

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

BRAZIL: MASS REBELLIONS SPARK TALK OF COMMUNISM

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It started with a protest against a 9-cent transportation fare hike in mid-June. Within days, 2 million Brazilians were out in the streets in 80 cities protesting the \$billions the government has squandered building state-of-the-art soccer stadiums for next year's World Cup and the 2016 Olympics while workers are denied healthcare, transportation and education.

Black workers in Brazil, more than half of its population of 200,000,000 are super-exploited by Brazilian, US, German and, increasingly, by Chinese capitalist-imperialists, receiving half of what white workers get.

To build stadiums and related infrastructure, Brazilian rulers evicted over 250,000 families, mostly black families living in horrific favelas similar to the shantytowns of South Africa. Police with heavy weapons, attack dogs, and helicopters surrounded workers' homes and bulldozed them overnight.

The protests, started by students, spread to the favelas and to industrial workers, who are key to communist revolution (see page 3).

The International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) issued a leaflet entitled "Brazil: WORKERS DON'T NEED THE WORLD CUP! WORKERS NEED COMMUNIST REVOLUTION!" in Portuguese, English and Spanish. The leaflet called on workers in Brazil and everywhere to mobilize the masses for communism, the only way to end the wage slavery of racist capitalism.

"Exactly How the Masses Feel"

Our party's leaflet asking workers to organize for communist revolution struck an enthusiastic chord with the masses in the streets of Brazil. A friend who helped us proofread the Portuguese translation distributed leaflets in a northeastern city in Brazil. He said, "This is exactly how the masses feel, they just don't know how to say it."

This comrade might not realize it, but he has taken a big step in organizing the international working class for communism. This same comrade was outraged when he

read our party's leaflet on the mass murders of Bangladeshi garment workers. His hatred for the bosses found revolutionary expression when he himself translated the leaflet into Portuguese and gave it to his coworkers and neighbors.

Learning from his experience of distributing the Bangladesh leaflet, the comrade was more organized and reported to us the reaction of the masses when he distributed the leaflet on the rebellion of the Brazilian masses in response to the World Cup.

Slavery and Wage Slavery

"The Worker's Party (PT) has cheated us. In reality they represent the rich bosses of Brazil. We hate them and don't trust them. We can't rely on them, we want to know you (ICWP)," said the comrade's friend at work.

"The European colonialists enslaved the native people here and then they brought slaves. The effect of slavery and racism are very deep. The unions and PT never address how to fight wage slavery."

"I know," said a co-worker, "I agree 100% with the leaflet and I am sure there are many people like me, but how can you achieve communist revolution? Just look at my own city. They send police with machine guns every time we demand better living conditions."

Another friend of the party who lives in São Paulo also distributed the leaflet. He said that there were many big and small strikes in Brazil prior to the recent rebellions. He described how the situation in São Paulo galvanized the workers' mood in the entire country.

Want More Information About Communism

After May Day, Brazilian teachers in São Paulo went on strike. Their strike was supported by tens of thousands of students. The teachers' union leadership, which is controlled by PT, feared the strike might spread to other workers and they asked the teachers to go back to work at a massive rally in São Paulo. The furious teachers chased the leaders and they had to be rescued by the cops.

The situation became explosive

See BRAZIL, page 2

WHAT THE STREETS TELL US

Millions are “takin’ it to the streets.” The change these last few years has been so pronounced that even the U.S. bosses’ foreign policy establishment has been forced to shift gears.

In recent years, they have dealt almost exclusively with how to undermine their imperialist competitors, and as the US decline confronts the rise of China, this is still their main concern. Now, however, they must also factor in rebellion among the masses, starting with or infecting key sections of industrial labor. The working class is in the house!

“Democracy Isn’t Working,” Chant Millions

Democracy is a convenient cover for imperialism. The bosses’ think tanks praise democracy to the heavens.

How then can they explain why there are so many massive street revolts in their sacred democracies? Thomas Friedman of the New York Times reflects the thinking of these ruling class strategists. He comes up with three excuses.

He blames elected officials for not respecting minority opposition, especially if this opposition might be friendlier to U.S. bosses’ interests.

Social networks and smartphones allow the aggrieved to link up with others and hold flash protests. Here he makes the same mistake that many of our friends do, thinking that all you need for a revolution is a Facebook page and a Twitter account, instead of doing the real work of building a base for communism among workers, soldiers, and youth.

Thirdly and crucially, “‘middle-class’ workers are being squeezed between a shrinking welfare state and a much more demanding job market.”

This super-wealthy mouthpiece of imperialism, who has worked for the New York Times for thirty years, tells the worlds’ workers to work harder and constantly “retool” themselves for new jobs if they want to “be in the middle-class.” What hypocritical misleading rubbish!

The Truth Will Set the Working Class Free

The truth is that capitalism is becoming increasingly ungovernable as the bosses’ economic crisis drags on. The bosses can’t rule in the old way.

The bosses can’t rule in the old way because masses have decided they can’t live in the old way. From Egypt to Syria, from Greece to Portu-



gal, from Bangladesh to Turkey, from South Africa to Brazil and back to Egypt, millions testify to this truth.

In the face of such mass unrest, the bosses have tried to preserve their exploitive system by convening or electing new governments. When even that fails, they call out the armed forces like they have in Egypt.

Within these more brutal forms of rule are the seeds of mass revolutionary consciousness. Rank-and-file soldiers are workers themselves. Armed with communist consciousness, they can turn the guns around on the generals and their capitalist masters.

Deciding you can’t live in the old way is still not discovering how to live in a new way. That requires a vision of a communist society without money, banks, borders, and, most crucially wage slavery—one that forges new relationships based on collectivity and cooperation.

Masses of workers see through the lies of the bosses’ “middle-class” pipedream. Capitalists steal the fruits of our labor every second of every day. The greater crime would be to let the bosses’ steal from us the opportunity these rebellions afford our class to end this exploitation with communist revolution.

Understanding the potential of these rebellions echoing across the globe can inspire us to revolutionary initiative. Occupy in the U.S. was an echo of these rebellions. Sharpening class struggle among teachers, farmworkers and industrial

workers in Mexico and Central America reflect this growing rebellion, emerging from sharpening inter-imperialist rivalry and the persistent capitalist crisis.

Mobilize the Masses for Communism

Our party invites you to join us in mobilizing the masses for communism. This is our guiding principle, before and after the revolution. Today it takes on particular meaning.

For example, consider the 34 martyred miners at Marikana, South Africa or the millions fighting the cops in Brazil. They give the lie to the idea that progressive capitalism can be reformed to serve our interests. They show once again that racist exploitation cannot be eliminated without eliminating capitalism itself. They make the fight for communism even more relevant.

Workers have exhibited heroism on a scale not seen in many years, in more places than we can easily imagine. This heroism must not be squandered on replacing one boss with another, one capitalist politician with another. This heroism calls on our Party to spread the vision of a communist world far and wide.

What the streets tell us is that the masses in motion, armed with such a vision, can put an end to the horror that is capitalism.

Today the bosses must deal with rebellious masses. When these rebellious masses mobilize for communism, the bosses won’t be around to deal with anything.

BRAZIL: MASSES DISCUSS COMMUNISM FROM PAGE 1

when the mostly-black workers in favelas and the neighborhoods where the workers live around the football stadiums joined the rebellion. This friend has some relatives where the aircraft manufacturer Embraer has its largest plant in Brazil. He is making an effort to reach out to these workers with our literature.

“Everybody is disgusted and fed up with the politicians and their lies. Dilma is afraid to show her face in public. When you say communism is the only solution, people listen, they think deeply but they have been cheated so many times, they need more proof that communism will work.”

“Please send us more literature in Portuguese if possible,” said a friend, “and guide us about what to do and how to address the hesitation expressed by so many good people here about communism.”

Metro workers in Sao Paulo voted to strike on May 27 2013 but the leadership refused.



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From Brazil To Boeing:

NEED POLITICAL STRIKES TO UPROOT FOUNDATION OF CAPITALISM

SEATTLE -- The bosses' press has hidden the extent of the Brazilian rebellion. Aerospace workers from Embraer, the third-largest commercial aircraft manufacturer in the world, joined the millions "takin it to the streets." ICWP and friends brought these facts to the shop floor, provoking debates among workers about how--or if--this affects Boeing workers. "I've heard Brazil is like the U.S. in the fifties," said one Machinist. He thought that rapid industrialization was somehow causing the discontent.

The cause, however, is the inevitable crisis of capitalist overproduction which has made life intolerable for Brazilian workers, as it has for workers all over the world.

Millions are rebelling because they refuse to live in the old way under capitalism. The economic crisis has brought revolution and the need for communist production to the fore.

Unions Promote More Exploitative Capitalist Production

Embraer workers, like hundreds of thousand of other Brazilian workers, defied their union leadership and wildcatted to join mass demonstrations. In some cases, workers led battles against the cops and national military.

Most Brazilian unions are tied to the ruling

Workers' Party, much as the Boeing union (IAM) is tied to the Democratic Party. This didn't stop rank-and-filers from joining the demonstrators in chanting "Democracy Isn't Working." Millions are rejecting all the capitalist parties.

The IAM officials bet on alliances with Washington's Democratic governor to bribe Boeing to produce in this state. They tell us to increase productivity because they are loyal servants of the capitalists.

A headline in the latest IAM *Aero Mechanic* praises "productivity gain[s]." It could just as easily have been on the front page of the company rag, *Frontiers*.

This lead article bragged that the production time of a Ram Air Duct was cut from fifty hours to one hour. Ironically, there was an article about laid-off workers right below. Obviously, if you can produce more with less, a capitalist company is going to lay workers off.

Another IAM member asked where Boeing got the additional \$billion to invest in low-wage South Carolina production. They got it from the union/company productivity drive. The last thing we need is to help the company increase our rate of exploitation so they can use the extra profits to attack us.

We have a lot to learn from the Brazilian workers. They have taken their fight against Embraer bosses to the political bulwark of capitalism: State Power. They have broken the laws that chain class struggle to economic demands.

We need political strikes against the foundations of capitalism, not partnerships with our exploiters. Expanding our networks of *Red Flag* readers and distributors will create the political climate for such political

strikes and wildcats.

Construction Workers Unearth Capitalism's Blood-Soaked Foundation

An African-American Boeing worker refused to attend Boeing's Black History event because the company portrays the fight against racism as a non-violent movement restricted to the U.S. He knows that the fight against slavery was a violent struggle throughout the hemisphere. The wealth created to begin "new world" capitalism was stolen from these slaves. The foundation of today's wage exploitation is blood-soaked.

He appreciated that our Party explained how Brazil was founded originally on the chattel slavery of black slaves and now makes super-profits for the bosses from racist wage slavery. He added that racism in South Carolina was a major contributing factor to their low-wage, non-union workforce.

"Did you know that construction workers unearthed a key embarkation point for Brazilian slaves when they were building one of those soccer stadiums people are protesting about?" he asked.

Then we began to imagine how the masses mobilized for communism would use this archeological site.

We could move the stadium, naming it to represent the fight against racism and slavery. We'd restore this embarkation point so all could see how capitalism got its start. Every sports activity and political rally could retell new generations the story of capitalism's bloody beginning.

This complex of stadiums and restored slave embarkation buildings could be also used to remind us why we fight to eliminate production for sale and profit. Production for profits is the foundation of capitalism. Everything changes when you smash that foundation, replacing it with production for the needs of our class.

Now there's something worth reading about and striking for!



TRANSIT WORKERS DEBATE WORKERS' POWER

OAKLAND, CA, July 6 --Over two thousand workers at Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) went out on strike on July 1st. They had no contract. Five days later the Union ordered them back to work, still without a contract. They were furious. "They're trying to impose a contract on us," one worker predicted.

The anger was justified. They were being channeled back to work just as the full force of their strike was being felt. Anger, too, was on the lips of A/C Transit workers (East Bay bus drivers and mechanics) who were disgusted that their Union (ATU Local 192) refused to walk out alongside BART despite a 97.1% vote in favor of striking.

There was anger, too, among Oakland city workers, who staged a one-day strike the same day BART went out. And to a lesser extent there was anger among those who weren't striking as heated arguments flared up over support or non-support of the strikers.

In one way or another, workers' power was at the center of debate this week. In short, it was a great opportunity to introduce a revolutionary class analysis. There was heightened interest in our strategy of developing a communist movement now.

On Sunday, June 30 there was an anticipatory buzz around Oakland. The idea of three Unions striking together created a powerful image. "The freeways would be a giant parking lot," one driver said. "Nothing could move!" No one acted

as though workers were marginal that night. Everyone understood they were central to productive life.

The buzz, though, became a fizzle. Bowing to pressures from the powers that be, the A/C Transit Union (Local 192 ATU) not only refused to strike but agreed to add extra buses and thus undercut the effect of the BART strike. To their credit many A/C drivers called in sick.

"Yvonne," a driver said, referring to Local 192's president, "is getting something out of it."

"Maybe," we argued, "but it doesn't matter whether Unions are led by honest militants or slick tricksters. By the very way they are organized they hold back the working class. They only negotiate the terms of our exploitation. They imply that money, capital and profits are all important. Unions insist that our demands can never upset the circulation of the bosses' capital. They insist our role in society is secondary."

"Still, I'd prefer an honest militant," the driver replied, unconvinced, but he took a *Red Flag* to check out.

"It's in the Bible," another driver told us. "A group of powerful rich people will declare war on the poor," she went on, more to the point. "I've seen it happen and I pray for survival."

"Well, *Red Flag* agrees with you that it is all-



out war," we replied, "but we haven't given up on Humanity. We're organizing for a revolution." And there followed a discussion on organizing a society without money. This driver, too, took a copy of *Red Flag*, promising to read the article on organizing a communist society.

The masses are in motion and that means nothing is certain. No doubt the bosses aim to demoralize the BART workers with a 30-day cooling-off period but it's not a sure bet they can. In those 30 days, capital, profit and money will circulate and the politicians, media and Unions will act as if workers are indeed secondary to the functioning of the world.

But in those 30 days, *Red Flag* will also circulate among Bay Area transit workers. We will intensify its circulation and deepen our ties and struggles for a revolutionary communist outlook among our fellow workers and students.

Free transportation for all in a world without money and exploitation!

INDUSTRIAL WORKERS: KEY FORCE FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

LOS ANGELES — “Why do you concentrate on us?” an MTA driver at Division 18 recently asked. She is not the first MTA bus operator to pose this question to *Red Flag* distributors.

“You are part of the industrial working class and as such you are key to the communist revolution we are organizing,” is always our answer.

Understanding their importance and acting accordingly will be ever more crucial as MTA workers, increasingly unable to live in the old way, begin a planned fight-back against MTA’s intensifying reign of terror. They are talking more and more about a strike at contract time next year.

Given this, two recent struggles are pertinent to these workers: Brazilian bus operators and the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) strike.

Slogan of the Brazilian Masses: Free Transportation for All!

In the latest mass rebellions that shook the Brazilian capitalists to their boots, bus operators showed their power. They paralyzed São Paulo, the largest city in the Western Hemisphere, when they joined the demonstrators protesting a bus fare increase.

Their close ties with the masses - transporting 10.5 million passengers daily – and their supportive work actions positioned these operators to lead 50,000 demonstrators in pitched battle against the cops who attacked the demonstration.

“Free transportation for all,” became a rallying slogan of the Brazilian masses. It was picked up by these operators and other industrial workers. It shows that the Brazilian masses and the industrial working class there are clamoring for a different world: a world where we are not enslaved

by money.

It shows the potential of winning millions to fight for a communist vision of a world without bosses, money and wage slavery. We urge the masses in Brazil, and bus operators there and everywhere, to raise that slogan to a higher level: “Free transportation for all in a world without money and exploitation!”



BART Operators Strike: Another Important Lesson

The BART strike shows that unions are part of the problem, not the solution. Yet, many LA MTA workers have illusions that SMART will be a different union. They are falling for the SMART officials’ lies that they will support them in a strike and will build solidarity for their struggle with other unions locally, state and nationwide.

Union officials’ actions speak louder than words. These vipers are there – just like the cops - to “protect and serve” their capitalist masters, while stabbing us in the back (see BART article, page 3).

Don’t expect anything from these “union leaders.” Their job is to help MTA and US bosses im-

pose their reign of terror on us to super-exploit us and keep us away from communist revolution, the only true solution to our problems.

Therefore, we don’t need “better unions or better union leaders.” Furthermore, we don’t need trade-unionist ideology, but a revolutionary communist one instead, in order to build a massive movement to destroy the profit system that condemns us to wage slavery.

We need political strikes against capitalism and for communism

Slogans like “Free transportation for all in a world without money or exploitation” can inspire millions nationally and internationally to envision and fight for a different world. It could forge unity between MTA operators and their passengers who could identify with and support such a slogan.

They, in turn, could influence and mobilize mil-

lions more. If millions can visualize a society with free transportation for all, they will find it easier to visualize a world without money, where everything is free: not sold or bought but distributed according to need!

This would mean a political strike against capitalism, not for economic crumbs we might not get or, even if gotten, are quickly taken back. It would advance the communist understanding of our class to join and build the International Communist Workers’ Party to fight for the communist world we need.

MTA workers need to join ICWP and organize study-action groups of *Red Flag* in all the Divisions to coordinate our revolutionary struggle.

Need to Build Mass Communist Party

MEXICAN MASSES ROUT KILLER COPS

MEXICO -- The situation in Mexico is getting worse. Starvation wages and rising prices make the situation unbearable. There are monthly increases in the price of oil and gas (even though Mexico has oil!) and consequently in the price of everything else. There are the problems drug trafficking brings: insecurity, kidnappings, and killings. Amidst all this, workers are trying to survive.

Recently the price of transportation went up: the microbus fares increased from 3 pesos to 4 pesos and they announced, “It only went up a peso.” Only a peso? That is 33%! Wages grow annually at less than 4% (except the army with their 40%).

But masses in motion rebel. And, of course, the government represses. This is the case with the attacks on the teachers of Chiapas in their recent Congress. The police forcibly entered the hall that held more than 800 delegates, under the pretext of investigating a kidnapping, throwing tear gas.

A teacher reported, “We know these sell-out leaders; they decree a recess, they bring delegates who agree with them, they hold sessions elsewhere and impose a spurious committee. We no longer trust them. That’s why we refused to let them leave.” Then the sell-outs brought in the police with clubs and shields who evicted everyone. Twenty-nine teachers were arrested and then hundreds of teachers organized a night time march.

The rebellious teachers do not realize that their strategy is inadequate, since only the building of a mass communist party can make a real change. Support was shown on the internet: “Complete support for the teachers!” “We won’t allow the repressive state!” But, how is it that they won’t allow it? Are they organizing a communist party? No. Others say, “A country that treats its teachers like this is barbaric.” “The government was quick to use its troops. For that, they’ve spent millions.”

These comments are accurate, but insufficient for the real change that we need: a communist revolution. Better comments were: “Education reform is against every one; we must seek the best for every one.” “The teachers are not alone, we parents are with you.” Here are the seeds of the revolutionary action we need for communism.

Let’s take advantage now that the people, not trusting either the army or the politicians, are taking the law into their own hands.

An example is the situation in Tultitlán, in the state of Mexico. A drunk policeman, after an argument, shot three brothers, killing two of them and leaving the other in grave condition. Afterwards, some 400 angry neighbors attacked his patrol car. They tried to hold the policeman but he was rescued by other cops. A neighbor said, “Now it was these young men; who will be next?”

While they lifted one of the bodies, neighbors of the deceased set fire to the patrol car. Then they went to demand punishment for the police. On the way, they attacked parked police cars. They smashed seven; three were burned and two were overturned. They also trashed offices.

The police didn’t do anything; they hid out in the police station. There were no arrests. (How could they?) The authorities said they would investigate and apply the law. The rescuing police were arrested. About the destruction, they said they would “act wisely,” that the main thing was to clarify the death. Why so benevolent? They have no other alternative. They have seen what the people are capable of and the power that they have.

The important thing in the midst of this rebellion is to understand that the only real option to escape from this chaos, to put an end to repression and terror, is for the masses to move to communism. Join our party, ICWP. Work with us to build this better world that we want and need under communism.

Now this option exists and is available to anyone. Otherwise, the anger of the masses can do great damage but without communist guidance, it won’t go anywhere. With communist leadership, the masses’ anger can help destroy capitalism and build a world where everything is shared among the masses of workers for their benefit alone.

EL SALVADOR YOUTH, FARMWORKERS DISCUSS BRAZIL REBELLION, PLAN COMMUNIST WORK

EL SALVADOR—A few days ago a group of ICWP comrades met in a beautiful town with a cool, mild climate. The woman who welcomed them presented the comrades with a delicious watermelon which was super-red inside. Before starting the meeting, we carried out a small communist practice of collective work when a comrade had to move some shade tree seedlings to the coffee fields. The rest of the young ICWP members undertook this task together. This action was even more refreshing than the cool climate.

After discussing the agenda, a young man was asked to begin with an analysis of the international situation. He gave a very helpful explanation of the sharpening of the capitalist crisis in countries like Turkey, Spain, Greece, and Brazil. He concluded that the whole problem of capitalism also affects workers in small countries like El Salvador.

The other youths also contributed, clarifying that the facts that are discussed in these kinds of meetings come from *Red Flag*. They said that we should deepen the analyses so that we don't just look at the appearance of the problems. Instead we should learn how to be objective while criticizing the situations around the world, and investigate who is really behind each protest action.

"It's not as simple as thinking that every protest is led by the left. There are many protests which are led by the capitalists. We must be careful about simplifying the analysis. What we want isn't the same as what is actually happening,"

said a young comrade.

A young party leader added, "The uprising in Brazil is directly due to the anger and indignation of the masses. The contrast between the Soccer Confederation Cup, the world-class stadiums alongside the lack of medicine and hospital equipment, and the rising transit fares, generated anger in the masses.

"We can't see all movements against one set of imperialist bosses (China or the USA) as if they were just manipulated by the other. The masses also get outraged and rise up. Clearly, this doesn't mean that it is a revolutionary moment, it's only a moment of effervescence among the masses."

This generated a strong discussion about reform and revolution, about the depth of these "spontaneous" movements and their lack of communist leadership, and the urgent need to assume the leadership of the working class through ICWP.

After this broad and strong, but comradely, discussion, we shared a delicious cup of coffee cultivated in the mountains by friends of ICWP. We had no need to envy the coffee sold in capitalist businesses, and this coffee was even more delicious: it hadn't the slightest trace of being a commodity, and was seasoned with proletarian ideology.

The next point was to plan a number

of communist activities and how they would be carried out. This led to reflection about preparing ourselves for current and future acts of capitalist repression. "The lived experience makes us carry out every activity with a lot of discipline since we face the class enemy who threatens us every day," explained a comrade.

The last point was the task of writing for *Red Flag*. Everyone agreed that it is necessary and extremely urgent to write more and better. Every member of ICWP must write consistently for our paper.

The meeting ended over a pot of beans and rice that the hosts had prepared. Between jokes and smiles, all the comrades said good-bye, each one to continue organizing in the places where they work or study.

El Salvador, May Day, 2013



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

Communist Philosophy Helps Explain:

WHAT IMPERIALISM IS AND WHY IT EXISTS

All the big capitalist powers (the U. S, Russia, China, France, Japan, etc.) and some smaller powers have imperialist foreign policies. That is, they each try to dominate and exploit the workers and the resources of weaker countries. Their competition with other rival powers to do this leads to bigger and bigger wars.

Some people think that these policies could be changed by convincing those in power that they're wrong, or by electing different officials. This series explains why that's not so. It examines the material basis of imperialism and concludes that the only way to end imperialism and its wars is by mobilizing the masses for communism.

First, we investigate the relationship between ideas and material reality.

Ideas Have a Material Basis

Thinking doesn't create reality. Thinking affects reality only indirectly, in the goals and plans that are parts of any kind of practical action.

When people think about what to do, they have to get their ideas from the material world. Reality kicks back when ideas don't correspond to the way things actually are, and you have to change your thinking or fail.

This is common sense, but it is also a key part of communist philosophy. It's called material-

ism, the view that reality affects our thinking, but thinking does not—by itself—change reality.

One consequence of materialism is that if ideas last for a while or are accepted by many people, there must be something in the material world that causes this, called the material basis of the ideas. Sometimes this basis is obvious. The belief that Las Vegas is hot in July is based on the actual hot weather that anyone who lives there can feel.

False beliefs also have material bases. People used to believe that the earth is largely flat because that is the way it looks. The basis of some false ideas can be propaganda in the media and the schools—the bosses' weapons of mass deception—but propaganda is not the most important way that reality affects thinking.

When workers understand they are getting a raw deal at work, the material basis of this thinking is the wage system, which makes the bosses rich from workers' labor. Many workers understand this point, despite the bosses' propaganda.

Of course, people believe what they believe because they find convincing reasons for it. But what people find convincing depends on the natural and social reality around them.

If people think that it is "human nature" to be selfish and greedy, the basis of this belief is that

capitalist competition requires capitalists to be selfish and greedy. Microsoft must fight off Google and General Motors must outdo Toyota or they won't survive. Capitalists who aren't willing to do whatever it takes to beat their competitors aren't likely to succeed very long.

Capitalism also sets workers in competition with each other for jobs and promotions. Greed can seem to be part of human nature because it is part of the reality of capitalist social relations. This reality forms the material basis of that idea.

Before capitalism, different social relations were the basis of different views of human nature. Lakota Chief Sitting Bull, who fought against US capitalism along with other indigenous people in the 1870s, saw the greedy outlook of capitalist culture as a sickness: "the love of possessions is a disease with them."

Not only ideas, but also the plans and policies that people think up must be based on reality, especially if they last a long time and affect many people. Our question, then, is "What is the material basis for imperialist policies and the actions those policies lead to?"

The next article in this series will show that imperialism has its material basis in the nature of capitalism.

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Garment workers ask: "Will Obamacare and immigration reform help us?"

COMMUNISM IS R_x FOR WORKERS' HEALTH

While discussing Obama's Comprehensive Immigration Reform (CIR) over a delicious home-made soup one night, some garment workers asked our comrades about Obamacare.

"I work in a shop with less than 50 workers. How will the law affect me?" said one.

"Where I work there are over 300 workers. Will the bosses be obligated to give us all health care coverage" asked the other.

"We don't know," we admitted, "but we will investigate it and publish our findings in *Red Flag*."

"That will really be good because garment workers and others need to know. Thank you," they concluded before saying good night.

The hype about Obamacare (the Affordable Care Act, or ACA) is that it is supposed to provide health insurance for everyone. Many undocumented workers hope that passage of the CIR by the House of Representatives will better their lives. A big part of that means getting health insurance for themselves and their family.

However, the immigration reform bill recently passed by the Senate explicitly excludes from Obamacare the immigrants whom the CIR would put on the path to citizenship. They won't be subject to ACA's health insurance mandate. They won't be fined for not having insurance, and they won't be eligible for any subsidies to make healthcare more affordable.

Bosses employing fewer than 50 workers are not obligated to give RPI workers health insurance. RPI workers in these businesses will not have health coverage unless they can afford to pay for it.

Where ACA gets tricky is when it comes to businesses employing more than 50 full-time workers. The law stipulates that, by 2015, these bosses must provide their employees with health

insurance or pay a fine of \$3,000 yearly per worker. The law also stipulates that RPI workers are eligible for employer-provided health insurance and cannot be discriminated against because of their immigration status.

This guarantees that RPI workers and their families will get employer-provided health insurance, right? Wrong! According to the National Immigration Law Center:

"The exclusion of RPI's under the Senate version of the immigration reform bill creates an 'unintended loophole' under the ACA for large employers. After 2014, any employer with 50 or more employees will be required either to provide comprehensive health insurance to their employees or to pay a fee. However, the employer is required to pay this fee only when an employee purchases health insurance in the health insurance market place and obtains a premium tax credit under the ACA."

But since immigrants with RPI status are not eligible for premium tax credits, "a large employer could potentially avoid paying its 'shared responsibility' fee under the ACA even if it fails to provide these eligible employees affordable employer-sponsored coverage as required by law." ([www.nilc.org/hlthcarebens\\$744.htm](http://www.nilc.org/hlthcarebens$744.htm))

Thus, these bosses could deny RPI workers insurance and not have to pay a dime! Obama's CIR is a pathway to protracted slave labor! This vile racism against undocumented immigrants is the point of the bayonet in the US bosses' attacks on all workers.

Capitalism makes healthcare a commodity that most people in the world can't afford to buy. Capitalism decides who lives and who dies. The ACA



will raise deductibles for all workers, making healthcare more costly and out of reach for more and more workers.

In communism, nothing will be bought and sold. Healthcare will be readily available to every person at the highest level society can collectively provide. Communism will not have different rules or levels of healthcare for different groups of workers.

Communism will enable everyone to live a healthy life, mobilizing masses in collectives that value and encourage everyone's contribution. Massively we will learn how to care for each other. Masses will help develop new knowledge about the human body, advancing medical science collectively through practice.

Guaranteeing the health, political consciousness and well-being of workers will be the main goal of communist society. We invite our garment worker friends and all *Red Flag* readers to make this a massive fight now.

HONDURAS: MASSES RESPOND TO REPRESSION WITH ANTI-IMPERIALIST, ANTI-CAPITALIST ANGER

HONDURAS — The oligarchy, with the support of its state apparatus (army, police, prosecution, judiciary) has unleashed brutal repression against the Honduran farmworkers, from the Sula Valley to the Valley of Aguán. This includes illegal detention, prosecution, imprisonment, and eviction from the lands the farmworkers have occupied and remained in possession of for many years. There have been more than 80 deaths in recent years, all of workers defending the land they cultivate to sustain themselves and their families.

However, the current situation has unleashed massive anti-imperialist and anti-capitalist sentiments among the masses.

The farmworkers have waged a heroic struggle! But, unfortunately, it has remained within the limits of the same capitalist system, leading us to a dead end. The farmworkers need to struggle to build a communist world, along with their working-class brothers and sisters in the factories and mines, destroying capitalism, money and private

property. They need to struggle for the land and all production to be in the hands of the whole working class.

In the current struggle, the farmworkers confront the big sugarcane, banana and palm companies, both national and transnational. For example, the Tela Railroad Company and the Standard Fruit Company which took over large tracts of land over a hundred years ago and remain the capitalist companies that exploit the largest number of wage slaves in Honduras.

Now there have arisen at least three more landowner families, among them the Facuse family of Arab origin and the Morales family of Nicaraguan origin, who have acquired large tracts of land planted with African palm, whose profitable fruit serves to make vegetable oils and other derivatives. All of them have the full support of capitalism's laws, its banks and its repressive state apparatus.

In addition, these farmworkers did not even have the support of their own blatantly opportunistic union officials of other unions. These unions were once the largest and most militant organizations in Honduras. They led the longest-lasting strike in Latin America, which for 69 days in 1954 paralyzed the Tela Railroad Company. But today these organizations exist only on paper.

In view of the farmworkers' desperation, an intensification of the struggle is expected in the



1954 General Strike

coming days. The balance of forces may be unfavorable for them, but we have confidence that these comrades can understand that the struggle must go beyond recovery or ownership of a parcel of land. The whole history of feudalism and capitalism shows that nothing can guarantee that this land would belong to them for eternity. Even if they won back the land, the big capitalists could again evict them.

We call on the farmworkers and their supporters to join with us and to see that only by promoting the complete destruction of the capitalist exploiter, together with their oligarchy and repressive agents, can we move to a new society, a society which guarantees the collective production and equitable distribution of food and all the things that our class needs. This is a communist society, which is the only one which will guarantee the worlds' working class a just and dignified society.



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.

New Youth ICWP Study Group Prepares Future Communist Leaders

ICWP's youth in Los Angeles have taken it upon ourselves to organize a study group. The study group consists of high school students, college students, and young people who have entered the work force. The purpose of this new group is to struggle with our comrades and mobilize a mass party in which we all are prepared to fight for communism.

Group discussions are held weekly where we read and study *Red Flag*. We discuss society and popular culture, and world events. We focus on these issues in order to understand that capitalism plays a role in all of our everyday lives. We have realized that capitalists push their ideas on us through popular culture and that trying to survive under capitalism is becoming more difficult with the world situation and world war on the horizon.

Although our group is small, we urge all readers of *Red Flag* to organize similar study groups so that we may mobilize our friends, families and co-workers for communism. As youth it is our destiny to inherit the struggle for a better tomorrow and lead this and the next generation of communists, both young and old, to victory over the plague of capitalism.

We as the future leaders of this party are preparing ourselves to do so. Long live communism and the ICWP!

—Los Angeles comrades



Marx and Engels Live On!

Recently my buddy and I were in Berlin as tourists. We visited places with historical lessons we'll write about later, but what got me the most was visiting the park with the twelve-foot-tall statue of Marx and Engels. People arrived constantly throughout the day, staring at the statue for a long time with passion and amazement. Most people, old and young, were taking their pictures standing next to Marx and Engels. One man was taking pictures from every angle, walking around and staring at the statue for a long time. Of course there were random tourists who didn't have a clue about these two great leaders and fighters for the working class. But most people who were there to see the statue seemed to know why they were there.

My buddy asked a gentleman who was looking at the statue to take our pictures with Marx and Engels. The man said, "If you don't know who these men were, I won't take your picture." My buddy rolled her eyes, and he agreed to

take our picture. While he was taking our picture we raised our fists in the air.

He got it, and said, "Make sure it came out. If not, I'll try again."

Later, three men and two women were looking at the statue with great emotion. One of the women held Marx's hand with admiration, and then saluted him while her friend took her picture. Then she took his picture while he held his fist in the air. My buddy offered to take the picture of the whole group, and they were happy to let her. She took their pictures with the cameras of everyone in the group. "We are from China," said one of the women. "Shanghai. You know?"

"I know," responded my buddy.

These tourists looked old enough to have taken part in the Shanghai People's Commune, a monumental Leftist movement of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution in the 1960s.

It was inspiring to me to see the number of people coming to see the statue of these great teachers of the working class. Communism is still alive and kicking.

—Red Tourist

Transit Workers Respond to Call to Double Red Flag Readership

We distributed *Red Flag* at several transit divisions in Los Angeles last week, together with a leaflet about the mass struggle in Brazil and another about the BART strike in the Bay Area. The leaflets called for communist solidarity.

We asked workers to take an extra copy or two of *Red Flag* for co-workers, explaining that we have a campaign to double the number of transit workers who read *Red Flag*. By doubling the number of workers who read the paper regularly from about 800 to 1600, a growing number of workers will think and act on communist ideas to unite together against capitalism.

On hearing this, many workers responded by saying things like "Okay, let's do it," and took one or two more papers. A couple of workers said, "I'm not sure if my friends will want it, but I'll see if they do."

In this way, the number of papers distributed at several divisions increased between 25% and 90%. Workers who have been reading *Red Flag* welcomed being part of a campaign to help spread it.

This campaign is part of taking a mass approach to mobilizing for communism. We urge all *Red Flag* distributors and readers to do the same in all our concentrations.

—LA comrade

Fighting Sexism: We Are One Class, We're The Working Class

In a get-together with *Red Flag* readers, we had prepared a delicious meal, and someone commented to the comrade who had made the paella, "The food is great. Now you can get married." Of course the food was great, but nevertheless, the comment focused on the idea that if a woman can cook, then she can get married.

In the capitalist system, this kind of sexist teaching tells us that women can only carry out "certain kinds of tasks" like cooking, ironing, washing clothes and raising children. On the other hand,

men carry out the role of bringing money into the house and doing jobs that women supposedly can't or don't know how to do.

Capitalist teachings are based on dividing the working class to keep wages low. Women are mistreated and super-exploited to the point that in some factories (for example, in El Salvador) women are docked for the time they go to the restroom. Accepting this disrespect for women leads us inevitably to the destruction of the organization of revolutionary communist struggle. The best way to destroy this form of division is teaching workers that our struggle is not against the opposite sex, but against our class enemy: imperialism and capitalism.

Every day we see ordinary disputes in families because the wife hasn't prepared the food in time for the husband to go to work or simply because "it's women's work." Communists have to fight against this capitalist idea, first of all bringing this political struggle into their homes.

Communists must raise children so that they understand that housework must be shared and that there are no gender-based tasks. We were talking once with a comrade about raising children, wondering why in clothing stores baby clothes are divided by color, and she said that, in a communist system, color won't represent a boy or a girl. They're just colors and they have no role in bringing up a baby.

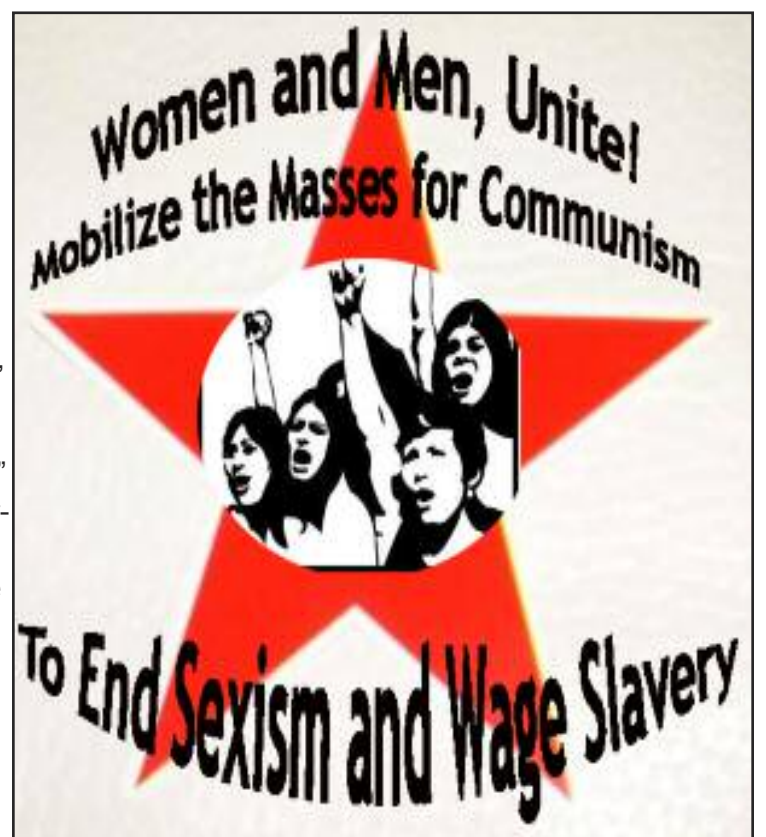
If we raise children without the sexist idea that the woman (or the man) is the weaker sex, they will be true stalwarts for the revolutionary communist struggle. They will consider their partners as comrades, fighting against the true class enemy: the capitalist system.

The International Communist Workers' Party carries out this revolutionary communist political struggle to destroy the sexist ideas that can become problems for comrades and hurt the good functioning of the party. We fight alongside and on behalf of men and women workers, regardless of gender, with one goal: to build a communist world.

We who form this Red Army must be clear, and fight sexist ideas with communist dialectics. This will always tell us that the main thing is the working class struggle—without painting our comrades one color or another.

We are one class, we're the working class! We fight to overthrow capitalism and build a communist world.

—Comrade in Spain



Egyptian Crisis: Grave Dangers, Greater Opportunities

INDUSTRIAL WORKERS, SOLDIERS MUST MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

Was the overthrow of Egyptian President Morsi a popular uprising or a military coup? Both! –

“People were out there in millions and they were the most decisive factor,” a Cairo activist noted correctly. But he continued, “I need the army to serve me now against the most dangerous group that would rule Egypt [Muslim Brotherhood] and I will settle my battles with [Army Chief] Al-Sisi later after he finishes his duties for me.”

“What happened is complicated,” responded another Cairo activist, “but your faith in what Sisi is orchestrating is honestly disturbing. People were out in the millions, but I fear many are being taken advantage of now.”

He’s right. Revolutionary workers and youth must reject the perilous “lesser-evil” theory. Otherwise they risk the same fate as the revolutionary Iranian masses who supported Khomeini against the hated Shah in 1979, then were wiped out when Khomeini consolidated power. Already, ultra-conservative Salafis are doing the generals’ dirty work. They are among the anti-woman mobs who terrorize female activists with horrific gang rapes.

Al-Sisi doesn’t work for the masses.

The generals are the core of the Egyptian capitalist class. They use power to protect their own profits, an extreme case of capitalist class dictatorship. This military/capitalist class owns some 40% of Egypt’s economy, including industrial factories, gas stations, hotels, and the food chain from farms to processing plants to supermarkets. They directly exploit half a million workers.

In March 2012, Maj. Gen. Nasr of the ruling military council, deputy defense minister for financial affairs, warned that “we will not allow anyone, whoever they may be, to come near the projects of the armed forces.”

U.S. imperialists back these generals with at least \$1.5 billion annually in military aid, and the coup isn’t stopping them. The present crisis exposes US imperialism’s growing weakness in this region, where it relies on Egypt to collaborate with Israel to maintain stability. Anti-Morsi activists blame Obama for supporting the authoritarian ex-president while pro-Morsi forces complain that Obama didn’t save him.

If Egypt sinks into sectarian civil war (like

Syria), it will be the masses who bleed. But US imperialism also stands to lose. Iran and Qatar are eager to expand their influence, and Russia and China wait in the wings. Even worse for the bosses, Egypt could erupt into a genuine class war—if workers and soldiers step forward to lead around communist ideas.

Egyptian workers fight back

Railroad workers conducted 1,219 strikes and sit-ins between January 2011 and January 2013. Workers at Alexandria’s Kabo El-Nasr Clothing Textile Company held a week-long sit-in in May, demanding their unpaid salaries. They fought the cops sent to break up their protest march.

That same week, 350 Hi-Tech workers won back their jobs after being fired for demanding higher wages, better working conditions, and the firing of the manager. However, they were made to sign an agreement promising no more job actions, similar to one forced on workers at the Faragalla factory in February and at the Alexandria Portland Cement company. Their lawyer explained, “They want to work; they have no other choice.” Another example of capitalist dictatorship!

Workers’ other choice: mobilize the masses for communist revolution.

In communist society we’ll collectively run the means of production (factories, farms, transportation, etc.) and share what we produce so that nobody goes hungry or homeless while others feast in luxury. All will have both work and leisure.

Communist leaders, now and in the future, live among the masses, sharing their hardships and their joys with no special privileges. To be a communist leader means building unbreakable ties among the masses and working collectively



to advance the political struggle, mobilizing ever-increasing numbers for communism.

Creative, energetic young revolutionaries in Egypt and elsewhere have demonstrated the power of the mobilized masses to topple regimes and send chills down the spines of imperialists and national capitalists alike. But to imagine, build and defend a radically new society, without exploitation or money, borders or racist, sexist or religious divisions among the masses, we need to organize ourselves into the International Communist Workers’ Party.

Our party is not an electoral party maneuvering for a place in Parliament. We are a revolutionary party dedicated to destroying the capitalist dictatorship so that masses of workers can collectively shape our own future.

We are not an elite party for a “dedicated few” but a mass party where all can contribute their energy, skills, and creativity to the struggle for a communist world. We openly advocate communism always: we have confidence that the masses will fight for their own interests, not those of any capitalist-imperialist faction.

The Egyptian Army’s fighting strength relies on draftees whose impoverished families are increasingly unwilling and unable to live in the old way. When these working-class soldiers ally with industrial workers to mobilize the masses for communist revolution, they will be an unstoppable force!

Los Angeles Summer Project:

TAKING RED FLAG TO AIRPORT WORKERS

LOS ANGELES—Three ICWP comrades joined airport maintenance workers in a rally and march called by the union SEIU. “We are from the International Communist Workers’ Party,” we said to the workers (the majority of them women) who were protesting on the LAX grounds, demanding medical coverage from their bosses.

“We come to support your struggle and condemn not only the actions of the company but also the whole capitalist system. Here is our newspaper *Red Flag* that shows the necessity of mobilizing the masses for communism. We fight for a communist world in which we the workers control and administer the production in industry, agriculture, transportation and



all other sectors.”

One hundred fifty workers took the newspaper.

“But isn’t Cuba communist?” asked a woman worker in a small group.

“No, they have socialism in Cuba. We consider that to be state capitalism where a government controls and administers a system of capitalist production. In a communist world, money, privilege and inequality would not exist, and all of this exists in Cuba,” we answered.

The worker and those who surrounded her were very attentive and very interested in the conversation and the idea that we can live in a different world, where the dignity of every human being will have its maximum expression.