

# RED FLAG

## MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

July 2 – Two hundred thousand metalworkers and engineers (members of NUMSA) launched a nationwide indefinite strike yesterday, shaking the South African bosses and inspiring masses from Port Elizabeth to Johannesburg, with rallies, marches, and roving picket lines. Beyond a 12% pay raise plus housing allowance, their demands include an end to labor brokers (contractors) and halting the Employment Tax Incentive. Health care and education workers, among others, are actively supporting the strike.

Union leaders call this a political strike, but their politics are limited to fighting over control of the giant COSATU labor alliance and trying to elect a new set of bosses to run the same capitalist government. In contrast, two decades of ANC rule have taught many industrial workers that the only solution is communist revolution. That's why we need to organize political strikes against capitalism and for communism. It's why the International Communist Workers' Party is growing in South Africa (see page 15). Full story next issue.

### MASS STRIKE IN SOUTH AFRICA



### CAPITALIST ATTACKS ON SCHOOLS DEMAND COMMUNIST RESPONSE

The global capitalist crisis has increased international competition and propels humanity toward a third world war. In response, the ruling classes of the U.S., El Salvador, and Mexico, among others, have reorganized public schools to produce tech-savvy, patriotic, obedient wage-slaves—on the cheap. Their initiatives include standards (including the U.S. “Common Core”), standardized tests, privatization, and attacks on teachers.

The latest is the ruling in *Vergara v. California* stating that state laws on tenure protect “bad teachers,” who are concentrated in poor and minority schools, and deprive students of their right to an education and violate their civil rights. This attack on teacher tenure is part of a broader attack on workers' job security as well as a move to tighten controls over the schools.

The *Vergara* student plaintiffs were backed by millionaire David Welch and expensive lawyers who plan similar lawsuits from New York to Oregon. Arne Duncan, Obama's Education Secretary, said the decision

would “help millions of students who are hurt by existing teacher tenure laws.” (*NYTimes* 6/10/14)

**It's capitalism—and capitalist education—that hurts billions of students**

Capitalism rests on wage slavery, racism and exploitation. The schools exist to support that relationship by reproducing a working class whose labor is bought and sold in the capitalist market. All students are taught the capitalist values of anti-communism, racism, sexism and patriotism, as well as learning to work for a paycheck (or grade). A few students are co-opted to become the next generation of managers and bosses, while the majority are taught to be obedient wage-slaves and/or patriotic soldiers. Teachers are considered to be “good teachers” to the extent that they teach students whatever knowledge, skills, attitudes and behavior that the bosses need.

**Communism will transform education**

Communist education will be profoundly different. Labor's fruits will be shared according

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### WHAT MADE MUNI DRIVERS SICK? CAPITALISM!

“The Lord giveth, the Lord taketh away.” So says the Bible. It could well describe the workings of the wage system with “The Lord” in this case being the capitalist state, or government. Ask San Francisco's MUNI transit drivers.

As *Red Flag* reported MUNI drivers organized a mass sick-out for three days at the beginning of June. MUNI service was crippled. Why did the drivers get sick? Was it because they couldn't digest a proposed contract that gave them a raise then took most of it away in added payments to their retirement scheme? Was it because they were being offered a new two-tier wage system, with newer drivers getting paid less and older drivers being targeted more by management because of their ‘high’ pay?

While all that explains the anger among the drivers, it doesn't explain why two out of three drivers took part in a sick out? The answer is simple. MUNI workers are banned from legally striking! In legal terms, one of the few avenues of protest left to them is the sick-out. Who, then, made striking illegal? Was it Muni management? No!

It was the State, the capitalist state, that imposed the strike ban. It was the media, the capitalist media, that argued for it. And it was democracy - the feel-good idea that appears neutral but in the end serves capital - that legitimized it! Proposition G passed in November

2010, after a long racist media campaign attacking MUNI drivers.

What this sick-out will achieve in terms of the contract is still to be decided (the current deadline is June 30th) but what it showed politically should be dynamite. It highlighted what we all need to learn. Contract disputes involve more than simple boss-versus-workers negotiations, but political struggles where the capitalists assert their dominance over the working class. For communists, the heightened awareness created during the negotiations presents an opportunity to present the revolutionary argument to abolish the whole system of wage slavery.

It is clear in this case that the Government and its capitalist media create the overall conditions of work at MUNI. The Union-management negotiations just fine-tune the particularities. But what is true at MUNI is true, adjusting for local issues, of all contract negotiations. As long as we approach negotiations as trade-union disputes, we will all remain tied to capitalist exploitation.

That is why *Red Flag* argues for the need to build political strikes against capitalist exploitation. Introducing that idea by reading, discussing and distributing *Red Flag* among our friends and co-workers is a vital step we can all take!

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**Iraq: Middle East Borders No Longer Reflect Imperialist Balance of Forces****FIGHT FOR A COMMUNIST WORLD WITHOUT BORDERS**

In 1916, during World War I, the British and French imperialists secretly drew the borders of Syria, Iraq, Lebanon and Palestine. They vanquished the Ottoman Empire to become the rulers of the Middle East.

After World War II, the US displaced them as rulers of the region, but the borders remained the same. Today, as US hegemony crumbles - challenged by imperial China and Russia, plus regional power Iran - so do the borders.

The jihadist ISIS smashed the Syria-Iraq border and rolled their Humvees through to capture Iraq's second largest city, Mosul, its main refinery and a swath of its territory the size of Jordan.

These dramatic developments do not bode well for world peace. These hundred-year-old borders no longer reflect the balance of forces in the world. A re-division of the world is in order. This will take wider wars and World War III.

**US Imperialism's Greater Middle East Dreams**

Hoping to reassert its grip on the Greater Middle East, US imperialists invaded Afghanistan and Iraq. They planned to secure the long-term geopolitical interests of US imperialism by controlling this oil-rich region.

They lost both wars. Now, after spending trillions and slaughtering millions, their blood-soaked grip on this oil is weaker than ever.

China, Russia and Iran were the winners, gaining concessions to huge oil deposits, while expanding their influence in the region.

Middle East oil is still crucial for world domination. The region's turmoil reflects mainly the US-China-Russia fight over who will control it. Iran and Saudi Arabia and their proxies, like ISIS, create added chaos fighting for regional hegemony. The US-China-Russia struggle will be decided on the battle fields of WWIII.

**US Rulers Divided over their War Strategy: Middle East Now or Asia Pacific Later?**

One sector thinks the US should make its stand in the Middle East. It is using the terrorist ISIS "threat" to pressure Obama into a military response.

The "pivot to Asia Pacific" clan, including Obama, will send money, arms and advisors to Syria and Iraq but will not commit ground troops. These imperialists know that they have bigger fish to fry: China and Russia.

**Middle East Chaos Detrimental to US Rivals' Present-Day Interests**

Although the US press is wringing its hands over ISIS, the current chaos serves US imperialists' needs. It undermines the geopolitical interests of China-Russia-Iran.

Thousands of Shiite militias fighting for Syria's Assad have left to defend their sacred shrines in Iraq threatened by ISIS. Seizing this as an opportunity to topple Assad, Obama and his masters are aiding anti-Assad rebels.

Regime change in Syria would diminish Iran's regional military and political influence. It would isolate and weaken Iran's proxies: Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Palestine.

Russia would lose its most important Arab ally and its access to Syria's Mediterranean naval base. The on-going chaos impedes Russia and China from exploiting Iraq's and Iran's oil.

**Dismantling of Borders Points to Bigger Regional wars**

Iraq's bitter civil war is de facto splitting it into three countries: Kurdistan to the north, the center dominated by the Sunnis and the south dominated by the Shiites.

This is a prescription for permanent war. The Sunnis will inherit little or no oil, and will fight for it. Iraq's main oil fields are in the Shiite region, which could become an Iranian protectorate.

Furthermore, this arrangement can explode into a war engulfing Kurdistan, Syria, Iraq, Iran and Turkey. These last four have sizeable restive Kurdish populations (Turkey alone has 20 million) that could be mobilized to fight for a Greater Kurdistan.

This Kurdish bosses' dream seems closer to reality than ever. With the capture of Kirkuk, they increased their territory by one third, acquired major oil fields, and will be exporting a million barrels a day by 2016. With an army of over 400,000 patriotic soldiers, they plan an independence referendum for next month.

**Russia and Iran Won't Roll Over in Iraq**

Understanding the US plans for regime change in Syria and Iraq, Iran has sent military advisors, fighter jets, drones and other military equipment to fight ISIS. Muqtda al-Sadr, an anti-US cleric, mobilized his massive Mahdi army, pledging to support the pro-Iranian al-Maliki he was key in installing.

Putin has offered Maliki "complete support" to fight ISIS. He has sent 5 of the 12 fighter jets and trainers promised. Long term, by 2020, Russia is adding 30 new war ships to its Black Sea fleet, to bolster what is already the world's biggest navy.

**The Nature of Capitalism-Imperialism: Ever-Increasing Chaos and War**

Capitalism's needs for maximum profits drives it inexorably toward chaos and wars. As a revolutionary once said, the capitalists will "Make trouble, fail, make trouble again, fail again . . . until their doom." That is capitalism-imperialism's logic.

Our logic, he said, is "Fight, fail, fight again, fail again, fight again . . . until our victory." With *Mobilizing the Masses for Communism* as our guiding principle, and with workers from El Salvador to Spain to South Africa distributing *Red Flag* and joining and building ICWP, our logic will prevail.

Read our new pamphlet:

# **BIGGER INDUSTRIAL WORKING CLASS: BIGGER COMMUNIST POTENTIAL WORLDWIDE**

Available at:

[www.icwpredflag.org](http://www.icwpredflag.org)



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WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG — (310) 487-7674  
E-MAIL: ICWP@ANONYMOUSSPEECH.COM  
WRITE TO: P.M.B. 362  
3006 S. VERMONT AVE., LOS ANGELES, CA  
90007, USA**

## MTA Workers Discuss their Contract:

### CAN A UNION CONTRACT OR JOB GIVE YOU HAPPINESS?

“The contract should be rejected,” said an MTA bus operator referring to the tentative agreement between ATU and MTA. He added, “The so-called wage increase may fool many, but considering the real inflation rate, it ends up being a wage cut.”

An ICWP member said, “No matter how big or small a wage increase is, the contract just justifies, legalizes and imposes our wage slavery. Our goal should be to abolish it. Only communism can do that.

“In communism, without money, we will work according to commitment and receive according to need,” said another ICWP member.

“There I see a problem,” said the MTA operator. “You put too much emphasis in satisfying the material needs of the workers. You should emphasize more that in communism, work will be something that will make you happy because you are doing something that you like,” he suggested.

“You gave us something to think about,” responded the ICWP member. “The question of happiness is important. We promise to think and write more about it. I personally think people would be happy doing something that is needed by society.”

This led to a very lively and exciting discussion. The main ideas put forward were that people have different talents, and communist collectives would help everyone develop them to best contribute to society. That would make the contributor and receiver happy.

We also said that not everyone can always do only work that they like. There would be a long-

term struggle for people to develop the attitude that they’ll do whatever is needed at a given time. Being part of such an effort, carried out with camaraderie and communist optimism, would make us happy.

**A capitalist job can never give us happiness**

A recent international survey found that 87% of workers in all job categories hated their jobs. Most MTA workers must feel the same. MTA’s reign of terror in recent years has increased the harassment and stress significantly.

However, the nature of the capitalist job is the main cause of dissatisfaction. We are wage slaves and no money or benefits can ever change that. Deep down we know that no matter how “nice” the bosses treat us, when we no longer serve their interest they will fire us.

No job, no money; no money, no life. The wage--money--the “incentive” to work and that which is supposed to buy us happiness becomes the opposite. It is the chain that binds us to our masters and if broken it could be a death sentence. Money then was designed to be an entrapment and executioner, not a cure-all to make us



happy.

In communism, contributing to the well-being of society will make us happy. But what do MTA operators contribute to capitalist society? How can a wage slave be happy transporting other wage slaves or future wage slaves every day, about 1.2 million mainly black and latino workers and youth, to be super-exploited in garment sweat shops, fast food restaurants, cleaning skyscrapers, etc.?

This would depress anyone. But MTA workers that aspire to break the chains of wage slavery should be inspired by the potential they have of uniting with all these wage slaves and youth to help mobilize for communism. Don’t pin your hope on the union contract. Organize a political strike for communism to forge the unity we need with these masses.

## El Salvador:

### GARMENT WORKERS BUILD ICWP

We have made a huge effort in several factories to build the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP),” reports a garment worker.

“Women and men workers have joined us. We distribute our *Red Flag* to co-workers in different factories. We are proud Party members, workers fighting for communism.”

For four years we have fought inside the factories for commitment to *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*. We have fought against the bosses’ system and their servants masked as union leaders. The comrades in the factories have received every type of threat and their efforts have multiplied. Retreating in the face of the threats of the bosses and their henchmen is not their slogan. The slogan has been “More repression—more struggle.”

*Red Flag* networks are expanding every day in spite of workers being bombarded with lies about communism and attacks by the bosses and unions.

“My children participate in the FMLN electoral party. When I talk to them about our communist line, they support me. I’m glad that they say it’s good that I am a communist worker,” said a woman comrade garment worker.

Articles about workers fighting for communism in other countries inspire our friends. “It fills us with joy to know that there are comrades in many places in the world struggling together with us,” commented another young worker.

#### Every Attack Deserves a Communist Response

A few days ago the boss and union attacked a co-worker for an action she took to defend the very same union. A judge fined her \$180, a



Garment Workers in El Salvador on May Day, 2014  
“DESTROY CAPITALISM;  
BUILD COMMUNISM ICWP”

month’s salary.

She saw that unions and bosses are rotten birds of a feather. We are struggling to convince her that the solution is to join ICWP and fight for communist revolution.

Recently, a supervisor insulted another woman worker who reads *Red Flag*. The boss ordered her to go to a different production line. As a wage slave, she had to put up with this humiliation or lose her job.

She got up, very upset, and disappeared from the supervisor’s sight for three hours. A comrade, worried, went to look for her. He found her in the bathroom, her eyes filled with tears.

She angrily told the comrade that the bosses harassed the workers more because he was no longer a union leader. Our comrade explained that he stopped being a union leader to fight directly for communism. Trade unionism is a death trap for workers. His goal now was to win workers to ICWP.

Defending workers from the bosses’ attacks will not depend on a union “leader,” but on a

Party collective responding with communist tactics and strategy – not to demand and win reforms, but to advance the communist political understanding and organization of the masses. To this end we plan to put forward a more aggressive communist plan that responds to each and every bosses’ attack, while building our communist class solidarity which is essential to get rid of capitalism’s wage slavery.

As wage slaves, if we don’t have a job to produce profits for a boss, our families don’t eat. Thus being fired is a death sentence. Our struggle must be to destroy

the wage system that daily threatens us and our families. The answer is to build a communist system, based on producing to meet the needs of the international working class.

Noting the advance of ICWP in the factories, the bosses and their unions have given the workers (using the same workers’ money) some small portions of food and gifts for Mother’s and Father’s Day, so that workers will think that the union is good. But what they give with the left hand, they are robbing with the right hand.

In communism, there won’t be bosses or their henchmen, profits or exploitation. The centers of production will be centers of ideological struggle for communist solidarity and collectivity. No worker, man or woman, will be mistreated. If someone breaks this principle, the collective will discipline them.

We have a long road ahead, full of many struggles, but more are joining. We are planning a meeting with *Red Flag* readers to talk about mobilizing for communism. We know that we are on the correct road to building a communist society.

## From Poverty and Violence to Exploitation and War:

### IMMIGRANTS & CITIZENS UNITED TO DESTROY CAPITALISM

A river of children from Central America and Mexico is flowing to the US in search of their parents and a supposedly better future. On the way, many youth are sexually abused and beaten, or die at the hands of the gangs, the police or the smugglers. The most “fortunate,” after traveling three thousand miles on the “Beast” (a cargo train) and having paid thousands of dollars, arrive at the border to fall prey to the hated “Migra” agents.

Many think that when they arrive in the US they will automatically have legal papers, a rumor that has been spread primarily in Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

Since October 2013, more than 52,000 unaccompanied children have been arrested crossing the border, a 90% increase over last year. Estimates are that this number will increase to 90,000 for the year. Over 32,000 mothers with children were arrested in the same period.

This crisis has been created by the capitalist system that forces tens of thousands of workers and their children to leave their homes to flee poverty and violence that the same capitalists create.

#### Immigration Crisis Reflects Fight Among US Bosses Over War Plans

Obama sent his whole high command to take maximum advantage of this situation. He sent



This debate has spilled into the streets. Many of those who support immigrants are contributing food and clothing to the recent arrivals, as they did in a church in Arizona. At the same time, racists in Murrieta California protested against 140 immigrants, mainly mothers and children, being brought to a detention center there. Immigrants and their supporters shouldn't be fooled by Obama's rhetoric, but instead should fight for a communist world with no borders.

lawyers, judges, and political asylum officials to Texas to speed up processing the detainees and send them to their families or prison shelters.

US Vice President Biden met with the Presidents of Guatemala and El Salvador and representatives of Honduras and Mexico to address the issue. He promised more aid to those countries for new projects to stop youth from gang involvement. He also assured, “We cannot forcefully separate the children from their parents. The children have their parents in the US, and in our view they should be united with them there.”

However he said, “Those considering risking their lives to reach the US should ... be conscious of what awaits them, which will not be open arms...any child who came in the last 7 years is not eligible to avail themselves of the process of deferred action, no immigrant who came after 2011 is eligible for integral immigration reform.”

The most powerful sector of US bosses, which Obama represents, needs to push patriotism massively to prepare for more wars and World War III. They need the loyalty of millions of immigrant workers laboring as wage slaves.

More important, they need the children of these workers to willingly join the army and fight their imperialist wars.

However, many Republicans are not concerned with building mass patriotism among immigrants for war, but only in super-exploiting them, pushing anti-immigrant racism. They blame Obama's lack of border security for the crisis. Texas Republican Gov. Rick Perry is calling for 1000 National Guard troops, helicopters and drones to stop immigrants. John Boehner, Republican leader of US House of Representatives, refuses to put Immigration Reform to a vote.

Thomas Donohue, the President of the US Chamber of Commerce, representing businesses, wants reform. “Without reform, our broken immigration system will continue hurting our economy, jobs and undermining our global competitiveness.”

comes for the children of bosses and workers, especially black and latino/ workers. Discriminatory education is crucial to the role of schools in capitalist society.

#### Capitalism needs teachers to toe the line

The judge in Vergara, arguing that there are “a significant number of grossly ineffective teachers currently active in California classrooms,” put all teachers on notice. But the answer is not to rely on tenure and the courts, which, according to California Federation of Teachers President Pechthalt, protect the best teachers, “activist-teachers.”

But teacher activists fighting, as Pechthalt argues, for multi-cultural education or to move a polluting factory don't build a movement that attacks the system at its roots. In fact, they promote the illusion that capitalism's racist inequalities can be patched up by a few activists, protected by the courts and the unions.

#### We need a revolutionary communist program

The courts are at least as discriminatory as the grossly unequal educational system. Unions keep



On June 30, Obama threatened that if the US Congress didn't pass Immigration Reform for the over 11 million undocumented immigrant workers, he would use his executive powers to provide Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to all those who qualify for the proposed law that passed the Senate last year. But he warned that the children who have come recently will be sent back to their countries of origin.

None of these politicians have the well-being of the workers and children in mind, only how to maintain their profits and empire. These rulers have bombed and massacred millions of workers and their children around the world. This is what capitalism offers: a race against death and the prize for the ones who survive is to work as a slave and die in their wars.

#### For a World Without Borders or Wage Slavery!

We workers, immigrants and citizens, should see this crisis as one more reason to fight to destroy this capitalist system and build a new society based on communist principles. Borders are a recent invention of the ruling classes to divide and exploit groups of workers. In a communist world, borders won't exist. Workers and their children will not have to abandon their places of origin to get a “permit” for survival. Instead, our survival will depend on us collectively producing and sharing what we need.

Communism will eliminate money and exploitation. We will no longer be wage slaves. We will creatively and collectively build our future. When we fight, it will be for the international working class.

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to need, rather than produced for a profit. Workers—in industry, agriculture, medicine, transport—will share their skills and knowledge with youth. Young people, from their earliest moments, will see themselves as part of a larger human family, rather than as workers subject to a boss, or soldiers of a country.

#### Vergara blames teachers for unequal education

Educational reformers from Diane Ravitch to FairTest to the union leadership blame poverty, unequal funding and standardized tests for unequal education. The Chicago Teachers Union, for example, issued this response to the Vergara: “The root causes of differences in student performance have to do with structural differences in schools...concentrated poverty, intense segregation, skeletal budgets...overuse and misuse of standardized testing, school closures... and the calculated deprivation of resources.”

But the reality is that capitalism needs racism and exploitation, and different education out-

## Read our pamphlet COMMUNIST EDUCATION FOR A CLASSLESS SOCIETY



available at [www.icwpredflag.org](http://www.icwpredflag.org)

us tied to the status quo of wage slavery. Teachers, students, parents and other workers must unite to fight for a new world, where the working class, mobilized collectively in a share-and-share-alike communist system, can raise and educate young people to reach their highest potential—not as wage slaves, but as free workers.

## TEACHERS AND OTHER WORKERS MUST BUILD INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY AGAINST IMPERIALISM, NOT FOR IT

LOS ANGELES, July 2—As thousands of teachers and other workers prepare for the biennial convention of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), amidst sharpening attacks on students, teachers, and all workers, the AFT leadership is fighting the Cold War – now in Ukraine.

Its stridently anti-Russian “Ukraine Democratic Governance” convention resolution, incredibly, denies the existence of fanatical anti-Semitism among Ukrainian nationalists. It negates the historical reality of Kiev as an emblematic Russian city. It proposes that “international solidarity” means supporting NGOs that are funded by, and take leadership from, the US State Department.

**Real international solidarity means mobilizing for a communist world without borders, a world without capitalists or imperialists of either the “free-market” or the “state-capitalist” variety.**

### AFT and the AFL-CIA

Nearly half of the activity of the giant US labor federation AFL-CIO is overseas. The AFT plays a big part in this mainly ideological work. As teachers are expected to train youth in capitalist ways of thinking and doing, the AFT pushes the US imperialist ideological agenda worldwide.

AFT President Randi Weingarten’s racist and proudly anti-communist mentor, Al Shanker, was a shameless cold-warrior who brought actual CIA agents – notably Irving Brown — to AFT conventions.

Shanker helped to lead the AFL-CIO’s pro-capitalist American Institute for Free Labor Development (AIFLD), which operated in Latin America and the Caribbean from 1962-1997. AIFLD was funded partly by large corporations but mainly through the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

USAID was a well-known CIA front. In south Vietnam, for example, “USAID provided cover for CIA operatives so widely that the two became almost synonymous.” (*Washington Post*, 4/26/2010)

When US imperialism wanted to dump an unfriendly Brazilian government in 1963, AIFLD trained 33 “labor activists” there, who then helped to overthrow President Joao Goulart. Later, in Nicaragua, the AIFLD brokered the labor coalition that supported UNO against the Sandinistas.

After the Soviet Union collapsed, USAID commissioned a report on the future of its labor activity that, noting AIFLD’s reputation for corruption and CIA connections, advised reorganization. It suggested that funds be channeled through the National Endowment for Democracy (NED).

From its founding in 1983 until 1994, NED was funded exclusively by the US government. Now it also gets donations from oil companies and war contractors. An NED founder, Allen Weinstein, explained in 1991, “A lot of what we do today was done covertly 25 years ago by the CIA.”

The US Government Accountability Office passed USAID’s instructions along to the AFL-CIO, which, in 1997, dutifully merged AIFLD with similar regional organizations into the American Center for International Labor Solidarity (ACILS or the Solidarity Centers). ACILS gets half of its funding through NED, most of the rest from the US government, and only about 4% from unions. (Note to Boeing workers: IAM president Buffenbarger is an ACILS trustee.)

ACILS tries to obscure its sordid roots. But George Nelson Bass’s 2012 Ph.D. thesis shows in detail that ACILS continues past AFL-CIO foreign policy practices:

“...[T]he Solidarity Center closely tailors its operations abroad in areas of importance to the U.S. state ... is heavily reliant on state funding via the NED ... [and] that the Solidarity Center works closely with U.S. allies and coalitions.” ([www.countercurrents.org/nelsonbass040313.pdf](http://www.countercurrents.org/nelsonbass040313.pdf))

Ukraine is no exception (see adjoining article).

### THOSE AT THE TOP SAY:

#### PEACE AND WAR

**Are of different substance**

**But their peace and their war**

**Are like wind and storm**

**Their war kills**

**Whatever their peace**

**Has left over.**

—Bertolt Brecht

Another resolution before the AFT calls for “ending U.S. militarized foreign policy.” It wants U.S. foreign policy instead to “prioritize the needs of working people everywhere and ... negotiation and diplomatic means over military deployment” in Ukraine and elsewhere. This is either astoundingly naïve or inexcusably deceptive.

“Diplomatic means” are the State Department, USAID, NED, ACILS, and the NGOs they support. So this resolution actually echoes the AFT leadership line on Ukraine instead of exposing the imperialist roots of US foreign policy.

Uncritical talk about “national security” reinforces patriotic lies and an anti-class-struggle line. It risks turning anti-war union militants into a “loyal opposition” to the worst butchers in world history.

Let’s face it: capitalism-imperialism by its very nature prioritizes profits, meaning the exploitation of workers. It can never meet the needs of working people anywhere.

In the present period of a general crisis of world capitalism, ever-larger wars – including world war – are inevitable until the masses of workers, soldiers and youth rise up in a revolutionary mobilization for communism.

“Less money for war”? We say: No money! No capitalism! No nations! No war!

Working-class internationalism means supporting and spreading anti-capitalist revolts. It means organizing one International Communist Workers’ Party from Seattle’s Boeing plants to El Salvador’s maquilas to South Africa’s industrial suburbs and schools everywhere. Please join us in this historic task.



**Protest in the Philippines against 2011 visit of Secretary of State Clinton**

## FIGHTING OVER UKRAINE:

When the Mongols pressed into Europe, when Russia fought Sweden, when Napoleon and later Hitler invaded Russia, Ukraine was soaked with the blood of workers and peasants and their sons in uniform. In between, it was soaked with the sweat of their exploited labor. And it’s happening again.

This rich, strategic region is an imperialist battleground. We workers must not side with any group of capitalist butchers. We must mobilize the masses for communism, to eliminate the bosses, their borders, and their deadly profit system.

After the break-up of the Soviet Union, USAID stepped up its Ukraine operation to establish “independent media, an active civil society, and a broader entrepreneurial class.” USAID money helped to privatize agriculture, “better the business climate and draw foreign investment.” All this meant sharp attacks on workers in Ukraine.

Today, however, US capitalism is mostly shut out of the market system it helped to build there. Almost 50% of foreign direct investment in Ukraine comes from Europe. Russia accounts for 7% directly, plus much of the 30% that comes via Cyprus. The US doesn’t make Ukraine’s “top ten” list of foreign investors.

Last November, Exxon and Chevron signed an agreement with Ukraine to drill for gas in the Black Sea, challenging Russian dominance of Ukraine’s energy sector. Now they’ve been deterred by Russia’s seizure of Crimea, an important military base and Black Sea port. Still, Russia has not re-established its ability to control Ukraine’s industrial base in Donetsk.

Ukraine and the European Union recently signed the pact that Russia desperately wanted to stop last December. Germany in particular seems to be advancing its interests in spite of the continuing crisis. US media exaggerate the damage that Putin’s policies are doing to Russia, but Russia is still on the defensive. Its attempt to lead a Eurasian customs union is faltering.

Meanwhile, US rulers are divided over their ineffective sanctions on Russia. Oil and gas executives praise Obama’s endorsement of US energy exports as a foreign policy tool. But the National Association of Manufacturers and the US Chamber of Commerce have taken out full-page ads opposing new sanctions.

The real winner may be China. Last year, China became Ukraine’s second-largest trade partner (after the EU). Ukraine wants modern Chinese technology, while China looks to Ukraine for military technology, grain, and customers.

*Russia Times* correspondent Andrew Leung says, “the Ukrainian crisis is likely to push Russia more towards China as a balance against America [and] America more towards China to balance against Russia.” China, he predicts, will choose Russia. US sanctions push Russia toward China’s currency and financial system.

Many are understandably disgusted with US imperialism. But rival capitalist-imperialists in Moscow and Beijing are equally our enemy. Their sharpening rivalry will mean world war. We must prepare ourselves and our students (future soldiers) to turn that war into communist revolution.



## 2022 World Cup of Death in Qatar:

# MIGRANT WORKERS READING RED FLAG CAN CHANGE THE WORLD

“More laborers will die during construction [of the facilities for the 2022 Soccer World Cup in Qatar] than the footballers who will step on the pitch,” says Sharan Burrow, General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC). Her “solution”: a Twitter campaign to the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) execs, calling for a vote to move the World Cup unless migrant workers in Qatar are given the right to organize unions. The bosses must be shaking in their boots!

Capitalism is deadly the world over, with or without unions. In the US, where workers have had the “right” to organize unions since 1935, 4,628 workers were killed on the job in 2012—that’s 3.4 per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers. In Qatar, it’s 5 workers per 100,000.

Conditions in Qatar are extreme. Migrant workers from Africa, South and Southeast Asia make up at least 90% of the workforce. Women household workers who live as domestic slaves, are often subject to sexual abuse. Men are usually housed in unsanitary, overcrowded dormitories, forced to work long hours in blistering heat, as gardeners, janitors, and increasingly as construction workers to build the stadiums, roads, hotels and other infrastructure planned for the World Cup.

### Kafala: Another kind of slavery

Many have their passports confiscated, or are subject to contracts from which they cannot escape. They can’t change jobs or leave the country without the consent of the sponsor of their visa

(a system known as kafala).

Last November, Amnesty International put out a report that condemned the abuse of migrant workers in Qatar. Since then, the United Nations and a bunch of other agencies have hopped on the bandwagon, issuing reports condemning the government of Qatar and the construction companies for the deaths of construction workers and inhuman working and living conditions in the country.

This isn’t new. The *Bangladesh Daily Star* published an article in 2005 called “SOS from Bangladeshi workers in the Gulf” that exposed the exploitation of blue-collar migrants. International agencies have been publishing these reports for years.

### Paper Reforms Can’t Hide Real Slavery

But all of a sudden, with the World Cup approaching in 2022, there’s a campaign for the right of trade unions and the end of the kafala system. The Qatari government has made the confiscation of passports illegal and on May 14 announced that they will propose a law ending the kafala system. But workers aren’t fooled. These are just words. The laws are created for the benefit of the bosses and their profits. Whether they are enforced or not, the workers will still be enslaved by capitalism. Only communism will put an end to all forms of slavery.

So-called human-rights organizations are calling for an end to slavery—but capitalism by its very nature creates slavery. The extreme poverty

and absolute lack of jobs in countries from Somalia to Bangladesh means that workers are forced to migrate for their own and their families’ survival. The debt bondage that migrant workers face in Qatar is in many ways just a more extreme form of the wage slavery that all workers face under capitalism. Even if you can quit one job, you have to find another or you starve.

Polite protests at FIFA meetings can’t change the nature of capitalism. Competition creates a race to the bottom in which the most vulnerable workers around the world are faced with the most extreme exploitation. Worldwide capitalist crisis has made this worse.

### Workers Need Communist Revolution

Neither trade unions nor new laws will change the life of the working class. It will take a revolution to achieve a world where the working class can organize itself by communist principles. In a world where production is for need, not for profit, everyone will have meaningful work and decent living conditions, and no one will have to abandon their family to send them the means of survival.

Immigrants do 90% of the janitorial, construction and cooking work in Qatar. Some are reading *Red Flag*. When they organize massively to fight for communism, uniting with workers around the world, we can put an end to capitalist wage slavery and finally build the world we deserve, a communist world.

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

## Lessons from the Socialist Betrayal of Internationalism during WWI

# LENIN ON THE DIALECTICS OF CATASTROPHE AND REVOLUTION

In our last column we discussed some of the shortcomings in Lenin’s dialectical thinking about knowledge. Events in the summer of 1914 prompted Lenin to study dialectics more thoroughly and make important advances in communist philosophy.

In July 1914 the European imperialists began World War I, a battle over capitalist plunder that would slaughter millions. The European socialists (the “Second International”) had seen this coming, and the socialist parties of most countries had pledged to oppose imperialist wars and organize mass political strikes if one was started.

What actually happened is that almost all the leaders of the socialist parties supported “their own” governments and tried to stop communist workers who wanted to turn the war into a revolution. The international socialist movement that had seemed to be fighting to overthrow capitalism turned into its opposite, supporting imperialism and helping to oppress the working class.

Although he was fighting to build up a new communist movement that would use the war as an opportunity for revolution, Lenin started to study the dialectical philosophy of Hegel immediately after the war began. Some of Lenin’s conclusions from this study showed up in his articles and speeches, but Lenin recorded much more in notebooks that were only published after his death. We summarize his most important ideas in this column and the next one.

### The Dialectics of Development

The catastrophes of 1914 completely contradicted the idea of historical development that was common in the Second International, that the workers’ movement would gradually evolve, increasing in size and power until it overthrew capitalism. This outlook corresponded to one of two

basic viewpoints about historical change identified by Lenin. One sees change as “decrease or increase, as repetition,” usually without being able to give a general explanation of what causes such changes.

The opposite viewpoint is the dialectical one. It recognizes that in addition to increase or decrease, development “often proceeds by leaps, and via catastrophes and revolutions in nature and society.” The reason for these “breaks in continuity” is that processes are driven by the “contradiction and conflict” of the forces and tendencies inside things, events, and societies. Contradictions tend to become more intense and break out into sudden changes like an explosion or economic crisis. Thus dialectics sees sudden outbreaks (like the “Arab Spring”) or sudden collapses (like the Iraqi army in the last few weeks) as normal events that should be expected. Lenin said that it is only the unity of opposites, aspects of processes that are connected but exclude each other, that can explain the processes in the real world.

### Turning into the Opposite

One of the things that happens in a real process is turning into its opposite, that is, taking on characteristics that are the opposite of those it used to have, like the pre-war socialist movement that turned into an arm of imperialism. The Second International allowed reformers and self-promoters to become leaders, especially trade union bureaucrats, who allied themselves with the capitalists to keep their cushy jobs. These opportunists were tolerated as legitimate members of the movement, alongside revolutionaries. At the beginning of the war pro-capitalist leaders won the class struggle inside the Second International and led it to support imperialism, the opposite of



its supposed goal.

After the Second International collapsed, revolutionaries in Russia were able to build up the communist party—the Bolsheviks—out of the crisis of the war. They turned collapse into its opposite, the successful revolution in October 1917, three years later.

### The Struggle of Opposites

Lenin emphasized that the unity of opposites is temporary and limited, but “the struggle of mutually exclusive opposites is absolute, just as development and motion are absolutes.” The unity of the reformers and revolutionaries in the workers’ movement ended when the war started, but the struggle of these two sides will continue as long as capitalism exists. The trend in the history of processes is for their internal contradictions to become stronger and break up any previous unity of opposites. Lenin said that wholes dividing into contradictory sides is actually the “essence of dialectics.”

*In the next column, we will discuss Lenin’s ideas on one-sidedness and his new understanding of idealism.*

## LETTERS

**An invitation to all Red Flag readers**

Are you interested in spending a week of your summer in the beautiful Pacific Northwest? You will be meeting locals who have considerable experience in class struggle, as well as some young enthusiastic volunteers who will be traveling here.

Starting July 20th, we will be collectively distributing our paper and the new Party industrial pamphlet to workers at three Boeing plants in the area, and to soldiers at Ft. Lewis/McChord. Our friends on the inside will be circulating the same literature at the same time.

We will visit these workers and soldiers and their families several evenings during that week. We'll get to hear first-hand their reaction and to discuss the ideas of the ICWP.

We will hold more formal study groups, targeting specific questions, history of international workers struggles, as well as the more personal struggles we all face every day on our jobs, in our schools, and with our friends and families.

**Making a Revolution Against Capitalism Gives Meaning to my Life**

Our community in South Africa is the victim of the capitalist system. Most people are unemployed and the few people that are employed are working hard, long hours each and everyday for a minimum wage that can't at all meet the requirements of the normal person.

This South African country is bullshit and unfair and favors rich people. There's no such thing as equal rights. Equal rights is just an illusion. In 2001, which was 13 years ago, I graduated on top of my class with a cum laude which means I graduated with honors.

There are many graduates and people who deserve certain jobs but they won't get them. Instead jobs are given to unqualified and incompetent candidates because they have connections and are friends with the employers. The unemployment rate is sky-high and so is poverty. If you are friends of the ruling party then you will benefit from this crooked country.

The solution is that this government must be removed from power and the power must be given back to the people, we need to revolutionize the system not fix the system. Fixing a broken glass is useless. You must replace a broken glass with an unbroken glass. So how can you starve and bring poverty to the people that are the core reason you have bread? That's what our government is doing to us. As long as these parties are in power there won't be a better life for people. This government must be demolished, people (community).

The way things are is that all these South African parties, especially the ANC, have promised us a lot of things since it came to power more than two decades ago which are: end of poverty, equal rights, employment for everyone, housing for everyone, free education.

Three new members that just joined us motivate me to read. I must confess I was lazy. But now I am better than before because of the new members. I was surprised to see them after so many years and surprisingly they are on the same path.

Do not cut the weeds with a pair of scissors because they will grow again so rather remove it with its roots so it does not grow again. This means to make this world a better place for all we must destroy capitalism with all its elements t revolution.

Comrade S is a big help because he teaches

## LETTERS

And this year, we would like to do some writing also, taking what we are learning about workers' and soldiers' lives under capitalism and contrast that with what life could be like in a real communist world! Several Boeing workers have already volunteered to be interviewed.

Hopefully, we will all be reading these side by side stories in future issues of **Red Flag**. Anybody interested in illustrating this "Two Lives" story, perhaps in cartoon form?

But we won't limit ourselves to the local work. We have set aside time to communicate with African industrial workers and youth via the Internet. These industrial workers and others in other countries will also be giving this literature to their fellow workers this summer. We want to get this new pamphlet in the hands of 10,000. Workers of the world are uniting.

Finally, we will bring all this together at our closing barbeque on Sunday, July 27th. We will share what we have learned during the project with old friends and people we have met during the week. Hopefully, some volunteers can pre-

us and helps us understand how capitalism operates. Yes. Comrade S is rock solid in his determination to end capitalism with communism. And what he knows he makes sure that we know too, and its vital knowledge and information.

I am new in politics and ICWP but now I feel like I have a great responsibility which is making a revolution against capitalism and it gives meaning in my life.

What I promise is even if I die before revolution, I will die having recruited a lot of people to join us.

—Comrade in South Africa

**Contradictions Among Friends**

I agree with the comments in the letter in **Red Flag** (Vol 5, #8) that all contradictions are internal to some system or process, but the original article from Mexico discussed an important issue I want to ask about.

I think the motivation behind the distinction that the Mexican comrades made between external and internal contradictions may be that contradictions within the same class, as in friends disagreeing on ideas or plans, are supposed to be constructive for both friends; while contradictions between classes lead to one side eating up the other.

I have this concern too. I would like there to be a distinction between contradictions among friends and contradictions among enemies, but whatever distinction we make should still preserve the idea that all contradictions are internal.

**Red Flag** columns have argued in the past that internal contradictions are resolved through increased intensity until one side beats out the other. I think that for contradictions among friends, we should think of the two sides of the contradiction as ideas or policies, not people. Friends don't have to try to defeat each other. They can try to defeat wrong ideas by everyone learning that they are wrong.

I'm wondering if the authors agree with that point. In the Soviet Union, Soviet philosophers proposed a kind of "non-antagonistic" contradiction, which were supposed to be contradictions that are resolved without increasing their intensity. I think this position is not true to a materialistic dialectics. It was used in Russia and China to argue that socialism can transform into communism, and we can see how wrong

## CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

sent what they have completed in the "Two Lives" project. This is always a great chance to commit ...or recommit ourselves to mobilize the masses for communism. We invite you to join us!

Contact us at [icwp@anonymousspeech.com](mailto:icwp@anonymousspeech.com) or call 310-487-7674.



ICWP Summer Project, Seattle, 2012

that idea was.

—Military Reader

**Garment Workers Share Red Flag with Other Garment Workers**

LOS ANGELES—4:50 AM, the alarm sounds, I wake from a deep sleep, but the excitement of going to distribute **Red Flag** to the men and women garment workers makes me get up to bring them our communist ideas and give them the solution to all the exploitation and poverty that we live everyday in capitalism. We are headed to a building of garment shops with about 1,300 workers.

As we got on the freeway, the sunrise lit up the sky of East Los Angeles. This began an exciting conversation with my comrade with whom I distribute **Red Flag**. We imagined how life will be when the revolution wins and we live in communism, where we workers will lead the world. This makes us eager to keep fighting for this world that we desire so much.

When we arrive, excitedly we began to distribute the newspaper. My comrade shouted "**Red Flag!** Workers' Struggles!" Hearing this, many people stopped to take a paper and others to patiently wait their turn.

When I saw someone come running, doing morning exercise with his dog, I offered him the newspaper, but he didn't want it. After a few minutes he came back for **Red Flag**. I thought it was strange to see him, but with the new city projects to build luxury apartments downtown, it will be more common to see people running and walking their dogs.

I saw that many workers who took the newspaper were reading it. It gives me great joy to see how open the workers are to communist ideas. Even though the bosses want to lower our morale by saying that when workers go into the building they throw the newspaper away, we answer, "even if one worker reads it, that means a lot to us."

I wanted to share these experiences with you, my class brothers and sisters. We finished happily, and went to our jobs. That day we distributed 530 **Red Flags**. Sooner rather than later the potential of all these workers will become realized and they will be among those who will help build a new communist society.

—Immigrant woman garment worker.

# COMMUNIST AND CAPITALIST CULTURE

To join study groups that will be discussing this topic contact us

**Teacher's lecture about communism teaches me little...**

During a lecture about communism, socialism, and capitalism my teacher said, "Under Communism the government owns all means of production, the workers run the factories, and everyone earns equal pay. The government intervenes in everything from what you make to how much you make and where you work." Another thing my teacher mentioned was, "The people gave up a lot of freedoms for equality." I wonder if "freedom" is code for individualism?

Although most cannot choose their ideal job under capitalism, this is not obvious to people, even to the unemployed. The examples he used about communist countries are NOT communist. I know this because there will no longer be ownership over property, money, or wages under communism and the countries he talked about all had these.

As the lecture continued he said, "Capitalism is a 'hands-off' government and business owners pay workers and mostly take care of things while the government stands back and watches." From my observation, capitalism is a highly governed society with 2.4 million people incarcerated, a huge military, and the government is unable/unwilling to take care of all people.

Lastly, he talked about socialism. He said that socialism is half communism and half capitalism. However, I have learned from real communists that socialism is state capitalism and that while socialism was thought to be a middle stage before communism...it actually only created new oppressors and exploiters, like in Russia and China.

Overall, we were taught that communism is a

## Communist Education

**Communist education is not erected to maintain wage slavery...**

**nor to chain the sciences and the rest of human activity...**

**communist education is erected to eliminate the sale of the capacity that creates...**

**it is to extend the satisfaction of the masses of free workers...**

**it is to unleash human creativity and build a new, a different world...**

**communist education is for the flowering of the whole of humanity.**

strict government system; capitalism is a "hands-off" government system; and socialism is somewhere in the middle. However, I think capitalism is more like a dictatorship, monarchy, or slavery system camouflaged in a democracy. The rich act like a queen or king telling the president and everyone below them to tell the working class to "work" harder or produce more materials for the bosses, so the bosses could make a profit off our labor. Then the bosses say to vote and petition to change things, which creates the illusion of "freedom."

Teachers are taught lies, then teach us lies. It's hard to know what is true. The government, school, media, are set up to keep us from truth. They don't want us to figure out how messed up this system is. That is why we have *Red Flag*, to show us why we need communism and to free ourselves from capitalism. Read *Red Flag* and help organize for communism.

## WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE A RED TEACHER

Being a communist teacher is a contradiction. You can be a communist, but as long as you're in your classroom, you teach what the bosses want the students to learn, you impose their discipline, and you adapt your students to live under the wage system. How can you sharpen this contradiction?

The school is a place where thinking, behavior, skills and attitudes are molded in accordance with the system and its mode of production. From the relationship between the tardy bell and the factory time clock, to working for a grade and the wage system, everything responds to the mode of production. How can you struggle against this while you're teaching it?

"It's about taking risks," says a comrade teacher, referring to the communist struggle with his students in the classroom. To create a struggle between capitalist ideology, which the schools are designed for, and communist ideas, the teachers in ICWP bring the communist line to their students by way of *Red Flag*. Debates, discussion, struggle, confronting the bosses' ideas with the ideas of communist workers is one way to mobilize the future masses of workers and soldiers of the world for communism.

To the bosses' pacifist teacher, the teacher must bring communist struggle. To the bosses' selfishness, working-class collectivity, to racism, nationalism, sexism and all the ideas and practices that capitalism seeks to impose, teachers must bring questions, debate and struggle with the students. That way the teacher can use the bosses' attack against them.

In communism, education won't be the responsibility of specific persons. Communist education will eliminate the division between theory and practice. We will all participate in the process of instruction. We will learn to cure in the hospitals, to grow food in the fields, to produce in the factories. We will eliminate all traces of the old class education.

The way to sharpen this contradiction is to sharpen the struggle for communism. To destroy sexism, nationalism and racism in education, we must destroy capitalism. We need to recruit the future masses of workers—and their shapers. We need more red teachers who take as their own the flag of communism, the *Red Flag*.

**TAKE UP RED FLAG AGAINST CAPITALISM FIGHTING FOR COMMUNISM**

