

# **RED FLAG**

## **MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM**

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

MADRID: As Spain's bosses seek to make workers pay for their capitalist crisis, workers and students protest in support of the miners who marched from Asturias against President Rajoy's cutbacks.



## **REVOLUTION, NOT ELECTIONS, TO WIN COMMUNIST WORKERS' POWER**

### **"TRUE OR FALSE," DEMOCRACY ISN'T FOR WORKERS**

MEXICO, July 22—Tens of thousands of people demonstrated today in 30 cities protesting the results of the presidential election of July 1st in which Enrique Peña Nieto, candidate of the PRI, was declared the winner. The demonstrators say that Nieto's victory was imposed because the fake leftist candidate Manuel López Obrador of the PRD was the real winner.

These thousands of workers, students and others are being mobilized to defend the interests of one sector or another of the Mexican capitalists and their imperialist allies (*Red Flag*, Vol. 3 # 12). We communists need to mobilize the masses and their allies for communism. Conversations, like the one below, with friends from work and school, with other friends and family, help a lot to achieve this goal.

"I don't believe in the elections anymore! I'm against the empire!" said a friend from school very angrily. A few days ago he still had much hope in the elections. Like him, there are many

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### **SOLDIERS, MARINES MUST FIGHT FOR THE WORKING CLASS**

*"When we were deployed together and you talked to me about communism, I started feeling human again," said a veteran of the US war in Iraq to another veteran in a recent ICWP military forum.*

This statement and the development of our work in the military up to this point are results of a party that understands that if we want to make revolution, we have to have soldiers on our side, and that we have to work in the military. Based on that understanding, we have made a plan, and begun to carry it out. We can see the quantitative and qualitative results.

As part of this process we organized a group to go to Oceanside, CA, and speak with Marines. We walked the streets and had great conversations.

We asked them how they felt about the situation in Syria, the growing tensions with Iran, China and Russia, and the real possibility of a

See MARINES, page 4

### **DON'T FALL FOR THE CAPITALIST HYPE!**

SEATTLE, WA — It has finally come to this! The lead article in the July Machinist union newspaper reads like Boeing productivity propaganda. The District 751 Aero Mechanic editorial reads like the editorial in the bosses' Seattle Times.

As the bosses' worldwide economic crisis deepens, the union leaders expose themselves as the bosses' patsies they always were. We can no longer afford to be tied to the fortunes of our exploiters as these misleaders would have us do. We need the answers that are in *Red Flag*, not the pro-capitalist propaganda of the *Aero Mechanic*.

District president Wroblewski's editorial starts out with the big lie. "Process improvements are important to receiving better take-home pay," he asserts.

The truth is that industrial workers' pay has been cut by more than half for the next generation of workers despite huge increases in productivity.

An index compiled by *Moody's Analytics* shows that business costs in the Midwestern states

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**AS RULERS  
PREPARE FOR  
WWIII, WORKERS  
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**THIS IS A  
THREE WEEK  
ISSUE.**

## Rulers' Strategically Preparing for World War:

### **WORKERS ON THE MOVE INCREASINGLY OPEN TO COMMUNISM**

A British communist wrote in 1936 that capitalism had "reached to the extreme of antagonisms in every sphere." He noted "trade war, tariff war, currency war, the ever-sharpened struggle for markets, raw materials, colonies, the slogans of 'national self-sufficiency'... blocs economically and strategically prepared for war."

Then, as now, "Rearmament and strategic economic preparation become to-day more and more visibly the dominating feature of the present stage of capitalist economy."

Inter-imperialist conflict and its opposite, class war, intensify because of the general crisis of world capitalism. The laws of capitalist-imperialist development make another world war inescapable. But they also create the conditions for communist revolution.

In 2001 the US rulers estimated they had 20-50 years to prepare to fight China. But the pace of events continues to accelerate. We're not predicting World War III next week, but twenty years – a generation – is, historically speaking, the blink of an eye.

#### **US Elections: Strategic Preparation for War**

Despite appearances, the current US election campaigns show the US rulers consolidating in preparation for wider war. The slogan "national self-sufficiency" covers their demands for "American jobs" and "energy independence." On both issues, Obama and Romney mainly argue about who would do the same thing better. The same is true of immigration, Afghanistan, "homeland security," and more.

"Mr. Romney is still struggling to differentiate himself. Even some of his advisers have been unable to explain exactly what he would do differently on many issues."—*New York Times*, 7/25/12

"Compulsory national service" is on the US rulers' agenda. Not just the maverick General McChrystal pushes it, but also the influential Admiral Ricks. That means a military draft, sooner or later. Seemingly-liberal policies are designed to win

over the youth they need to grow the military and to replace industrial and government workers as cheap wage-slaves. That's why politicians and judges are telling cops not to alienate black youth with perpetual "stop and frisks," or latin@ youth with deportations.

The US rulers' "strategic economic preparations" for war mean killing us with a thousand cuts. They worry that class struggle could interfere with these plans. That's why their liberal and conservative spin-doctors must address rising economic inequality.

**It's not enough to unmask the evils of capitalism. We must popularize the communist understanding that will mobilize the masses to transform the world.**

They tell us that capitalism is the solution, not the problem. Warren Buffett organizes billionaires to pay more taxes and give back a fraction of what they stole from workers' labor. Why? To build illusions that they care. To fatten the US rulers' war treasury. And to leverage this money to reshape social institutions like education in Latin America as well as the US.

Racist Charles Murray now attacks white workers, too, as "lazy" and "immoral." The *New York Times* blames unmarried parents for the inequality their children will face in the future. The "Half the Sky" movement claims that garment sweatshops mean "women's liberation." Pundits bemoan the "decline of manual skills" and "excessive individualism." They urge us to think about "the greater good" – as the capitalist-imperialists define it.

For the working-class, the "greater good" is communism!

#### **US Imperialism Isn't All-Powerful**

The Arab Spring turned into a fiasco for the US. In Egypt the generals – defeated at the bal-

lot-box – refuse to let the new president convene the parliament. On July 16, Hillary Clinton visited the new US consulate in Alexandria. Her motorcade was pelted with tomatoes, shoes, water bottles, and anti-American chants. Thirty-five thousand textile workers went on strike two days later. So much for the theory that US imperialism orchestrated last year's uprising.

Syria is enmeshed in a civil war. While the US scrambles without much success to find partners in the opposition movement, rebel leaders visited Moscow. Nowhere in the Persian Gulf or northern Africa is US imperialism advancing – and certainly not in Afghanistan-Pakistan.

World capitalism is in crisis. That's intensifying inter-imperialist rivalry, which continues to dominate world events. But it's also intensifying class struggle.

The rising Chinese capitalist-imperialists are increasingly on the offensive – hence Obama's "pivot" to Asia-Pacific. But internal contradictions of capitalism already limit their options. These include slower growth, overcapacity, and class struggle. On June 19th, hundreds of bus drivers struck in Guizhou. Three days later, thousands struck an explosives factory in Shaoguan. Over 500 labor actions have rocked China since January.

Miners in Spain. Utility workers in Greece. Oil workers in Nigeria. Railway workers in Canada. Teachers in Honduras and Mexico. Students in Chile and Quebec. Chinese villagers. Indigenous people in Peru. The masses are in motion, mobilized around class anger misdirected into reforms.

They're increasingly open to communism. In El Salvador, the Funes administration is destroying the masses' illusions about the fmln. A new generation is more open than ever. Our Party is advancing.

Class struggle can defeat inter-imperialist rivalry when communism defeats reformism amongst the masses. It's not enough to unmask and explain the evils of capitalism. We must develop and popularize the communist understanding that will motivate and mobilize the masses to transform the world.



Struggle sharpens in Egypt

Above: Textile Workers on strike

Right: Protest against US Secretary of State Clinton



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## SAY "GOODBYE" TO ALL CAPITALISTS

HONDURAS—"Goodbye, goodbye, friends," are the words that the maquila bosses say when they move their factories from one place to another. The only thing that interests them is to pay as little as possible to their workers and thus get bigger and better profits. For them, there are no borders. Nothing stops them, and wherever they can exploit more, that's where they go.

In Central America, specifically in Honduras, a great part of the maquilas have migrated to Nicaragua, where the "Revolutionary and Socialist" government of comandante Daniel Ortega, with the attitude of a greedy merchant, has opened the doors wide to the maquilas. This guarantees local bosses a series of perks while the workers get wages even lower than in Honduras, at the expense of the sacrifice and suffering of the working class.

Ortega, representing the failed "Socialism of the 21st Century," and supported by the Venezuela-Cuba-Russia-China bloc, is one more oppressor of the working class, which suffers the same exploitation and calamities as workers in

the US imperialist system.

The countries that harbor maquilas enact laws to favor these exploiters, allowing them to pay less to the working class than in other areas of work. In Honduras the monthly minimum wage in force is \$US 335. However, for the maquilas it's approximately \$US 250.

The situation in Nicaragua is even worse, with the minimum wage of \$US 123 per month. To protect foreign investment, Ortega is sentencing the working class in Nicaragua to misery and death.

In Central America, like other places on earth, many mistakenly saw the maquila industry as a way out of high unemployment rates and as a way to strengthen the income of the working class. Since the product of this business goes to the big transnational companies, none of this happened. Rather, it increased the exploitation of the working class.

For example, the working class is paid poverty wages for exhausting shifts, in precarious unhygienic conditions, with big quotas to complete

and with few benefits. Even worse, the women (who make up more than 80% of the work force) are fired whenever the bosses find out that they are pregnant. They suffer sexual harassment and sexism. The workers of these countries should follow the example of workers in the sweatshops in El Salvador and Los Angeles, who, organized in the International Communist Workers' Party, are fighting for communism.

In a communist system there won't be wage labor, but instead work to satisfy all social needs. The exploitation of the working class will end, and the collective work of the society for its own benefit will prevail. Communism will abolish discrimination, racism, and sexism, among other things. In this society, all will work according to their capacities and receive according to their needs.

ICWP is organizing the workers to fight for a communist system, making our ideas mass ideas through *Red Flag*, the paper of the international working class.

## MEXICO, from page 1

well intentioned people who have faith in the fake leftist Andrés Manuel López Obrador, presidential candidate in the recent Mexican election. However, these illusions have received a heavy blow because again the bosses imposed their favorite, guaranteeing that their candidate Enrique Peña Nieto won.

Democracy and elections are only a capitalist circus to fool the working class. They make us believe that we have the "liberty" to elect our rulers. In the electoral circus it doesn't matter which candidate wins; we workers always lose. The bosses make the rules through their institutions like the IFE (Federal Elections Institute) or the Federal Elections Tribunal.

### Inter-imperialist rivalry and world war

The inter-imperialist rivalry, mainly between the US, China, and Russia, forces each one to look for governments aligned with their interests. The current crisis that capitalism is going through can't be resolved except through wars, including World War III. The US bosses need to secure the largest possible amount of oil, natural resources, labor and soldiers for their armies. Peña Nieto is the politician who can best respond to those interests. Obrador represents the other sector of the ruling class which is fighting for a larger part of the value that the Mexican workers produce. Even though Obrador's demagogery can calm the workers' anger temporarily, he doesn't com-

pletely respond to the immediate war plans of the US bosses.

"We need true democracy!" my friend said afterwards. I objected, explaining that democracy since its inception in Greece up through today was created by the rulers for their own interests. There can be "clean" elections, but the candidates, the policies, the limits are all determined by the bosses. They tell us that whatever aspect doesn't correspond to their interests, "That isn't legal."

"So, what's left for us to do?" he asked me. The answer is to learn to organize in a different way, to fight for our own interests as the working class. We need to destroy the whole material base of capitalism and build a new society. We need to build communism. That's why we need an international communist party that's made up of workers, students, teachers, soldiers, unemployed, crafts people, farmworkers, the whole working class and our allies. We must carry out a communist revolution to achieve communism.

These have been some aspects of very long discussions that we've had with this friend, sometimes on trips to work in the communities, other times when we invite each other to eat. Our friendship has been solidifying. He's now more interested in communism and his questions are more frequent about how to build ICWP.

The workers are moving to the left more each time. We want them to move to communism. We don't want false roads. Socialism, democracy in all its forms, anarchism, national liberation movements, have all failed. We need a communist revolution. We invite our friends, readers, and all those who are interested in ending wage slavery to join us. Under communism we won't produce commodities. We'll produce communists, and goods that satisfy the needs of the workers of the world. Join ICWP.

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## REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

### When Machinists Make Boeing Better, We All Win

*Aero Mechanic* union traitors tie our fate to the bosses.

## BOEING from page 1

are now barely higher than the South. In a report in April, the Brookings Institution confirmed that manufacturing wages have been dropping throughout the nation, while productivity skyrockets.

Autoworkers averaged about \$30/hour only a few years ago. Now they are down to \$15/hour.

Aerospace workers have not been exempt. Lockheed strikers lost traditional pensions for new hires after international vice-president Mark Blondin (our past president) recommended they accept the proposed settlement.

To increase productivity, the company greeted the returning strikers with draconian new work rules. Rather than fight this speed-up and harassment, the IAM posted the new rules on their website. And right here at Boeing, work rule harassment is increasing as we bend under the tyranny of production charts and graphs.

If you buy Wroblewski's speed-up lie, he's got an even more poisonous Kool-Aid for you. Mimicking CEO McNerney, he plays the China card.

Invoking the fear of new Chinese aerospace capabilities, he preaches that the union's speed-up plan is good for "America."

"The best part of the incentive pay plan (new in the last contract) is that it pays our members at Boeing for doing something that's in our best interest anyway," he concludes.

Today we sacrifice our pay and benefits on the altar of patriotism, tomorrow that of our sons and daughters. No wonder the notoriously anti-worker *Seattle Times* can't say enough good things about the incen-

tive plan.

We can now expect stories like the lead article in this issue of *Aero Mechanic* praising efforts to do more work with fewer workers. In the past, we only had to read these kinds of nauseating articles in the company magazine.

### Red Flag Answers Aero Mechanic Lies

What workers really need is to read and study the real laws of economics (see the last three issues of *Red Flag*.) Then we will understand why capitalism cannot meet the needs of our class.

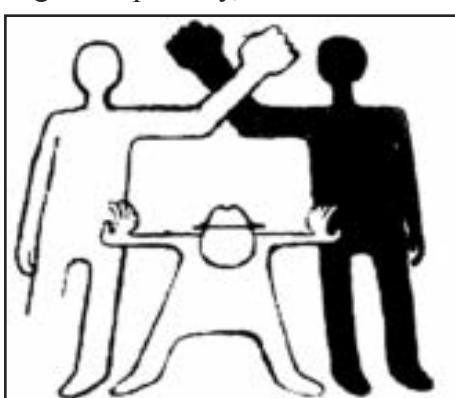
The bosses will produce only what they can sell for a profit. Capitalism pits not only company against company, but nation against nation and worker against worker. And that leads to constant wars.

The world does not have to be this way. If we organize production around the needs of workers, crisis and war will become a thing of the past. We can welcome new hands to do the work without fear. We will be able to unite with workers all over the world, not fear they will take our jobs or kill us on the battlefield.

We won't need trade unions to carry water for the bosses. Production itself will be organized to mobilize masses to consolidate our power--not gain profits for the bosses.

Communism is the answer for the new generation of workers entering industry. We can no longer tolerate the smoke screen sent up by the *Aero Mechanic*. Take this paper, *Red Flag*, to every corner of the factory.

**See article, page 6,  
about layoffs at Boeing  
in Long Beach.**





## LETTER FROM RED SAILOR TO FRIEND

It's great to hear from you. I'm glad you wrote and I appreciate it. I know you're busy. Boot camp is shitty. I bet you dealt with the same stuff. I'm working on no sleep almost every day. But the physical training is a piece of cake. The tests and inspections aren't that bad, either. It's just stress and constant lack of sleep that make boot camp

challenging. I can't wait to get out of here, ten more days! We basically march and fold clothes 80% of the time. But they taught me to shoot a 9-mm. That was cool. I've also learned how to moor a ship, and we're learning lots of firefighting now. I guess fires occur pretty frequently on ships.

I've been making lots of friends here, but I've been focusing on the six people that have the same job as me and are heading to A-school with me. People know that I've studied philosophy and they love to talk about it. They are really interested in Hegel and his dialectics. In fact, when I get out of this prison (boot camp), me and another guy have decided to start a philosophy study group. There is another dude too, but we'll split ways after boot camp. And, besides, he frustrates me.

I wonder what's going on in the world right now. We have a crazy-ass chief who says that Syria is doing this and that now and about to lead us into a major war with Iran. Most people anticipate a big war to occur with Iran, but those people don't make too much of a fuss about it. When we P.T. (physically train), we sing songs about chopping terrorists as they grocery shop. We sing about invading Syria and Iran too.

But the sailors in here are not at all like the chief. Actually, I think I got into a nerdy division. My division is integrated with females, and I think they put males that they think aren't too dangerous or irresponsible to work with the females in boot camp. It seems like the males in the all male-division are a lot bigger than the average male size in our division. Maybe I'm just over-thinking the male thing. Either way, the vast majority of sailors in here enlisted for school money, stable pay, travel, adventure, but not to go fight a war.

I'll keep you posted if I get better info. They don't really let us know too much or try to understand our A-school stuff while we're in boot camp. It's nice getting mail in here. All we look forward to is eating and sleeping, the animal pleasures. Reminds me of how someone once said, "these days man is outside himself while working and feels at home when he's acting like an animal." Something like that. Anyway, I got to get to bed. Tomorrow they put us in a gas chamber with tear gas ....I hear the good part is that it clears your sinuses pretty well. Take it easy.

-Red Sailor

## MARINES from page 1

World War III.

"I do what I have to, I do what I am told to do," said a Marine in a group of four.

"No, you don't have to do what you are told. That's what the Nazis did. They were just following orders," we countered. "We all have to be thinking people and we have to realize that Marines have more interests in common with the international working class than they do with the brass or the government."

Another Marine in the group added, "We are sworn to defend the Constitution."

"Yes," we responded. "When we enter school as children, before they teach us to read and write, they teach the Pledge of Allegiance. In every country the capitalist government teaches their own patriotism at a very young age. This is one way they divide the international working

## General Dynamics and the Unions: YOUR ENEMY'S ENEMY ISN'T ALWAYS YOUR FRIEND

FT. LEWIS, WA, July 23 – Civilian workers for General Dynamics (GD), mostly veterans, await the results of their vote on whether to certify Local 286 of the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE). But unions can't and won't do what workers really need. Like all unions, IUOE is firmly committed to working within the laws that the capitalists make to keep us wage-slaves in line. Instead of unions, we need to build the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) to destroy wage-slavery, bosses, laws, and all.

GD forced workers to attend anti-union meetings, now the subject of a federal investigation. Liberal labor activists claim that the investigation proves that "who occupies the White House matters." They point to Obama's executive order preventing federal contractors like GD from charging the government for their union-busting campaigns.

In spite of minor policy differences, though, both parties serve capitalist interests, and the bosses know it. GD, like Boeing, Northrop Grumman, and all major financial institutions, divides its campaign contributions almost equally between Democrats and Republicans. ([www.opensecrets.org](http://www.opensecrets.org)) The revolutionary communist ICWP, in contrast, gets ALL our money from individual workers like you and NONE from labor unions, NGOs, or other capitalist institutions.

The IUOE has had a bad rep among many Washington workers since the Longview longshore workers' bitter and hard-fought strike last fall. IUOE Local 701 agreed to help the company (EGT) break the strike by hiring its members through a subcontractor, with-

out a contract, under inferior working conditions.

But the IUOE is more like than different from IAM, ILWU, and the rest of the industrial unions. Unions exist to negotiate the terms of our wage slavery under capitalism. Today, US imperialism's strategic preparations for war include slashing wages, benefits, and working conditions in aerospace and other heavy industry. Sometimes, like the Caterpillar strike, unions offer token resistance, picketing legally while scabs keep profits rolling in. Elsewhere, like Boeing, union leaders simply parrot the company line.

Communism will really be different. We won't have "jobs" where we sell ourselves by the hour. Factories, farms, and other means of production will not be owned privately. Instead, we workers will run them collectively to meet the needs of all workers. We'll make and carry out all the decisions involving what to produce and how. Nobody will profit off of anyone else, or boss them around. Nobody will need or use money at all. The capitalist bosses need us but we don't need them.

The ICWP calls on all soldiers and workers, including veterans, to join us in mobilizing the masses for communism. We have a world to win!



JOLIET, IL—Eight hundred Machinists have been on strike since May 1 against Caterpillar's demands for wage cuts and other concessions. IAM's call for "sharing" obscures the fact that profits are 100% stolen from workers' labor. Together with patriotism, pacifism, and reliance on the bosses' laws, this class-collaborationism is a deadly distraction for the working class.

class." At the end of the conversation, two of the four Marines took *Red Flag*.

In another conversation, we explained to a couple of Marines that capitalism was in crisis worldwide and that the imperialist governments of the world will mobilize the working class for world war.

Another Marine said, "I agree with the way Karl Marx talked about communism, but I think people mess it up."

"Marx was right on many things but he was wrong when he said that we needed to pass through the stage of socialism to get to communism," we answered.

"Communism can never happen," responded his Marine friend. "Everything is driven by greed and money."

"Under capitalism this is what happens. But in a communist society, we all work collectively. Everything will be driven to meet human need,

not greed nor money." We then added, "Money will be a thing of the past."

At the end of this conversation the Marines did not take the paper, but we had a lively exchange.

A comrade who had not talked to Marines about communism before said, "I thought it would be more difficult. It was interesting to see that many took *Red Flag*, and those that did not engaged in good conversations. The Marines were not closed-minded. Some of them even expressed communist ideas."

The Marines seemed to be more open and receptive than last year. The worldwide capitalist crisis, the preparations for world war and the heavy austerity measures taking place are causing the masses to become restless. More and more people are questioning what's going on and looking for alternatives. The masses are in motion and they are moving to the left. *Red Flag* must be there to mobilize the masses for communism.

## COMMUNISM WILL CURE WHAT AILS YOU

"This society sucks," a friend posted on Facebook. "Nothing for human need. So many sick people who can't get the care they/we need. It hurts so much not to be able to do something about all this pain and illness."

Our last article explained that "Obamacare" won't solve workers' health care problems and will make some things worse. Even the most drastic reforms can't heal the sick capitalist system. But there IS something we can do. We can mobilize the masses for communism.

Communism will take the profit motive and inequality out of health care and everything else by wiping out money and a market economy. The masses, organized as the International Communist Workers' Party, will make and carry out all decisions about what to produce, how to produce it, and how to share it so that everyone's needs are met.

### What We Need to Stay Healthy

Communist society will provide us all with clean water and air, nourishing food, adequate shelter and sanitation. We won't achieve this right away, as we fight to extend communism worldwide, rebuild society on the ashes of imperialist world war, and defeat counter-revolution. But communism will guarantee that nobody has privileges. We will all share hardship and scarcity as we will later share abundance.

Communist reorganization of work will remove many stresses that ruin our health today. All work will be meaningful, contributing to the masses' well-being. We'll organize production to minimize risks, injuries, and environmental contamination. Except in emergencies, work schedules will respect our bio-rhythms. For example, the Paris Commune of 1871 (the first workers' state) eliminated night work for bakers.

Nobody will do repetitive tasks

at a breakneck pace, day in and day out. Nobody will sit behind a wheel or a desk, or stand behind a counter, all day. We'll all use our brains and muscles in a variety of ways, during each week and throughout our lives.

We'll all participate in making the decisions that affect us. That will remove the sense of powerlessness that often contributes to high blood pressure, clinical depression, and other illnesses. Communist social relationships, based on comradeship and principled struggle, not sexism and individualism, will contribute to better physical and mental health. We won't do violence to each other.

Capitalism requires racism to super-exploit and divide us. This assaults the health of black and latin@ workers in the US, indigenous people almost everywhere, and all groups super-oppressed by racism. They most often have the hardest and most dangerous jobs, and live in the unhealthiest neighborhoods. And racism itself inflicts heavy disease-causing stress. Communists actively fight this racism to unite the masses to

destroy deadly capitalism. Communism will end racism.

### Communism is not a fairy-tale paradise.

People will still get sick. There will be accidents and injuries, especially in the struggle to defeat capitalism worldwide. We will still need to develop and use — for everyone! — the most appropriate medical science, technologies, and institutions.

Anna Louise Strong reported in 1927 that workers in Soviet Russia had free health care, and a shorter work-day for those in dangerous occupations. A sanatorium once reserved for nobles now treated textile workers, coal miners, and others with lung diseases. These and other examples begin to show how different health care can be.

In *Away with All Pests*, Dr. Joshua Horn showed how communist attitudes pushed mobile medical teams to creatively give extraordinary care to those formerly at the bottom of pre-revolutionary Chinese society. His chapter on "human relationships in the hospital" described how health workers and patients struggled collectively to break down hierarchies between doctors, nurses, and other hospital workers. We know now that we'll need to reorganize health-care work much more profoundly, starting by getting rid of wages and money.

Soviet Russian and Chinese communists believed that workers make history and would one day build a communist future. But they didn't believe that the masses could be won to communism "now," so they built socialism instead. Socialism still obeyed the laws of capitalist development. It turned the old communist parties into a new capitalist class.

So now we say: ***Mobilize the masses for communism*** as if your life depended on it — because it does!



Communist barefoot doctors bring healthcare to rural China

## Half of us Fat--

## Half of us Hungry

Recently a good friend of mine said she was very impressed with Michelle Obama's "Let's Move" campaign against childhood obesity. She didn't see the contradiction embedded in food, as in every commodity. It has two opposing, conflicting poles: use value and exchange value.

The international working class certainly needs healthy, nutritious food produced safely (use value). However, food is produced for profit (exchange value). The bosses have no interest in producing what the working class needs.

The consequences are deadly and disastrous for the working class. A half-trillion dollar fast food industry spews out the food that is creating obesity and chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and cancer, while mi-

llions suffer food insecurity. It is estimated that as a direct result of the fast food industry, nearly half of the US population will be obese by the year 2030. Obesity-related complications cost over \$300 billion in the US.

We see chronic starvation, malnutrition and deaths of 15 million children every year in the continents of Africa, Latin America and Asia where there are abundant natural resources and food. A chemical explosion in Bhopal, India instantly killed over 10,000 workers, and injured over half a million, leaving them blind. This unsafely-operated plant produced cheap pesticides for agriculture. The agriculture industry is among the least safe in the world because of deadly pesticides and unsafe machinery. More children die in agricultural jobs than in any other industry. ([www.politifact.com](http://www.politifact.com))

When we buy a hamburger or anything else,

the internal contradiction in a commodity, the contradiction between use value and exchange value, is not obvious. However, the consequences of this contradiction include unintended consequences of mass obesity, starvation and deaths.

This contradiction cannot be overcome by any external force such as Michelle Obama's campaign, whatever good she may do in raising awareness about nutrition, and no matter how concerned the ruling class is about their need for physically fit soldiers in a massive army. This contradiction is internal to capitalism. It can only be resolved by destroying capitalism and replacing it with a society where the working class owns the means of production and produces based on the needs of the working class. This is a communist society where nothing will be produced for exchange.

—Student of economics

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## PARAGUAY: PAWN IN INTER-IMPERIALIST CHESS GAME

**PARAGUAY**—In May of this year, hundreds of farmworkers took over the Campos de Morombí plantations, demanding land to support themselves. In a fascist act, the minister of the interior ordered the security forces to kick them out. Eleven farmworkers and six cops were killed in the confrontation. The supposedly “liberal” government of Fernando Lugo, the President of Paraguay, defended the security forces and sent his condolences to the families of the cops.

In communism, there will be no private property: the land will belong to everyone and be used for everyone. The land will be worked to produce what we need in a collective process, not for private profits.

Lugo won the presidential elections in 2008 and was president until this past June 22, when he was removed by the Senate through an alliance between the fake left and the right, the Partido Colorado. This Colorado Party was the one headed by Alfredo Stroessner, fascist dictator from 1954 to 1989. The “leftists,” ignoring the history of repression of the Stroessner military dictatorship, joined forces with his party to kick out Fernando Lugo in their ambition for power.

Democracy is a trick, a smokescreen that covers up the real action of this oppressive system.

### Boeing Layoffs:

#### “TRADE OFF” OR WAGE SLAVERY?

**LONG BEACH, CA**—“I gave them 32 years—32 years—and they throw me out like garbage,” said a Boeing worker, reacting to an *LA Times* article saying that the plant’s days are numbered. He took a copy of *Red Flag* and a leaflet that explained that a communist society would never treat workers like disposable robots.

Another worker, refusing to take our literature, said, “I got a house, cars and the kids’ education while working here. It’s a trade-off.”

#### Is it really a trade-off?

We spend our whole lives slaving for the capitalists for a wage barely enough to survive. To think differently is an illusion. The houses we “own” really belong to the bank, until the mortgages are paid off. Even then, if we don’t pay property taxes, the government will auction them off.

The current capitalist crisis is shattering the illusions of millions who are losing homes, jobs, health benefits and pensions. Over 10 million houses have been foreclosed and 3.5 million workers have been made homeless. “The risk of ‘serious delinquency’ on mortgages has grown fastest for people over 50.” (*NY Times*, 7/19/12)

Many more will become homeless and destitute as companies like Boeing shift their operations to places like South Carolina, where wages and benefits are far lower.

#### We need to smash the bosses’ wage slavery

Under capitalism we live as wage slaves, selling our labor power to the bosses in order to survive. Our lives are worth nothing because capitalism is driven by profits. Nothing is more sacred to the bosses. This will always be so until we destroy them and their system with a communist revolution.

More workers are realizing this. More will come to realize it as that so-called “trade off” becomes an unbearable ordeal under fascist slave-like conditions (see BOEING, page 11). This will intensify as the US bosses prepare their coming war on the cheap to face their imperialist rivals China-Russia, which are both building wide-body

We don’t need new administrators for the system. We need to destroy the system and forge a new communist society. That will only be possible if we take on the struggle to *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*.

As in the era of Operation Condor (a CIA plan that allowed South American armed forces to kidnap, disappear or assassinate leftists during the 1960s and -70s) the US bosses still have their methods to throw into the trash those who are no longer useful to them. The Senate of Paraguay, which serves US interests took advantage of this long-awaited chance to remove Lugo.

These actions shouldn’t only be attributed to US imperialism. China and its ally Russia are seeking to move their pieces to create a favorable game board for the coming World War III. Paraguay, apart from being a major producer of basic grains and of energy, is also important for its territorial position. It borders Bolivia and Argentina, as well as Brazil, the most important player in Latin America and the one with most resources.

Brazil owns, jointly with Paraguay, the Itaipú Dam, which is the second-largest hydro-electric generator in the world, and the greatest generator of energy. The only bigger dam in the world is the Three Gorges Dam in China.

The US needs to break Brazil’s hegemony in respect to energy production, since Brazil is a competitor, a member of the BRICS. These factors will be important in the development of inter-imperialist rivalry. ICWP fights to put an end to the bosses and their wars. Only by fighting for communism will we be able to put an end to the capitalist bloodbath.

Paraguay is also important because it is the second-largest producer of soy in the world. The exploitation of Paraguay’s lithium is essential for the manufacture of the majority of electronic products and the creation of more technologically advanced arms.

One more time, capitalism demonstrates its savagery. Workers from the cities to the fields, united with soldiers, must carry out the struggle to eliminate once and for all this system which keeps the working class in abject poverty. Only when we Mobilize the Masses for Communism will we be able to put an end to all this capitalist trash. This will only be possible if we take our ideas to thousands of workers by distributing *Red Flag*. Only then can we win the new communist society.



NO TO THE DICTATORSHIP OF MONEY

#### India: Bosses’ Racism Sparks Auto Workers’ Anger

As the auto industry grows in India, the cost of living is rising as real wages go down. In 2000, an auto workers in India spent 2 hours 12 minutes of an 8-hour shift working for their families’ subsistence, and the remaining 5 hours and 48 minutes generating surplus for the capitalist. By 2010, auto workers spent just 1 hour 12 minutes working for their subsistence and 6 hours 48 minutes working for the capitalist.

Last year, workers at Maruti Suzuki in India waged a four-month-long determined struggle against these conditions with repeated strikes and two factory occupations, facing a month-long lockout, police repression and violent thugs.

On July 18, a supervisor’s racist remarks against a so-called “untouchable” worker led to conflict. Plant management suspended the worker and other workers protested demanding action against the supervisor rather than the worker. This agitation escalated to violent attacks, where workers appear to have systematically “hunted” senior executives with everything from rods to car parts. At least 26 executives sustained fractures, and several had multiple injuries. Those injured included five vice-presidents, six general managers and seven deputy general managers. General Manager of Human Resources, Awanish Kumar Dev, died in a fire in the factory after both his legs were broken by workers and he was left in an office that was set ablaze.

Our struggle shouldn’t be limited to particular bosses, no matter how racist. It shouldn’t be for a less-oppressive form of wage slavery. The mass militancy and righteous class anger of the working class must be organized to mobilize the masses for communism

**LETTERS****LETTERS****LETTERS****CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS**

**THIS IS THE PAPER OF THE WORKING CLASS. WE GET NO FUNDING FROM THE CAPITALISTS, THEIR FOUNDATIONS OR NGOs. PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY TO HELP PAY FOR THE COSTS OF PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.**

**Mexico: Oil and Politics**

Your last issue's editorial on the Mexican elections was very objective and very correct. The day after it was published, the Council on Foreign Relations – the US bosses' most influential think tank - had an article by Shannon K. O'Neil titled "Peña Nieto and Energy Reform."

Giving some of the same reasons mentioned in your editorial about why Pemex must be privatized, she argues that Peña Nieto has more chances of succeeding because:

"The PRI also has the advantage of counting on the PEMEX union as a political ally rather than an opponent. In fact, the union's leader, Carlos Romero Deschamps, was just elected to the Senate on the PRI's proportional representation list, as was the union's treasurer, Ricardo Al-dana. Their presence, rather than stymieing negotiations, may help smooth the process."

She also points out that the pressure to privatize Pemex is greater because, "Even if production remains stable Mexico will likely become a net oil importer during Peña Nieto's tenure."

Her quote supports your analysis that Peña Nieto might succeed in privatizing Pemex. It also shows the complete collusion between the Mexican unions and the bosses. It is further proof of the fascist state the US-Mexican rulers have created by militarizing Mexico with their "war on drugs."

--Reader

**Red Flag readers in Mexico discuss communism**

I looked for the teacher R in the teachers' break room to continue talking about his idea

about how to "protect" communism to avoid leaders taking advantage and becoming exploiters of the workers. "Yes," he said, "it's also interesting how the workers who don't would be treated accept the communist way of life."

We explained to him that there's no formula or a series of measures that the party would have to impose on the population so they would follow a communist life style. Instead we explain now through **Red Flag** to show that eliminating wage labor, the production of commodities, money, racism and borders will create a new way of life which will be more or less developed when we take power. This will be developed to a greater or later extent before we take power. We also said that this is an ideological struggle which implies persuasion so that those who are at first opposed come to understand. And even though not everything will advance peacefully, we advocate that there's no need for violence against the workers but only against those who sabotage or take actions that aim to hurt or set back communism.

He agreed that those who attack the new human relations among the workers would have to be punished. Another teacher who we found resting in the break room said that some workers wouldn't like to clean the bathrooms but that they could help do other work. Another teacher in another armchair farther away intervened also to say it would be similar to saying that not everyone would have to learn math.

All of them, in the way they commented, showed some disagreements with our line but I was surprised because even though they are

friendly and they allow me to offer **Red Flag** and **Mobilize the Masses for Communism** to their students, I thought that they hadn't read our manifesto, but I was wrong. Now I'll devote time to get closer to them.

--Red Teacher

**In struggle.... NASSCO Shipyard: No Layoffs under Communism**

Several NASSCO workers have told **Red Flag** sellers that they will be laid off soon, as their trade finishes work on a current ship. The Navy is spending about \$13 billion on new ships in the fiscal year beginning October 1, as the US gears up for war with capitalist China. General Dynamics has recently bought two more shipyards to get a chunk of this business. But when some workers are not needed for a while, the company puts them on the street, where the official unemployment rate in San Diego is 9.2%.

This is "Standard Operating Procedure" for capitalism, of course, but would never happen under communism. There, workers will always be able to count on having their needs met, even if one project winds up and another starts. Unlike the socialist systems like the USSR and China, which have layoffs and all the other features of capitalism, communist society will be run by workers and take their welfare as its main aim. We hope that NASSCO workers can fight back against these layoffs, but no reforms will change the fact that capitalism is set up to screw workers, and only communism can end it.

--**Red Flag** Distributor



ANAHEIM, CA.—July 25—Four days of rebellion shook this city after the police killed Manuel Diaz, an unarmed 25-year-old latino man on Saturday. The next day the police shot to death Joel Acevedo, 21 years old. Angry workers and youth, latino, black and white, disrupted the City Council meeting, massed inside and outside the police headquarters, and stood their ground despite the police shooting rubber bullets directly at them and police dogs attacking demonstrators, including small children. The youth and workers turned over dumpsters and set them on fire to stop the cops' attacks.

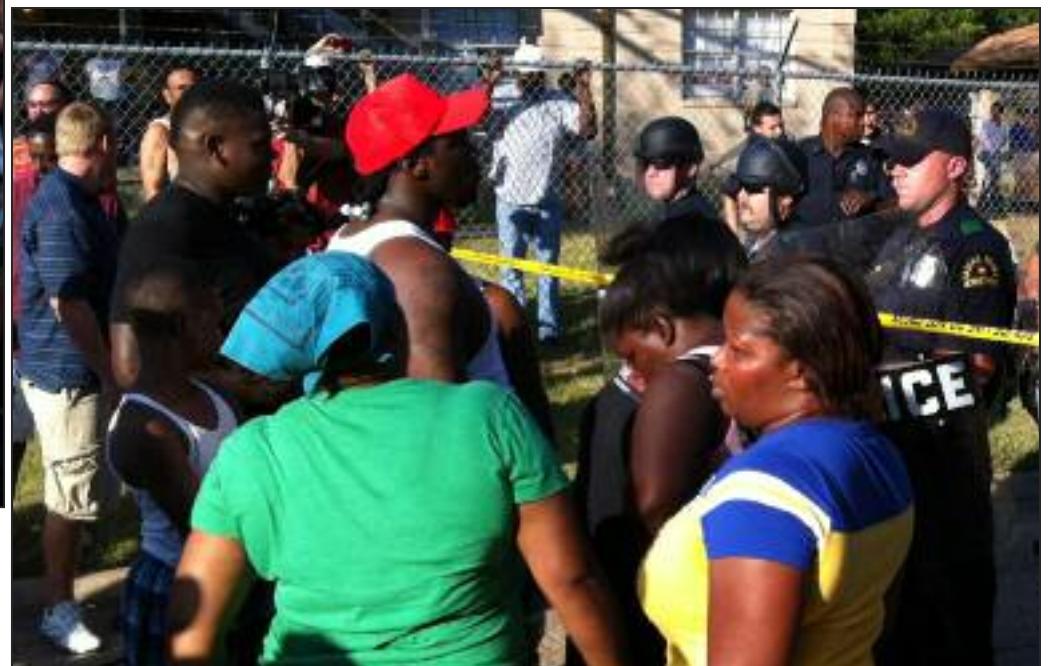


ABOVE: Anaheim, California  
RIGHT: Dallas, Texas

SOUTH DALLAS, TX—July 24—Hundreds of youth and workers protested after the police killed James Harper, an unarmed black resident.

Racist police terror against black and latino communities lay the basis to unify these two most exploited and oppressed sections of the working class—but also the most rebellious. Both have great revolutionary potential. They are capable of giving leadership to the whole working class nationally and internationally in our struggle to get rid of murderous capitalism with a communist revolution.

Join the International Communist Workers' Party and help build a world without bosses, their money, their exploitation, racism, and killer cops.



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

## HOW WE WORKERS CREATE THE VALUE OF BREAD

This is the fourth article in our series on capitalist political economy. The last article asked why machines can't produce value. Now we'll look at the example of a bakery (or bread factory). The capitalist boss who owns this factory needs raw materials such as flour, oil, and yeast, and machinery like ovens and kneading machines. As *Red Flag* has explained, these are all commodities that have exchange value (or simply "value"). Marx calls these commodities "dead capital" because the labor of the workers who produced these commodities is embedded in them, and "constant capital" because their value does not change.

Of all the ingredients required by the capitalist to make bread, the key ingredient is the workers' labor power. We sell our ability to work, our labor power. This is a commodity that Marx calls "live" or "variable" capital.

The value of our labor has two components. When a boss buys our labor power, we produce all value but we receive only a portion of this value in the form of wages. Our wages are determined by the average amount of value required for us to barely survive. This varies in different countries and industries, and different periods of capitalism. In other words, the boss pays us just enough so we can come back to work the next day. But the bosses constantly devise ways to squeeze more value out of us. The opposite interests of the bosses and workers often take violent form in our daily struggles.

The boss keeps the other portion of the value

that we create. It's stolen from us! This is called surplus value. The process of working involves paid value and unpaid value. We can represent the paid value, our wages or variable capital, as (v). The unpaid value is surplus value (s). Our work is the total of v and s, or v+s. Now if we represent constant capital (machines, raw materials) as c, the total value of the bread is c+v+s.

| Raw materials/machines (c).     | Variable capital (v)<br>Wages | Surplus (s) = unpaid value |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Workers create all value</b> |                               |                            |

### Value of Bread

To illustrate that machines don't create value, let's say that in our bread factory there is a kneading machine. This machine has a fixed cost and limited life. If the machine costs \$10,000 and it lasts for making 100,000 loaves of bread, then 10¢ value is transferred from the machine to each loaf of bread. No value is created by the machine. Each minute the machine is used, its life is reduced.

On the other hand, our labor power creates value over and above what we are paid. In addition, the bosses can make us work faster, and use racism and sexism to lower our wages below subsistence and reduce or eliminate our benefits. They use the cops, the courts, and union contracts to extract more surplus value from us. But the boss cannot make the machine work harder, threaten it with the cops, or cut its pay or benefits. The boss must pay full price for the machine, and when it wears out, he has to pay full price for a new one.

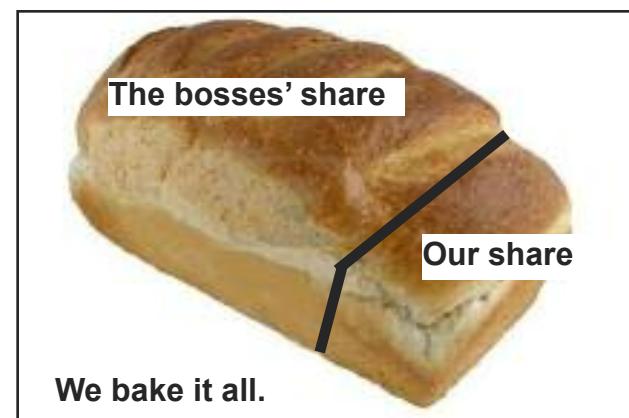
### Crisis and contradiction

Factories don't operate in isolation. There is a fierce competition among bosses and they constantly attempt to lower the socially necessary labor time to make bread by investing in more expensive and efficient machinery. They use the profit they make from the value we create to buy these more efficient machines. The value created by us, the working class, confronts us as an external force and dominates us. Over a period of time, as more and more capital accumulates, the bosses replace

living capital (the workers) with dead capital (machinery). However, since only the workers create value, the stage is set for a massive crisis that requires the massive destruction of capital in all its forms.

This is the basis of Marx's crisis theory. In the next article we will further examine this crisis by looking at the falling rate of profit.

For study groups: Why is the capitalist labor process, the production of commodities, inherently violent, requiring coercion and force?



## CAN'T GET TO COMMUNISM THROUGH SOCIALISM

*Marxism has become much more popular as the present capitalist crisis destroys the lives of billions. Lenin had it right: this system is a "horror without end."*

*In the past three columns, we examined how "capitalism's laws of motion" don't allow any other outcome. Some have mistakenly concluded that this means history must always repeat itself.*

*Part of the reason people are fooled by this stale idea is the failed strategy of fighting for socialism. But even in this historic failure lie the seeds of communist success.*

For most of the history of Marxism, the communist movement has fought for socialism, hoping that it would be a stepping-stone to communism. But the socialist systems of the USSR, China, and Eastern Europe, all turned into open capitalism. These events were spread out over a number of years, and history repeated itself. Did this have to happen or could it have been avoided by "doing socialism right."

We now realize that it is a law of motion of socialist systems that they eventually turn into open capitalism. The reason for this is that socialism is actually a form of capitalism in which the means of production are owned by the government. Thus socialism is subject to the laws of motion of capitalism, in particular, laws about money and the market.

Analysis of the operation of actual socialist systems shows that their wage systems, inequalities and state organization lead to the rapid rise of a new capitalist ruling class, which takes over the government and the former communist party. The political power of the working class (when

that power actually exists) can't be maintained against the capitalist institutions of socialism. The new capitalist classes of different socialist countries even fight wars with each other, like the USSR-China war in 1969, and the Vietnam-China war in 1979.

Once a new ruling class is firmly in control, socialism is no longer the best way for it to rule, and open capitalism eventually returns. The result is that if communists were to try to create socialism again, history would certainly repeat itself. There is no way to "do socialism right."

### No New Ruling Class Under Communism

A central problem that faces our new communist movement is how to make sure that communism can be achieved and continue, so that a new ruling class can never arise and restore capitalism. Analyzing the reasons why socialism can't lead to communism is critical for understanding how to do this.

A major source of the new ruling class that was created under socialism was the high income and special privileges that the top party and government leaders had. Thus we cannot allow privileges for anyone.

This means we cannot have a wage system, either, since wages always mean that some get much more than others. Wages also undermine communist politics by providing a material basis for racist, sexist, and elitist ideas.

Knowledge of the specific features of socialism that prevented it from reaching communism is fundamental to our strategy for fighting for communism now. Mobilizing the masses for communism is the program for creating and

keeping communism that specifically rejects the socialist ideas and practices that led to working class defeat. This knowledge shows us the way forward to communism.

In the next column, we outline specific communist answers to three other examples of the failed socialist strategy.



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

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