

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM



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

**ATHENS, GREECE
2015**



**LOS ANGELES,
MAY DAY 2014**



**STRUGGLE IN GREECE
SHOWS THE NEED TO
FIGHT FOR A COMMUNIST
WORLD WITHOUT MONEY
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GARMENT WORKERS WORLDWIDE

THE STRUGGLE FOR COMMUNISM IS NOW

LOS ANGELES—"My *Red Flag*," said a garment worker, when he was leaving the factory after a day of exploitation, together with hundreds more men and women garment workers. "I am proud of you," he continued, as he took his newspaper.

In this factory, more than 200 workers regularly receive *Red Flag*, which represents the great majority of those who work here. There are many young workers who read the newspaper in English, and also a group of Asian worker readers.

The mass response to the paper is very positive. Many on taking the paper say things like, "Onward, for the working class," "the workers' newspaper," "let's begin the struggle." Even though they don't yet mention the words communism or revolution in their comments, they know that *Red Flag* is an international communist paper.

Our struggle with the worker mentioned at the beginning was that he should participate in meetings of the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) to organize groups of men and women workers in the factory.

"I am organizing a group of workers inside the factory and soon I will introduce you to them," he said very enthusiastically. This worker has many experiences in past struggles in his birth place and potentially he could provide the organizational spark in this factory.

The more than 800 men and women workers in this and other garment factories who receive *Red Flag* regularly must take the step to join communist ICWP study groups and help in the struggle against wage slavery and for a world in which exploitation and bosses' profits don't exist.

The struggle for communism is not something for the future, it's now. We are tired of living as wage slaves, tired of the borders, racism and imperialist wars. The vision of a world where each member of society contributes according to their commitment and each receives according to their needs should give us the strength and confidence to struggle for this goal.

The workers in the garment factories can give leadership to thousands and millions of workers in Los Angeles and worldwide in the struggle for communism. Many of them have families and friends in many other countries and can help to send the paper to their contacts in those countries.

Next year, the May Day March on May 1st falls on a Sunday, and we are organizing to march with the red flags of communism held high. Garment workers should help to invite their co-workers, friends and relatives to participate in the march together with the ICWP contingent, and there we will shout together, "Here is my red flag and my struggle for communism."

RED FLAG UNITES THE MASSES

EL SALVADOR—"Some workers active in unions think that we are dividing the workers by the organizing work that the comrades who work in the maquillas are carrying out with the ideas of *Red Flag*. But for us it is clear that we must fight for a communist system," said a comrade in a recent meeting.

The men and women comrades of the International Communist Workers' Party in the maquillas expressed that the bosses and some union leaders are informing their members and the rest of the workers that the work of *Red Flag* is dividing them.

But the truth is the opposite. ICWP through *Red Flag* is struggling to unify ALL the workers, not only from this factory, but throughout the whole world, to build a communist society without bosses or the bosses' lackeys. What many are seeing is the division between the workers fighting for communist ideas and those who want to rule over us with capitalist ideas.

The bosses fear our goal of a world without borders. They fear that all the workers of the world will unite as class brothers and sisters to destroy this system of wage slavery.

Unionism and its ideology are based on the laws of capitalism. These laws allow the unions to negotiate the level of the exploitation of the working class—not to end it. At the same time these unions become the henchmen to guarantee the bosses'

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**THIS IS A
3 WEEK
ISSUE**

Greece Crisis Shows that Masses in Motion Need to Mobilize for Communism

YOU CAN DO YOUR PART!

July 15 – As we go to press, workers, youth and retirees in Athens are protesting the austerity bailout deal endorsed by socialist Prime Minister Tsipras. Pharmacists, government workers, teachers, students and others have called strikes. Tens of thousands are marching and many are fighting riot police. The chants ring out: “No to the policies of the EU, the ECB and the IMF!” The day will come when the chant becomes: “No to wage slavery and capitalist rule!”

Banks closed. Money growing scarce. Wages not paid. Unofficial groups organizing the distribution of food and clothing.

This is Greece now and for the immediate future.

When we communists lead the working class to power, we'll close the banks for good. We'll abolish money. Euros and Dollars, Rubles and Yuan, will be worthless pieces of paper. We certainly won't bring back the Drachma.

In communism workers won't be paid because we will abolish the whole wage system. Instead we'll mobilize the masses to provide everyone with their needs (food, clothing, housing, health-care etc.) No rich, no poor, no unemployed, no homeless. No more need for pensions, no more reason to cry outside a bank.

In the near future, no one will be providing for Greek workers, who are still under capitalist rule. The informal distribution efforts are not large enough and are aimed at only the worst off. Most people who aren't being paid will have to use up their savings or rely on friends and relatives. Mass hunger is a real possibility. The same bankers who have caused widespread misery now talk about the coming need for “humanitarian aid.”

Greece has some self-styled Marxists, socialists, and even “communists.” Some are actually running the Greek government and promising German bankers they will implement an austerity plan. None fight for real communism. Instead they embrace Greek nationalism, wrap themselves in the Greek flag, and call for Greece to leave the European Union. They aren't against money, just against the Euro. They call for a return of the Drachma.

The International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) is the only party in the whole world fighting for communism. That's why it is so important for everyone who agrees with us to join. Otherwise capitalist crises like the one in Greece will occur over and over, inflicting misery on tens and hundreds of millions.

ICWP does not yet exist in Greece, but there are some **Red Flag** readers. If you live in Greece or have friends there, let us know! A few contacts could be enough to get a branch of the Party started – that has happened elsewhere. And if you can, please translate this article into Greek or any other language you know and spread it widely.

You don't have to be politically experienced. You'll learn by doing. Everyone has something valuable to offer.

Why is this happening now? German bankers want to rob Greek workers, inflicting slave wages

and working conditions on them. Since they are bankers/capitalists/exploiters this needs no further explanation.

But why are the German bankers so determined to bleed Greece dry, even if it means completely destroying its economy?

There are many reasons but the main one is the continuing global crisis of overproduction. The world's factories can produce far more goods than the world's markets can absorb. This means capitalists can't sell a lot of what the workers produce. This means losing money, closing factories, laying off workers.

Only under capitalism can abundance create misery! In communist society goods will be produced to meet the masses' needs, not for sale in a market. There will always be work for willing hands.

In the long run, capitalist crises of overproduction lead to trade wars, shooting wars, and eventually to world wars with massive destruction of productive capacity and workers' lives.

In the shorter term, as we see today, this crisis puts capitalists at each others' throats. Each wants to capture markets from their rivals. Each wants their competitors to bear the pain of overcapacity. Within Europe the German and French bosses have off-loaded the crisis onto the weaker countries, mainly in southern Europe.

The northern European bosses derisively call these countries the PIIGS (Portugal, Ireland, Italy, Greece, and Spain). They make billions loan-sharking to these countries and keeping them in debt and under austerity.

Greece (that is, the Greek bosses) have had the nerve to object. They must be taught a lesson. Like all loan sharks, the French and German bankers have a choice between killing the debtor or just beating him up. So far they haven't decided.

Meanwhile the German capitalists are trying also to discipline their main rivals in Europe, the French capitalists.

What about the arch-competitors of Germany and the US, namely China and Russia?

The Greek government flirted with Russia. It signed a preliminary deal, pledging to invest \$2 billion in a gas pipeline financed mainly by Russia, but it got no money up front. Chinese capitalists want to expand their purchase of ports, railways and airports in Greece.

Some comrades cite these developments as evidence that the Greek crisis reflects sharpening rivalry among the world's leading imperialists. They argue that the Russian and Chinese bosses see an opportunity in this crisis and can be expected to step up their involvement.

Others respond that Russia doesn't have the financial resources to take advantage of the situation. China does, but the Chinese capitalist rulers



Greece: Democracy Protects Capitalist Rule

It was a resounding NO to austerity. It energized resistance to the financial powers-that-be the world over. But it was only a vote. It was defiant, not revolutionary.

Within days of the historic Greek vote the much-vaunted democracy of Western capitalism was exposed as a sham. Turning their backs completely on the emphatic wishes of the masses, their democratically elected socialist representatives sent servile proposals promising further attacks on the Greek masses. This was democracy in action: the wishes and needs of the masses mean nothing, the needs of the masters of finance mean everything! Democracy is a political system designed to protect capitalist rule.

It has always been so. Democracy was developed in Greece as it became a successful monetized civilization. Over 2500 years ago, peasant farmers in Attica rose up against the crushing debts their financial overlords in Athens had imposed on them. Athenian rulers were afraid the peasants would ally with the slaves in the silver mines that supplied the sovereigns' money and wealth. They quickly granted the peasants debt cancellation and democratic rights. For most that democracy was as useless then as it is now.

Workers don't need elections. We don't need the capitalist state. We need to build for coming revolutions for communism.

have other international priorities. And the global economic crisis just hit them hard with a massive stock market crash.

What's clear is this: Workers in Greece have been in motion against the bosses' austerity attacks. Millions in Europe have demonstrated solidarity. But only communist revolution worldwide can end the horrors of wage slavery.

What We Can Learn from the Greek Drama

First, that the inner workings of capitalism produce crises that open the door for revolution.

Second, that in the midst of these crises our communist program makes a lot of sense.

Finally, that it's urgent to spread the ICWP worldwide. This is where you, comrade readers, come in!

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

International Communist Workers' Party
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YOUTH DISCUSS COMMUNIST EDUCATION

LOS ANGELES--A few comrades recently gathered to discuss capitalist and communist education. We reasoned that what we learn, and how we learn it, depend on the mode of production that society is based on. We talked about how capitalist education serves the rulers' interests. For example, capitalist education promotes individualism and competition. It is used to train society's future bosses and wage slaves. It does so by using bells and strict schedules, oppressive teacher-student relationships, pushing nationalism, omitting working-class history, and so on.

Next, we all shared our experiences as students under capitalism. We agreed that capitalist education often makes us feel bad about ourselves and feel like we do not have anything but our labor to contribute to society.

Our anger over capitalist education turned into fire when we started talking about how different communist education is. The discussion focused on the idea that the purpose of communist education is to create communists and communist social relations.

"We would be living similar to the Native Americans," said a young comrade, "where everybody helps one another and takes care of each other."

There will be no schools as we know them today," said a comrade. "We won't be getting trained for a profession or a position. We will learn everything like physics, science, and so much more."

We talked briefly about what it means when we hear that prominent members of the ruling class want to reform education. We talked about how the changes reflect the renewed urgency with which they must get us to pledge loyalty to their system, accept our exploitation, and fight in their wars.

A comrade shared a quote from Lenin that included the idea that "education must train students to be participants in the struggle for emancipation from the exploiters" and that "we would not believe in teaching, training, and education, if they were confined only to the school,

and divorced from the storm of life."

We discussed that mental and manual work must go hand-in-hand and that we must learn theory at the work site for immediate practice. There will be communities where all sorts of learning will take place.

"You'll get hands-on learning in different areas," explained a comrade. "We won't have "experts" either, because communist education will work to ensure that everyone, to the best of their ability, learns to analyze, criticize, and participate in decision making.

We talked about how capitalist education changes to meet the bosses' needs and communist education will change to meet the changing needs of the international working class. Even as it changes, we can expect that it will always reflect certain principles. We will value communist social relations over technical knowledge or expertise. We must always cultivate equality and cooperation and work to create more and better communists. We must merge mental and manual labor. Communist education is a life-long



2015 Los Angeles summer project

journey of the study of theory and of the work of putting it into practice.

At one point, the comrade leading the discussion said, "At this very moment, we are practicing communist education! Think about that."

We talked about how we are arming ourselves to fight for workers' power, to strengthen our line, and to win other workers to our communist vision. Our communist education, right now, comes from reading *Red Flag* and other party documents, participating in study-action groups, conferences, summer projects, and reflecting on how we put what we learn into practice!

**READ OUR PAMPHLET
COMMUNIST EDUCATION FOR A CLASS-LESS SOCIETY:
ICWPRedFlag.org/EDU/EdPamE.pdf**

profits and that the worker doesn't rebel. There are laws that allow strikes but when these strikes are radicalized, the judges declare them illegal;

so it is a dirty game of those who apply the law becoming defenders of the system. Our goal is not to negotiate with the boss—this extends our slavery more.

ICWP struggles to destroy the chains of wage slavery. No union does this, or has done this, no matter how militant or honest it has been.

Another bosses' lie, spread by their lackeys, is insisting that the workers do not know about communism. In effect, they are saying: "You don't know which end is up."

The response of a comrade was very emphatic when he said, "Yes, we know what we are doing, we are not ignorant and we recognize who is our enemy." He added, "We are overcoming obstacles; we are strong; we are not standing on sand, but on rock; we will continue fighting for

communism and we will not be diverted."

The workers know that a world without chains is possible. We fight for a world in which we will all work to meet our own needs of a roof over our heads, food, health care, and fun. A world in which we will no longer be slaves. In a communist world, the bosses and their money will be in the dustbin of history.

"Let the bosses believe that we are not, we must continue building the communist organization in the factory," said a comrade. A worker who attended for the second time said, "I am going to meet with my partner and we will report about how things are in the place where we work."

Every effort that the comrades make brings us closer to communism. This is a clear example of commitment in the factories.

The agreements the comrades made included to continue with the leafleting and distribution of *Red Flag*, and that the workers should know that our party fights to unify the men and women workers to fight the wage slavery of capitalism and to build a communist society.

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Workers reading *Red Flag* on May Day, 2015, in El Salvador

SOCIALISM & SEXISM from page 4

arguing that their husbands were well-paid and the household was doing well. On the other hand, equal wages were sometimes justified with the argument that women would be more moti-

vated to work.

Either way, the official ideology was thoroughly capitalist in content. Abolition of the wage system was not on the agenda. An end to sexism was nowhere in sight.

SOURCE: Vibeke Hemmel and Pia Sindberg, *Women in Rural China* (Curzon Press, 1984)

NEXT ARTICLE: Communism and the struggle to end sexism

Marriage today is a capitalist institution

COMMUNISM WILL TRANSFORM ALL SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS

The US Supreme Court recently surprised many by deciding that same-sex couples have the right to marry. We look forward to attending our friends' weddings. Like many who have waited and fought for this, however, we know that this narrow decision barely scratches the surface of legal discrimination against gay men and lesbians. But we also need to recognize that capitalism distorts or corrupts all our social relationships. Only communism can create the conditions for living and loving in a fully human way.

Marriage has had different forms and meanings at different times and for different social classes. In medieval and early modern Europe, for example, ruling-class marriages were arranged to cement political and military alliances. Men and women of the laboring classes more often chose mates based on mutual attraction.

Today marriage is both a civil institution and, for some, a religious rite. The Supreme Court decision concerns only civil marriage. A quick survey of the benefits of civil marriage exposes it as a thoroughly capitalist proposition.

The advantages of marriage today include tax and estate-planning benefits, government-sponsored benefits (like Social Security) and employer-provided job benefits like family leave and health insurance. They include rights to property and/or support in case of divorce.

None of these will be meaningful in communism. There will be no money and everyone's needs will be met. Anyone can take time off

work when needed.

Other advantages reflect the idea that marriage gives you a special proprietary interest in another person. Examples include special visiting rights to a spouse in jail or in hospital, and making medical decisions or burial arrangements.

In communism, we will all take responsibility for each other. We will treat each other as comrades. Removing money from the equation will mean that we can collectively make decisions in the best interest of all involved.

Marriage and family laws treat children as private property. This includes regulations involving adoption, foster care, and visitation rights in case of divorce.

In communist society, nothing and nobody will be "private property." Even the history of socialism (for example, in the USSR in the 1930s and China in the 1950s) lets us glimpse what it will be like to live in a society where children's welfare is the highest collective priority.

Marriage today allows citizens, sometimes, to get immigration and residency benefits for noncitizen spouses. In communism we will be comrades, not "citizens" or "noncitizens." No more borders or nations! Everyone will be welcome anywhere, married or not.

"Marriage" as we know it will have no place in communist society. In particular, we'll end the subordination of women to men. What will households and relationships be like?

Communism values and fosters commitment. That includes helping people in their

struggles to maintain and deepen committed relationships. It also means removing the material basis for many relationship problems that have their roots in the stresses and isolation of capitalist society.

At the same time, nobody will have to remain in a relationship for economic reasons or "for the sake of the children."

The capitalist family "ideal" of a life-long married couple living with "their" biological children is not the reality for most people today. The Supreme Court ruling won't change this, although it allows same-sex couples to live this way.

Nor is it a communist ideal. In communism, housing and child care arrangements will be far more collective. They won't be tied to the question of "who can have sex together." This is more like the way most people lived in pre-class societies, before the rise of "the family, private property, and the state."

The future will be different because of the scientific communist understanding we have now and will develop further. For example, we will consciously fight the gendered division of labor and the sexist ideas connected to it.

Sometimes we think too narrowly about communism. We might see it only as a better way of producing and distributing goods. Communism is much more. It's how we'll realize our full potential as human beings.

We invite readers to comment or respond to these ideas.

Socialism Couldn't End Sexism – Communism Will!

PART I: SOCIALISM WAS A FORM OF CAPITALISM

Socialism in China couldn't end sexism because it maintained the wage system.

This was the conclusion of a 1987 report on "Women in Rural China." Two Danish researchers studied documents from 1962-65 (before the Cultural Revolution) and 1970-75 (after). In both periods, the socialist state aimed for increased production. Their goal was to accumulate surplus value extracted from workers' labor. This shows that socialism was a form of capitalism.

A key Women's Federation document from 1962 proposed that women should participate in production outside the home (wage-labor) on top of their traditional unpaid responsibilities at home. In rural China "housework" included very heavy labor such as carrying water from the well daily. So the movement of women into social production (wage-labor) did not end or even lessen the burden of sexism.

What was true of socialism is also true of capitalism in all its forms. To end sexism we must mobilize for communism. Communism means ending the wage system that is the material basis of modern-day sexism. Communist mobilization, now and in the future, demands constant struggle against sexist ideas and all the social forms in which they are rooted.

The attitude of the Chinese Party and Women's Federation was that "all efforts should be judged according to remunerability." The Women's Federation did not discuss building collective institutions (like childcare centers or communal kitchens) that might have lightened the burden of housework as women took a larger role in social production. This is striking in view of the fact that such institutions did exist in the People's Communes during the Great Leap a few years earlier. Then, when "women's work" was social-

ized and valued, men would sometimes volunteer to do it.

In both the 1960s and the 1970s China massively mobilized labor for capital construction. This created labor shortages in agriculture. So women were told to do more field work, on top of the work they always did. Official propaganda assumed that the only obstacle was the woman's attitude and will. The idealized "revolutionary woman" was supposed to prove herself by "doing it all." Few married women could achieve this ideal.

The only concrete suggestion offered was that older women should do more child care. This increased conflicts between older and younger women. It also left more children to be raised by women who would train them in the old society's ways.

The slogan "women hold up half the sky" did not mean they would be paid equally, but that their labor was needed to expand the state's capital accumulation.

On paper, women were to receive "equal pay for equal work." However, work traditionally done by women (such as picking cotton or harvesting grain) was not considered equal to work traditionally done by men. An hour of "women's work" was typically allotted fewer work points than an hour of "men's work." That meant a smaller share of the total value produced by the



Canteen in a People's Commune in China during the Great Leap Forward

collective.

Sometimes the sexism was open. For example, a case is described where women planted more beans. However the men insisted they should get more work points anyway because they were "stronger."

Even when women and men got work points that were closer to equal, women earned less because they had to take days off or leave fields early to do unpaid housework. Calls for men to "share the housework" were rarely put into practice because their labor outside the home was better-paid. It was assumed that the economic unit was the family household.

When the husband worked in industry, lower wages for women were sometimes justified by

See SOCIALISM & SEXISM, page 3

HOUSING FOR THE MASSES DEMANDS COMMUNIST MOBILIZATION

SEATTLE, WA, July 12--Affordable housing is shaping up to be the major issue in the Seattle City Council races. The issue reverberates throughout the country and around the world. The answer lies not in affordability, but rather free collective housing that only communism can provide.

Billions have no housing or barely livable shelter. Capitalists force millions to live in neighborhoods of sub-standard housing, lacking basic services, surrounding every major city. It's the same story from the Brazilian favelas to the South African irregular townships.

Rather than fix the problem, capitalism compounds it. Detroit plows thousands homes--mostly of African Americans--into the ground. City officials hit remaining homeowners with thousand-dollar water bills.

When the bosses can profit from the gentrification of these neighborhoods, the masses from Harlem in New York to The Born in Barcelona find their communities destroyed and their families thrown into the street.

Neighborhoods with sub-standard housing not only breed disease and distress, but also mass uprisings. For example, poverty-stricken banlieues (suburbs) that surround the rich Paris core periodically revolt.

Most rebels there are African immigrants. These super-oppressed workers are not just capitalism's victims. They are the potential leaders of the revolutionary communist movement--now and in the future.

The working class will have to mobilize millions to build the housing we need after the revolution. Who better to bring the commitment and understanding necessary to lead that mobilization than those who suffered in the shantytowns? Their leadership will be invaluable.

Seattle's Sham Solutions Sustain Segregation

The Seattle mayor's advisory committee, elec-

tion rallies and public meetings will all present bogus solutions to the housing problem. Each will promise to combat racist and class segregation. None will!

The committee's draft report was leaked last Thursday. It notes that "Seattle single-family zoning has roots in racial and class exclusion."

The committee's solution is to do away with single-family zones. They want to give developers free rein. The same developers that made a fortune segregating the city are now to be given free rein to correct the problem. Talk about letting the fox loose in the hen house!

The left calls for rent control and to increase linkage fees. Developers pay these fees when they build fancy condos and office towers. All this has been tried in other cities and failed.

They failed because the aim was affordable housing. Affordable housing still links shelter to your ability to pay. Racist and class segregation is inevitable when housing is linked to money. Profits and decent housing for the masses are incompatible.

Communism Can Succeed

Communist revolution will change all that. The ICWP will put into action a mass crash program to build proper housing immediately after workers seize state power. Profits will no longer dictate how much and what kind of housing is

built. This will be a huge job but millions of helping hands will make short work of it.

Of course in the short term we will have at our disposal the mansions of the wealthy and their luxury condos, resorts and hotels. We could even use otherwise useless office buildings (currently dedicated to processing money).

But mainly we will tear down sub-standard housing and put up new buildings. And we will build communal housing.

This mass campaign cannot succeed unless we mobilize masses to integrate communities. The party's job will be to lead millions out of the old segregated areas.

For hundreds of years we've tried the capitalist solution. It's never worked and it can not work. The answer lies in mobilizing the masses for communism.



Comrades in El Salvador bring communism to eviction fight. Signs read "Enough! No more mistreatment of the people!" and "To Fight! To Win! For Workers' Power!"

LETTERS

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Anti-Social and Counter-Revolutionary Behavior in Communist Society

I want to contribute something about anti-social and counter-revolutionary behavior in communism after the revolution.

After the revolution is victorious, many workers will still not be completely convinced about communism and who may take an antisocial attitude. It could be because they were better-paid or because, having been poor, they continue thinking like the rich.

If these workers are part of the labor force they will certainly change the way they think, because they will be pressured socially by the communist conduct of the masses of workers. But if they are people of advanced age, and if they refuse to change, they will be isolated and despised by society. Also, they will soon leave this world and with them, they will take their bad habits, bad beliefs and anti-social customs.

The revolution will also force many small bosses to declare themselves in favor of the revolution, but this declaration could be false. These small bosses might stay on the fence, hoping that the revolution presents some opening to take advantage to leap to the anticommunist side and start an anti-communist political campaign.

Therefore we will have to keep them under constant watch for as long as necessary.

Thus, after the victory of the revolution against capitalism there will be much work to do. The struggle will continue against armed counter-revolutionary groups, against those who stay hidden and dedicate themselves to acts of sabotage and those who do not want to work collectively.

Also there are other social evils of capitalism that have damaged the society like sexual predators. However, I think that when anyone commits acts of this kind in communism it will be very difficult for them to avoid execution by the people. These kinds of social evils will still exist, maybe for a long time, until communist society has been definitely consolidated.

After the communist revolution it will be the children in the schools to whom we will dedicate all possible efforts in their communist education. Obviously the teachers have to be members of ICWP. In this way the children will be learning from an early age what communist behavior is and what is anti-social in a communist society. And as they grow they will become good leaders of society.

--Farmworker member of ICWP

POETRY

AMONG MTA TRANSIT WORKERS

Rain has fallen gently
and the dark early morning is illuminated
by the urban lights...

underneath the bare jacaranda
over the pavement
its branches out-stretched to the humid
heights...

and there you are, standing with Red Flag
in hand offering it to out-stretched hands...

the black, brown and white hands of men
and women workers
with the greeting and the smile...

entering the work day and the communist
base
gets wider and becomes clear like the
water...

rain has fallen gently
and the dark early rising is illuminated
by the urban lights...

--comrade in L.A.

LETTERS

LETTERS

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CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

WRITING FOR RED FLAG

I thank the comrade who wrote suggesting guidelines for *Red Flag*. It's a worthwhile project.

Any list I made would start with communist content. Each article ought to explain what communism is and how it will work. It should be our focus in the beginning, the middle and the end of what we write.

Exposing capitalism is not enough. Exposing the bosses' agents in our fight-backs is not enough. Phrases like "It's only going to get worse, much worse!" won't mobilize the masses for communism.

As the original guidelines letter writer pointed out communist revolution is not a "magic wand."

First, communism consists of a material economic base. Production is collective without wages, banks and the whole capitalist financial system. The aim of production is to provide for our needs, not bosses' profits.

This material base opens up a new vista for struggle. Nonetheless, we will be faced with centuries of capitalist indoctrination after we take state power. The political struggle to overcome that poison in our midst will dominate our lives as we fight to consolidate communism.

The last issue of *Red Flag* includes many articles that describe this struggle. The editorial on the racist Charleston murders and the article on how communism will free up labor for useful work in LA come to mind.

These pieces (and others) explain the alternate to capitalism with concrete examples. The examples are more than speculation. They combine our present day practice with 150 years of working-class communist struggle and theory. We know more than we think about how a collective society works!

We struggle to mobilize the masses for communism, but we don't live communism today. Communism requires a communist economic

base to carry the struggle on to final victory. That's why we need a revolution and the ICWP.

So next on the list is how the party works. All too often, we wait until the end of an article to insert a call to join. The lifeblood of communism is building the party today. Let's include the party in the beginning, the middle and the end as well.

To round off the list of the top three I would infuse our articles with the voice of the masses.

A guy at work hands me note cards and a pen when we discuss the struggles confronting us. He expects me to take notes for *Red Flag*. I should ask him again to write for the paper and our website.

Our masthead says, "Mobilize the Masses for Communism." Our articles should do just that.

--Seattle comrade



COMRADES WRITE MORE ABOUT GREECE

Communists Tell the Truth: War Preparations Escalate

"When it becomes serious, you have to lie," said the president of the European Union, who is a key leader in negotiations with Greek capitalists. He quickly added, "Lying requires secret negotiations." He's not alone. Politicians controlled by capitalist bosses do the same thing to keep the working class tied to wage slavery and exploitation. So do union officials. Pro-boss contracts and preparations for wars for profit are made in secret.

It's really important to keep in mind that the rivalry among imperialist countries is escalating into war preparations.

Germany has embarked upon a multi-billion Euro plan to create a global military force.

US capitalists want to prevent Russia and China from getting a foothold in Europe by developing a new generation of tactical nuclear weapons, sited near Russia and in Asia.

Russia is set to deploy its most advanced nuclear attack submarines off the coast of Alaska.

Japan is also rapidly and aggressively building its navy and air force.

Russia and China are developing an air de-

fense system to strike with nuclear weapons and survive a counter-attack.

Our Party ICWP is preparing the working class for violent armed revolution to overthrow deadly capitalism. Unlike the bosses, we communists have nothing to hide. As Karl Marx said, "the communists disdain to conceal their view and aims."

We want *Red Flag* readers, our coworkers and friends to join ICWP. First

and foremost that means a commitment to be in a collective with other Party members. It also means contributing money according to each person's ability to help support the publication of *Red Flag* and other work.

The struggle to recruit Party members requires us to deepen our ties with the workers. We must understand the obstacles that prevent them from joining and struggle to overcome them.

--A comrade

Seeds of Revolution

The Greek masses are on to something. The relentless attacks on the pensions, wages, services and jobs of the working class have produced a level of mass organization that can inspire all of us. Starting in 2008, recalling their past fights against the Nazi occupation, neighborhoods, football (soccer) fan clubs and some workplaces began organizing Assemblies.

At first these dealt with local issues but increasingly after 2012 they began organizing against the fascist "Golden Dawn Party" while in part building a new electoral party, Syriza.

These Assemblies are the focus of sharp political debate and actions with organized and

unorganized revolutionary elements. They engaged with reformist groupings but they have built what they term a "Solidarity Economy." Medical and educational services, clothing and food distributions are organized not as acts of "charity" but as acts of solidarity.

These Assemblies could be schools for communism. Even a small group of comrades in ICWP, struggling for the need to fight directly for communism, could shift the debate towards a revolutionary strategy.

The Assemblies provide the international working class a much-needed example: the experience of a working class responding to relentless capitalist attacks by creating the seeds of a communist economy based on sharing. You are what you do and these Assemblies are building self-confidence among Greek workers that they can survive without the intervention of the Capitalist State.

Much was made in the US press about the inability to get more than \$60 a day out of the ATM machines but to many Greek workers that meant nothing. They haven't seen \$60 a day for years! To some the Assemblies are more vital to their day-to-day existence than the banks.

It was these Assemblies that produced the massive voter turnout. For all its weaknesses the massive "No" vote should be seen as a measure of working-class confidence in its ability to organize itself. That confidence, that the working class can rule the world, that we don't need any bosses, that we can share what we produce, is essential to the fight for a communist society.

So, too, is a communist party with a clear vision of the society we want to build, and the strategy to carry out the long-term revolutionary struggle for workers' power. We call on *Red Flag* readers in Greece and around the world to build ICWP in these struggles

--Bay Area Red

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LETTERS

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CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS



Demonstrators in the Schilderswijk district of The Hague, Netherlands, confront police in a protest against the police murder of Mitch Henriquez, a tourist from the Dutch Caribbean colony of Aruba. Two hundred people were arrested in the fourth night of demonstrations in this neighborhood of first- and second-generation immigrants, mostly-Muslims, which has been at the center of protests over racist police brutality in the Netherlands. Attacks on immigrants and Muslims are the cutting edge of growing fascism in Europe. These workers, armed with communist ideas, can play a leading role in mobilizing the European masses for revolution.

Enthusiastic & Ready to Participate in a Study Group

I am a mechanic at MTA (LA Transit) and my life-long partner cleans houses. One of our children, with economic struggles, graduated from the University, with the hope of developing his imaginative potential as a writer.

However capitalism does not need thinkers, but instead people who serve to help move the wheels of capitalism.

He got a job in another city, with a magazine that is popular among the youth, especially black youth. His position of sales assistant, as he said, has given greater meaning to him about why we fight for communism.

Last weekend we went to visit him and we met the family from whom he rents a room. It was an agreeable experience to share with the members of this family.

The day we arrived they had a bar-b-que to which we had been invited, but at first we felt a little uncomfortable and insecure. But the human warmth and solidarity of these new friends erased any barrier, and little by little the conversation became political.

At the beginning it was about education, since there were teachers there who complained that current education does not serve

to create or educate thinkers, but to instill capitalist ideas and distorted history.

Then we talked about the great misery in which working-class humanity lives, about racism, and the conclusion was the need to fight to change this state of affairs.

Among those present apart from the teachers were a bus driver from Oakland Metro, an MTA mechanic from Los Angeles, a waitress and others. They were black, white, latino, and asian. The whole range of colors, and it was emphasized that the color of the people isn't important, what is important is the class you belong to, and that we workers must be united by necessity. Our son was very impressed to find other youth who would like to change the world.

The potential to work politically with this group excited him a lot and he decided to join a Party communist study group and to write for *Red Flag* in the future.

--Comrade Mechanic

Envisioning Our Communist Future

It's exciting to read more and more in *Red Flag* about how we expect communist society to work.

CRITIQUE OF FANON from page 8

have made sense in his psychiatric practice but not in mass anti-racist struggle.

Fanon did advocate revolutionary action: "At the individual level, violence is a cleansing force. It rids the colonized of their inferiority complex, of their passive and despairing attitude."

However, the revolution Fanon had in mind was not for communism but for "national liberation." As we discussed in an earlier column, these were complete failures for the masses.

Fighting back is good for our mental health whatever our "race" or "ethnicity." But the point of violent struggle is to defeat capitalism, not to make us feel better.

Only communism can destroy capitalism and,

with it, racism. Only by ending capitalism's wage system, its borders and its divisions can we create the conditions for the mental and physical health of the masses.

Everywhere on the planet we see masses fighting back. Those who are most oppressed by capitalist racism must take the lead in mobilizing for communism. In the process we will prove to ourselves and to the world the creativity, courage and intelligence of the masses.



We learn from the best efforts and the mistakes of the past. We try to put communist principles in action in our work today, and then project them into a future where the masses have power. We study why capitalism can't solve our problems and how communism will remove the obstacles in our way.

All this takes creativity and imagination as well as consistent political work among the masses. The more comrades and friends who contribute their ideas, the better!

Naturally we won't always agree. That will still be true during and after communist revolution. The entwined combination of political struggle and practical work are central to mobilizing the masses for communism.

More and more of us must learn to think critically and act collectively, starting now.

Others before us have imagined how a communist society could work. Some wrote stories about it. Few of us would agree with everything they depicted. But they can help get our communist creative juices flowing.

One "oldie but goodie" is *News from Nowhere*, published by the communist William Morris in 1890. Morris wrote this story in opposition to William Bellamy's famous socialist novel *Looking Backward*.

The future Morris imagined had no money and no social classes. The distinctions between town and country and between "mental" and "manual" labor had been erased, though relations between the sexes didn't seem to have changed much. This book is available in Spanish as *NOTICIAS DE NINGUNA PARTE*.

Another is *Woman on the Edge of Time*, a science-fiction novel written by the anarcho-feminist Marge Piercy in 1976. She, too, described in detail (though differently) how society might function without money or class, racism or sexism.

Some of what Piercy imagined is far-fetched. Some reflected her mistaken politics. But if you like this sort of thing, it's a good read.

What books have you read that help us think concretely about communism? Maybe you want to write one!

--Reader



Poster for Young Leninists in the Soviet Union in 1925. The Bolsheviks took seriously the education of the next generation, as well as the fight against all forms of racism.

Dominican Bosses Launch Racist Attack on Haitian Workers:

COMMUNISM WILL END NATIONS & BORDERS

There isn't any continent on earth where immigrants are not hounded, humiliated, incarcerated, tortured, killed and deported. The capitalists-imperialists of the world viciously attack workers who are fleeing from genocidal wars for profit and empire or from the ravages of the racist system's economic crises.

The Dominican Republic bosses are threatening to deport 180,000 Haitian immigrants, including their Dominican-born children and grand-children, to the other side of the island they share. This racist attack is another chapter in the sordid history of a worldwide system that has lived too long.

Only the working class mobilized for communism can put an end to these and all of capitalism-imperialism's horrors. In a communist world there will be no borders and no nations. The world will once again belong to the human race living in a classless society. There will be no money or wage slavery: nothing will be bought or sold. Production will be for human need only. Everyone would be welcome everywhere: the more hands to produce what is needed to make everyone's burden lighter and the more minds with many varied experiences to enrich and advance our communist theory, the better.

This world has to be fought for and it requires a mass communist ICWP mobilizing the masses for a communist revolution. Immigrant and citizen workers in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, like all workers, should join and build ICWP. Party clubs could be organized around **Red Flag**, reading, analyzing, writing for and distributing it massively.

Haitian Masses' Experiences Show the Urgent Need for Communism

For more than eleven years, the Haitian workers rebelled and finally defeated their French slave masters. They also fought and defeated the British and Spanish bosses' troops sent to retake Haiti from the French bosses and enslave once

more the Haitian masses. Once victorious, the rebels established a republic and abolished chattel slavery in 1803.

But the Haitian revolution was not for communism. Instead of abolishing private property, they implemented wage slavery.

Yet, the lesson hasn't been lost. Today, armed with a communist understanding, the Haitian masses can once again take their place at the forefront of the struggle against wage slavery and for communism. The bosses of the world also know this.

To break their fighting spirit and prevent this, the French, British and US imperialists and local bosses have been punishing the Haitian masses ever since their revolution by imposing on them huge "debt" payments, slave-labor wages and massive unemployment. Many are forced to go the Dominican Republic in search of jobs to survive.

With the deepening worldwide economic crisis worsening the already dire conditions of Dominican workers, the Dominican Republic bosses have unleashed a racist campaign against these Haitian immigrants, blaming them for "using up resources" and "stealing" jobs from the Dominican workers.

They have enacted laws that require Haitian immigrants and their descendants to prove, by showing birth certificates and other official documents, that they were born in the Dominican Republic. But most Haitian immigrants and their families never got such documents.

Dominican workers should not fall for these lies. They must learn from the internationalism



Haitian workers with IDs and deportation orders

of the Haitian masses. In 1822, the Haitian Republic temporarily took over the Dominican Republic and abolished slavery. Dominican workers should join with their Haitian brothers and sisters, not to reform the immigration laws, but to fight to destroy the bosses and the borders they enforce by mobilizing for communism.

All of the workers on the island, like workers the world over, have everything in common with each other and nothing in common with the former slave master imperialists or local Haitian and Dominican bosses.

Only communism can meet all workers' needs. A revolution for communism will complete the work begun by the brave masses of slaves whose heroic struggle was betrayed, positioning them once again to be super-exploited by the capitalists-imperialists of the world.

In Haiti, the masses are in motion against these exploiters. History is on their side. Some of our documents are on our website in French. If you are able to help translating, please contact us. Only by building ICWP will we guarantee that the future will be a communist world.

Critique of Frantz Fanon V: FANON AND THE PSYCHOLOGY OF RACISM

Fanon considered race, not class, to be the most important social category. His most systematic writing about race is in his books *Black Skin, White Masks* and *Wretched of the Earth*.

Fanon saw racism as the result of colonialism. He held "European civilization and its agents" responsible for it. This overlooks racism in the rest of the capitalist system, like the racism of Japanese capitalism against Chinese and Koreans. Fanon focuses on racism against black people, with some discussion of anti-Arab and anti-Jewish racism.

Fanon was a psychiatrist and most of his writing about racism is about its subjective aspects: the psychological pain and confusion it causes. He had a lot of personal experience of racism in Martinique, France and Algeria. However, he took much of his analysis of the psychology of racism from French idealist philosopher Jean Paul Sartre.

Fanon claimed that "the black ... needs white approval" but does not get that recognition. Racist contempt and accusations of inferiority make the victims suffer. They rob black people "of any value or originality," seen only as a thing or "a bodily image," not a human being. The results he saw were a widespread black inferiority complex and the alienation of blacks from whites

and from their own bodies and families. Racism also produces guilt, masochism and phobias in whites.

Fanon found these symptoms "in students, workers, and the pimps of Pigalle or Marseille." He did not consider them mainly class phenomena, but he emphasized some aspects that primarily affected intellectuals like himself.

Fanon did not acknowledge rebellions of enslaved or colonized black people — for example, in Haiti — who sought to overthrow their white rulers, not to win their approval. His one-sided emphasis on psychological pain ignored the healthy anger that has often put black workers in the lead of the fight against racist capitalism.

In his professional work, Fanon struggled to find psychoanalytic analyses of the distress and harmful behavior that racism causes. He did, however, recognize that medical treatment won't accomplish much without eliminating the social and economic bases of racism.

Racism's Material Base

Racism is far more than wrong ideas and hostile attitudes. It is a material system of oppression created by capitalism. Capitalists single out the workers of some racial or ethnic groups and impose especially low wages, bad living conditions and police terror on them. The bosses make much

greater profits by doing this.

By creating a system of racist myths and large inequalities in standards of living, capitalists also reinforce their rule with racial divisions among workers. This is a political attack on the whole working class, aimed at preventing a united revolt against capitalism.

As Marx wrote in 1870, racism "is the secret by which the capitalist class maintains its power. And that class is fully aware of it." Yet this material side of racism is mostly missing in Fanon's work.

In the United States, for example, black adults are 20% more likely than white adults to report serious psychological distress. Black adults and children are more likely to experience feelings of sadness, hopelessness, and worthlessness than white peers.

A great deal of this misery is directly due to economic conditions. Black adults living below the ridiculously low official poverty line are two to three times more likely to report serious psychological distress than those living above the line.

Nor did Fanon focus on ways that schooling and mass culture promote and reinforce racist stereotypes of black "inferiority." Instead he concentrated on issues of "recognition" that might

See Critique of Fanon, page 7