. We are a communist family with children and a friend of the party, five people in all. ICWP has active members in different countries and thanks to this we were able to stay with two communist families. The families of ICWP have opened the doors of their homes to us, they share their home, their language, their friendship and their support. We learn and share everyday. Without this, it would never have been possible to be here. We are infinitely grateful that they share their lives with us and teach us how to be better communists.

One of the comrades who received us sha-

red a note with our friend: "We are communists, we are comrades, we believe in collectivity and we are building communist relations." Today I understood even more, from another comrade in the US, that most social relations that drive the working class are not based on money but instead on comradeship.

These are signs of comradeship that steel our confidence in the working class. It's possible to build indestructible ties with the comrades of ICWP. We've met more members and we will be working together in the summer project. Only an international party like ICWP can lead us to communism. Join ICWP!

--Comrades from Mexico



### The essence of True Religion Jeans is Exploitation

## **IN COMMUNISM WE'LL PRODUCE CLOTHES TO MEET WORKERS' NEEDS, NOT FOR PROFIT**

LOS ANGELES, CA—After ten years of existence, the jeans company True Religion Apparel was put up for sale and bought by the investment company TowerBrook Capital Partners for \$835 million.

Competition among different brands of high end jeans in Southern California led to lower sales and profits for True Religion. Among its main competitors are Lucky Brand Jeans, Joe's Jeans, Citizen of Humanity, and 7 for all Mankind.. Add to this the recent increase in taxes in Europe for these kinds of jeans, imposed by the EU bosses as part of the dog-eat-dog capitalist competition.

This move means more exploitation, speed-up, and lower wages for the men and women garment workers, who barely make enough to survive with the poverty wages they get now.

For the managers and owners of the company, like Jeffrey Lubell, ex-president of True Religion, the story is different. He left office with a compensation of \$5.9 million that he got in salary, stock in the company, medical insurance, and a car, for the year 2012. Now he is a consultant to the company. The new interim president, Lynne Koplun, was paid \$3.5 million in salary and other compensation in 2012.

The workers of True Religion Apparel (TRA) produce 4 million pants which are sold for as much as \$300 or more a piece in the US and elsewhere. This enormous annual production creates fertile ground for profits. Between the contractor, manufacturer, designer, store owners, and banks, they divide up 97% of the profits and the worker is only paid 3% of the value he or she produces. All of this wealth comes from the workers' labor at the machine.

According to the *Wall Street Journal* (July 7, 2011) in their article "How Can Jeans cost \$300?" the cost of cutting and sewing a pair of True Religion jeans is \$11.65. The manufacturers sell them wholesale to the stores for \$152 each, and the stores re-sell them for \$335.00 each.

That is, it is only the labor power of the men and women workers, who made the cloth and sewed the pants, that added the value so that the bosses can make so much profit that they distribute among themselves like hungry vultures.

**Will we have different brands in a communist society?**

The bosses always paint communism as a gray, sad society, with everyone in uniforms. But reality is the complete opposite. In a communist

society, we will have all the best for the working class and we will produce with joy and color for ourselves.

In terms of clothing, we will have the fabrics necessary to cover ourselves, that are also good for the environment and our health. The designs will be based on creativity and what people need, not on profit. Therefore there won't be special brands for a few individuals. Of the pants that are now sold worldwide, only 1% are "famous brands." The rest are jeans that are used for everyday work.

The workers of True Religion cannot buy the pants that they produce, nor receive any compensation from these \$835 million that they created. But they can help to build this new communist society where exploitation, wage differences, and capitalist brands that only divide us no longer exist.

These men and women garment workers, from Bangladesh to Los Angeles, will be the ones who will raise the slogan of the new trend, "Communist Revolution."

We call on workers of the world to build discussion-action groups about the communist ideas in Red Flag and to join the International Communist Workers' Party.

## **SUBSCRIBE TO RED FLAG - \$20/YEAR**

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# CAPITALIST CULTURE FROM A COMMUNIST PERSPECTIVE

Please send in drawings, photos, or written contributions (no more than 350 words)

Top 10 Lies We R Taught

## Capitalist Lies

1. Communism is dead.
2. We have "freedom" of speech, beliefs, expression
3. Cops are your friends/only; bad people go to jail.
4. We have "equal opportunity"
5. The U.S. smashed the Nazis
6. Humans are inherently power hungry
7. We need to vote to change things
8. Capitalism runs on "supply and demand"
9. The government checks and balances ensures that nobody has too much power and our government works for the people
10. Lincoln ended slavery

### Truth:

It's the power-hungry capitalist rulers who work hard to convince us of this lie. One of their main tools is George Orwell's book *Animal Farm*.

An earlier review of this book revealed Orwell's anti-communism and his negative outlook on the masses. Orwell also suggested cynically that all leaders are power-hungry and self-serving and will lead the masses to ruin. We saw him trash Stalin, distorting the Stalin-era purges to paint him as nothing more than a murderer.

Orwell ignores Stalin-era victories such as the massive reorganization of production and mobilization of society to defeat the Nazis. History shows, even if history textbooks don't, that defeating the Nazis was only possible because of the determined might of the Red Army.

To be clear, socialism itself created a new state-capitalist ruling class. This developed under Lenin's New Economic Policy, which mistakenly encouraged small-scale capitalism. It expanded during the Five-Year Plans, when socialism kept key capitalist features, like money, commodity production, and wages. Unfortunately, workers did not remove this new capitalist class with communist

revolution. It still requires removal.

**"Power-hungry" individuals don't create capitalism. Rather, capitalism creates "power-hungry" individuals.**

*Capitalist power* is the power of a small class of exploiters over the rest of us. In class society, the rulers push a "survival of the fittest" outlook. This serves their interest by "proving" capitalist leaders are "more fit" to lead and should not be challenged. It makes us think that poverty, unemployment, lack of medical coverage, etc., are our fault. It also encourages us to view our class brothers and sisters as rivals.

When workers believe that the masses are gullible and incapable of leadership, they may think they have no choice but to follow some strong-armed fascist. The capitalist bosses try to sell us these lies to make their sick system seem like natural human progress.

### Communism: REAL Human Progress

Under communism, we are not rivals. We work collectively and everyone's contribution is valued. More helping hands mean more free time to study and dialog, to grow, develop, and spread our ideas, and to really enjoy the results of our collective work.

Communist power means involving the masses in collective leadership. Leaders try to win increasing numbers of people to a deep commitment to serving society by helping coordinate production and social development for the collective.

Many teachers assign Orwell's book, so we need to be ready to expose his lies and advance our communist ideas!



## BUILD THE ICWP 2013 SUMMER PROJECTS MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

The current worldwide capitalist (economic and political) crisis, together with the mass uprisings and mobilizations from Egypt to India, from Turkey to South Africa, from China to Brazil, cry out for the absolute need to mobilize the masses for communism!

Without mobilizing the masses for communism we will be condemned to further and deepening capitalist exploitation, destruction and eventual World War III. That's why the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) is organizing Summer Projects in Los Angeles, Oakland and Seattle.

ICWP students, teachers, workers, and soldiers will make this a red summer. We'll take Red Flag to factories, bus divisions, shopping centers, military bases, schools and universities. We will visit farmworkers in the Central Valley of California. We will visit bus drivers in Oakland and Boeing workers in Washington State.

By visiting workers we will learn from them about their experiences and discuss communist ideas with them. We will also learn from each other—experienced worker-comrades, high school and college students from different places.

We will study communist philosophy and

history, organize social events,, and hold rallies. In the process, we will begin to develop the practice of communist social relations.

The focus of the Summer Projects is to develop and expand a communist base in industrial sectors and in the military. Both industrial workers and soldiers have proven historically that they are key sections of the working class for making revolution and building a new society.

In this way we are building the basis for a world in which humanity, undivided by borders, racism, sexism, privileges and classes, will decide every aspect of society. We will all contribute to society according to our commitment and receive according to our need.

We invite workers, soldiers, teachers and students around the world to organize similar summer projects so we may advance the struggle to emancipate the interna-

tional working class from capitalist exploitation and build a worker's state. Long live communism!



**JOIN THE ICWP!**