



RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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



July 8, 2013
10,000 teachers in Tuxtla-Gutiérrez, Chiapas, Mexico join national mobilization against educational reform

BAY AREA RAPID TRANSIT: **CLASS WAR DEMANDS COMMUNIST CONSCIOUSNESS**

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA, August 7— On Monday, August 5th, Governor Brown ordered BART workers to stay on the job for a week while his panel “investigated” the contract negotiations. Such panels usually order a 60-day cooling off period.

It’s not only BART workers whom the bosses aim to cool off and demoralize. It’s also tens of thousands of government workers in cities, counties, water and power, school, and transit districts across the Bay Area.

After five years of furloughs and cuts in pay, pension, medical, vacation and sick time, government workers are fed up. BART workers are being singled out because of their potential power to choke the Bay Area’s freeways. Break the resistance of BART workers, the thinking goes, and the other districts will be broken too.

The BART negotiation is not so much a labor dispute as a skirmish in class war. In legal, organizational

and political terms, the unions are incapable of waging class war. They say the capitalist class should run society and workers should be happy if they get a “fair” break.

Class war, on the other hand, demands class consciousness: a realization that workers, who create all the value in society, are politically capable of running that society too. Class war needs the organization and leadership of a revolutionary communist party. The small but growing ICWP has set out to be that Party.

Imperialism Shapes BART Conflict

The major issues of the BART strike weren’t decided in the Bay Area or even in Sacramento. They were decided before negotiations began. The proposed cuts at BART (and all the Bay Area government agencies) are a direct result of the battle for economic supremacy between capitalist China, capitalist Russia, and capitalist USA.

Listen to Defense Secretary

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TURN “FORTRESS NORTH AMERICA” INTO A REVOLUTIONARY STRONGHOLD

“Our vision, working with Mexico, is that they become more of a regional strategic partner and more of an outward-looking military. During the past two to three years, as the Mexican army and Mexican navy have taken on a larger role beyond internal security issues, our relationship with them has really grown and expanded.” —US Major-General Francis G. Mahon, Northcom Director for Strategy, Plans and Policy

As the capitalist bosses of US and Mexico plan for world war, the working class youth in their armies must plan to unite and turn the guns around for communist revolution.

These war plans respond to the deepening capitalist economic crisis of overproduction, the worst since the 1930s. This crisis is intensifying the capitalists-imperialists’ dog-eat-dog competition for raw materials, cheap labor and markets. Further spurring this dogfight is the rise of China as the main challenger to US imperialism’s position as the

world’s top-dog.

This rivalry can only be resolved by war: world war.

This war has been brewing for some time. We can’t predict when it will explode but our duty is to warn and prepare our class to turn the bosses’ carnage into a class war for communist revolution. We can end forever all wars by eliminating the profit system that needs and breeds them.

For this, we must build our communist forces in two key sectors of our class: industrial workers and soldiers. Besides concentrating our organizing and mass distribution of our literature among these sectors, we must win our youth to become industrial workers or soldiers to massively recruit these crucial elements into our Party.

To do this, to win our Party and our class to take the necessary steps that will guarantee our victory, we must expose how the world’s capitalists-imperialists are furthering their genocidal plans

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HOW CAN RED FLAG BETTER HELP TO MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM?

“A newspaper is not only a collective propagandist and a collective agitator, it is also a collective organizer,” the Bolshevik (communist) leader Lenin wrote in *What Is to Be Done*. He said that “there is no other way of training strong political organizations” except through a Party-wide newspaper.

This paper, Lenin amplified, “must be the main line by which we may unswervingly develop, deepen, and expand the organization.” It would “summarize the results of the most diverse forms of activity and thereby stimulate people to march forward untiringly along all the innumerable paths leading to revolution, in the same way as all roads lead to Rome.”

The paper would create real unity among local study circles and “immediately convey to them the general design, scope, and character of the cause.” It would be a starting-point for local activity.

Red Flag/Bandera Roja is struggling to be all this – and more! Our collectives should study *What Is to Be Done*, which still has much to teach us. But we need to ask ourselves: How are our practice and our understanding of a communist press being transformed by our line of mobilizing the masses for communism?

First, Lenin spoke of an “all-Russian” newspaper but **RF/BR** has been international from Day One. So far it has been bilingual, but the need and the opportunity already exist to begin publishing also (at least on-line) in other languages: Portuguese, Bengali, Arabic, to name a few.

Second, the “main line” of the Bolshevik paper *Iskra* was “revolution” against “the autocracy” but the main line of **RF/BR** is communism.

Lenin later wrote that “The art of any propa-

gandist and agitator consists in his ability to find the best means of influencing any given audience, by presenting a definite truth, in such a way as to make it most convincing, most easy to digest, most graphic, and most strongly impressive.”

The “definite truth” we need to present is the vision, the need, and the possibility of communism. At a recent international meeting of our Party, we discussed how every comrade can help find better ways to present it.

Our Party press can and must change in even more fundamental ways.

For example, Lenin’s work shows clearly how the ideological struggle between revolution and reformism played itself out in arguments between the Bolshevik and the Economist newspapers.

But **RF/BR** is trying to sharpen the political debates within our Party itself, among our friends and in our industrial and military concentrations. **RF/BR** must therefore organize and give leadership to Party unity, as Lenin urged, but even more importantly, Party struggle. It must engage the masses, not just a few leaders, in developing the line.

Articles in **RF/BR** must reflect the political line of *Mobilizing the Masses for Communism*. Beyond this, the process of writing for and producing the paper must also reflect this line. We cannot ignore the serious contradiction that this process currently depends mainly on a small group of comrades. We must encourage and take advantage of the initiative of the masses.

At the international meeting, we therefore focused a lot of attention on developing more writers. We must involve more people in all aspects of production of the paper, as well as in increasing its circula-

tion. We must develop collectives to help each other write and edit articles. One way to view this is that we need to fight for communist organization of work, right here and now.

We debated whether or not there’s a contradiction between (on one hand) producing a paper with the sharpest possible political line and (on the other) producing a paper written more and more by growing numbers of workers and youth in and around the Party.

We think not. The key task facing more experienced comrades is not to try to “fix” articles by editing their political line. Instead, the key task is to guarantee political struggle with all our writers, regardless of their experience. In that way, the final versions of articles will reflect the deepening understanding of their authors, and the paper itself will be better. We see this as a question of fighting for communist education, right here and now, thoroughly integrated with the communist work.

We ask you, our readers, to join with us in building a mass International Communist Workers’ Party and a new type of revolutionary newspaper that will, in every respect, mobilize the masses for communism.



MEXICO from page 1

World’s Imperialists Consolidating Their Turf in Preparation for Global War

China is striving to control Taiwan and the South China Sea, Russia the Ukraine and its ex-Central Asia Republics, Europe the Eastern European countries, and the US what it now calls “Fortress North America.”

This is a retreat for the US imperialists. Gone are the days when the whole continent, from Canada to Argentina, marched to the orders of the US bosses. Then, they called their military strategy “Fortress America.” Today it has been reduced to Canada, the US and Mexico.

US Imperialism’s Main Military Strategy: “Pivot or Rebalancing” to Asia-Pacific

The US strategy is to fight China in the Asia-Pacific region. “Pivoting or rebalancing” to this region means making long-term preparations for an eventual military clash with the China-Russia-Iran axis. This strategy has three main components:

One is to further encircle China militarily, preventing China from consolidating its hold on the South China Sea and Taiwan, both of which are crucial for China’s military strategy.

Another is to control all the Pacific chokeholds through which the bulk of China’s imports and exports must flow. Its aims to be able to cut off China’s oil imports during a confrontation. At present China imports 57% of the oil it consumes, and 80% of it travels through these chokeholds.

The third is to exploit the territorial disputes between China and its neighbors - Japan, Australia, the Philippines, Vietnam and others – to forge military alliances. US rulers hope these allies will commit themselves to fight China.

Mexico More Crucial than Ever to US Imperialists’ War Strategy

Fighting the China-Russia-Iran axis will require tens of millions of troops and a huge industrial workforce to produce, as cheaply as possible, the enormous quantities of weapons such a war demands. It will also devour huge amounts of raw materials, especially oil and natural gas.

Mexico is not only crucial for its vast quantities of oil, which are conveniently close to US imperialism, but also because of its huge modern industrial base and a population of 110 million. Half of them are under 29 years of age.

This means a giant reservoir of skilled and unskilled workers who now produce immense profits for US bosses, while giving them a competitive edge in world markets. In times of

war, they will produce vast quantities of weapons for US imperialism just as cheaply. Millions more will be recruited to fight and die for US imperialism.

The new Mexican labor and education reform laws fit neatly into the US bosses plans. The labor law guts work rules, full-time jobs, and pensions. Today, Mexican workers’ wages are even lower than wages in China. This benefits US bosses’ current profitability and sets the basis for the slave-like conditions needed for war production.

The education reform is to build patriotism and obedience to capitalism. It also aims at producing literate healthy workers and potential soldiers. English and computer classes are now part of the high-school curriculum, along physical education and nutrition improvement.

The Mexican military is working closely with the Pentagon to guarantee the eventual recruitment of millions of these youth into the Mexican army to serve under US command. In May 2012, the US and Mexico conducted joint military exercises: the beginning of an eventual fusion.

Our task is to fuse the international working class into a revolutionary fighting force for communism! The nucleus of this force is the International Communist Workers’ Party.



JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS’ PARTY (ICWP)
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Los Angeles MTA:

LEARN TO FIGHT FOR REVOLUTION WITH POLITICAL STRIKE AGAINST CAPITALISM

Red Flag: “What’s happening with next year’s contract?”

MTA bus operator: “There is a lot of talk about a strike, but we will be on our own.”

Red Flag: “Why?”

MTA operator: “Because the General Chairperson James Williams and his group will still be negotiating our contract next year. But in November 2014 there will be UTU elections and they know we want to vote them out. We think they will take revenge by undermining the strike and negotiating the worst contract possible.”

Bankruptcy of Trade Unionism

MTA workers, like BART workers, (see page 1) are caught between a rock and a hard place: the treacherous union officials on one hand, and the MTA-US bosses, on the other.

The MTA bosses represent a US capitalist class in decline, preparing for wider wars and eventually world war to defend their profits and empire against rising imperialist powers like China and Russia.

Wars are expensive in “blood and treasure,” and US bosses are forcing us and workers they exploit internationally to pay for them through unemployment, lower wages, few or no benefits, and deadly speed-up. Besides being forced to murder thousands of civilians, our youth pay with their blood and even lives on the imperialists’ battlefields.

The tale of Detroit shows vividly what US rulers have in store for all of us. Obama bailed out the auto industry with billion\$, while newly-hired auto workers earn half of what older auto workers make.

US rulers squander trillion\$ in their military

adventures, yet allowed Detroit to fail over a \$16 billion debt. On Obama’s – the first black US president – watch hundreds of thousands of the city’s mostly black workers’ lives are being devastated because capitalism’s needs demand investments in death and destruction, and not in promoting the life and well-being of workers anywhere.

This Racist Horror Cries for Communist Revolution

These attacks can’t be stopped by fighting for a better contract. No matter who leads a strike, US rulers are not in the mood or position to grant concessions. They will take away any crumbs that we win because they hold state power.

Our fight should be not for those illusory crumbs, but to win workers’ communist power by organizing a communist revolution to smash their state apparatus. Without the capitalists-imperialists, their money and wage slavery, we will build communism worldwide to provide for the needs of all workers.

Going for the Bosses’ Jugular or Stepping on Their Toes

If it’s useless to fight for higher wages and better benefits and pensions, why should we go on strike? We should go on strike because our needs demand the destruction of capitalism, the most racist murderous system in human history. Fighting, we learn to fight better. This is the only path to victory.

Fighting for reforms condemns our class to the never-ending treadmill of capitalist exploitation. It is like stepping on the capitalists’ toes, hoping



they will grant us a little more of what they take by exploiting us.

If we fight for revolution – with a political strike against capitalism – we are going after the bosses’ jugular. Our aim is not to win any demands but to show our power. We raise communist slogans to inspire our class, nationwide and internationally, and to show the need to destroy the racist, sexist capitalist system.

Fighting will steel our class and prepare us to exercise our power. Winning will be building our forces by recruiting more workers, especially industrial workers and soldiers, and the youth to read and distribute *Red Flag* and join ICWP.

To win, we must mobilize the masses for communism. MTA *Red Flag* readers should shoulder the responsibility of organizing such a strike next year. They should struggle with their coworkers, friends and family to read, distribute and write for *Red Flag*.

MTA workers and all *Red Flag* readers should start calling on their sons, daughters, other family members, and friends in high schools, colleges, factories and in the military to contact ICWP to organize walkouts and support demonstrations.

Industrial workers and soldiers are key for revolution. Political strikes can mobilize them against capitalism and for communist revolution. This is the capitalists’ worst nightmare. Let’s make it a reality!

Washington State: Build Communist Solidarity with Striking Farmworkers

SMASH THE BOSSES’ BORDERS AND LAWS!

August 7—Two hundred farmworkers, most from Oaxaca, Mexico, are on strike at Sakuma Brothers Farms in Washington State. They first struck on July 10th demanding the rehiring of their co-worker Federico Lopez, fired for raising grievances with supervisors, and that a hated supervisor be replaced.

They won those demands, but struck again on July 24th because the bosses wouldn’t budge on their demand to raise the rate of 30 cents per pound of blueberries picked. This low rate makes it impossible to make the minimum wage in 8 hours.

In a negotiating session that day, a boss told them to accept what they had or lose their jobs. So they struck again. The same day, the bosses applied for H-2A guest workers, claiming there was a “labor shortage.” The first 100 of them were scheduled to come to work on August 6th.

The US immigration reform bill hasn’t been passed, yet the bosses are already expanding their use of “guest” workers. They will continue to use the expanded program in their Immigration Reform as a club over workers who rebel against their racist slave-labor conditions.

The *Seattle Times* falsely reported that the strike is against the “guest workers.” In reality, the strike is against Sakuma Brothers Farms and their racist slave-labor conditions. These bosses are importing workers “legally” to scab on the strike.

The striking workers are well organized and discuss all decisions in three languages: Spanish, Mixteco and Trique.

Most of the workers do not speak Spanish.

They migrate yearly from California for the strawberry and blueberry harvests in Washington State. Many are in the US to stay because of the increased militarization of the US-Mexican border.

One of the strikers’ picket signs says “United without Borders.” It is the bosses who use their borders and laws to keep all us workers in chains.

The bosses force them to live in company shacks with bathrooms away from the houses. Half their wage goes to pay for these shacks.

This is not their first strike, having organized previous ones in 2004 and 2011, on their own initiative, without a union to try to pacify them.

Red Flag salutes the striking farmworkers’ courage and urges all readers to build communist solidarity with them, including taking *Red Flag* to their picket lines.

However, reform demands won’t hold back the growing racist attacks on them and all farmworkers, as the US bosses’ need for cheaper food to maximize profits and prepare for wider wars increases. Adopting the goal of communist revolution to abolish wage slavery and borders, they could give leadership to workers everywhere.

These workers don’t need a union. We invite the strikers and the guest workers to join the fight for communist revolution, the only way to end racist wage slavery and

the borders that reinforce it. No matter where guest workers come from or what language they speak, they should side with the striking workers and the fight against wage slavery.

Capitalism pits worker against worker. Communism unites us against our common enemy, for our common interest of getting rid of the bosses and producing food and everything else for workers’ needs, not profits.

Red Flag readers in the factories, fields, barracks and schools need to take matters into our own hands to build a massive ICWP to bury the bosses and their racist capitalist system by mobilizing for communism.



Veteran Farmworker Says:**STRUGGLE IS GOOD, BUT A COMMUNIST LINE IS CRUCIAL**

A group of comrades from the International Communist Workers' Party went to visit Epifanio Camacho, a farmworker member of the party with a long history of struggle, who is now close to 90 years old. He told us the true history of the struggles that took place in the fields of the San Joaquin Valley of California in the 1960's and 70's.



“You can't live on your knees only so that you don't 'hurt' the bosses.”

With this statement, he told us that he rebelled against his boss who stole from him, refusing to pay him his wages. Camacho took the boss to court and was immediately fired and put on a list so that no boss would hire him. He had to feed his family and he really wanted to fight against the bosses' abuses against him and all the farmworkers. He looked for allies and that's how he met Cesar Chavez.

Camacho explained that Cesar Chavez didn't want to change the system. Camacho wanted to form a union but Cesar Chavez only wanted to form a small community service organization. He was only interested in a few reforms that we know well won't liberate us from all the evils of capitalism. Only through a victorious revolution can we achieve real change by implementing a communist system.

Camacho always opposed the “pacifism” of Chavez and other United Farm Workers leaders. When he heard this, a young friend of the Party said, “Cesar Chavez was not a pacifist when it came to the workers. He used a lot of violence against the farmworkers, and turned workers over to immigration for not having legal documents.”

After the victory of the 5-year strike in which Camacho played a very important role in helping stop the scabs, Cesar Chavez signed contracts with the bosses. The workers went back to work, but the bosses refused to give work to Camacho. Chavez did nothing to oppose this.

“Struggles are always good but the political line must be correct.” This was the lesson that Camacho gave us from the history of the fights in the fields. This motivates us to continue the struggle to mobilize the masses for communism.

“I admire you because you have always remained firm in the ideas,” commented a student after hearing this history.

Farmworkers, Youth Welcome Red Flag

Afterwards, we went house to house to visit farmworkers and had very good experiences. We met a youth who said, “I have been receiving *Red Flag* in Spanish. Please send it to me in English also.” This encouraged us because we saw that the youth are interested in our line.

Other comrades met a farmworker who has been receiving *Red Flag* by mail, who told them, “I am one of you.” He took five papers and gave them to five friends who were with him.

These are some examples of how the people in this farmworker community received us. They encourage us a lot and make us feel more certain each time that communism is the only solution.

BART: LABOR DISPUTE OR CLASS WAR, from page 1

Chuck Hagel speaking at the Shangri-la Conference in Singapore last May of Obama's “Pivot to Asia.” He insisted that “even under the most extreme budget scenarios, the US military will continue to represent nearly 40% of global defense expenditures.” Talk like that should set off alarms in every school, transit, and water district, every government agency.

But the military is only part of the cost of the “Pivot to Asia.” More significant, according to top government advisor Richard Haass, is “the availability of economic assistance to East Asia's poorer countries.” (*Foreign Affairs*). The “availability” of money! That translates directly into “extreme budget scenarios” at BART today, A/C Transit tomorrow and all the other agencies whose contracts expire in coming months.

It all adds up to one simple fact: US rulers want to rob Peter (us) to pay Paul (war contractors). They are forced to cheapen the cost of US labor in order to expand their struggle for economic supremacy. They want us to accept more pension cuts, higher medical costs, pay and vacation cuts so that they will have “available” the resources to bomb, bully and buy their way to supremacy.

Labor Dispute or Class War?

And this is a labor dispute? No, this is class war ignited by

the deepening rivalry between capitalist China and capitalist USA. This sort of rivalry, in turn, inevitably leads to world war.

The US has already wasted over \$6 trillion (says economist Joseph Stiglitz) in unsuccessful wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. In short, they are desperate to make more and more money “available” to their losing effort to maintain supremacy. They will demand more and more sacrifices from us. They are ruthless murderers, and the Chinese and the other capitalists are no better.

Unfortunately, as a class we are not yet organized enough to meet the bosses' onslaught. Trade unionism is no alternative. A/C Transit hacks, against the wishes of the members, refused to back the strike. The traitors who supposedly “represent” Oakland City workers (whose contract is also being negotiated) only managed a one-day token strike.

**Contract Imposed on AC Transit Workers**

As we go to press, in a related development, A/C transit bus drivers and mechanics, whose work areas overlaps with that of BART, had a contract imposed on them by state arbitrators that will save the transit district \$38 million over the course of the 3 year contract, or nearly \$21,000 per worker. It gives workers a 9.5% raise over three years but then eats up most of the raise by upping workers' payments for their medical benefits. These payments will increase each of the three years, from \$70 a month the first year, \$140 a month the second year and \$180 a month in the third year.

Only one side wins class war: it's either workers or capitalists. We can't afford to lose, yet we're not organized enough to win. However, we can emerge stronger and more organized from the BART skirmish in this class war by building our revolutionary communist forces.

Communism is not about some distant revolution: it's about mobilizing workers, students and soldiers here and now. All of us must support the BART workers' struggle by trying to organize political strikes against capitalism and its war contracts. We must expose how the imperialists' schemes wreck our day-to-day lives.

We can promote *Red Flag* to replace the weak culture of trade union solidarity with the powerful one of revolutionary class consciousness. This is how we fight for communism today!

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FIGHTING FOR COMMUNISM: SOCIALISM WON'T GET US THERE!

“What obstacle is keeping your friend from joining the party?” was the beginning of a conversation at a recent meeting.

“I tell him we have to move directly to communism after the revolution,” responded the comrade, “but my friend says we have to go through socialism first. He also thinks that socialism is a significant improvement over capitalism. He uses Cuba and the fact that there’s no illiteracy and everybody has free medical care as evidence for his position that fighting for socialism was worth the fight.”

The collective discussion of possible responses created a much better answer than any one individual could have come up with on their own.

Someone said, “Under socialism, people may be literate and healthier, but they remain wage slaves nonetheless.”

Others pointed out examples of how reforms benefitting workers under socialism are later removed as conditions under socialism deteriorate, just like under capitalism. As we point out in our manifesto, *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*, socialism doesn’t eliminate the material basis of the inequality of capitalism. It keeps the pillars of capitalism (wages, money, and commodity production).

Somebody gave as an example an excellent visual image of how socialism doesn’t get to the root of the problem. “It’s like pulling out a weed without the roots, eventually the weed will grow

back. You have to pull the weed out by its roots.”

Someone else noted that fighting for socialism is an example of appearance and essence. Workers may think they have a better system that is leading them to communism. However, in essence, they continue to work for a salary to feed themselves and their family while producing for the market—just like under capitalism. And it is these capitalist social relations that continue to perpetuate individualism instead of leading to communist ideas.

The worst part about fighting for communism without correcting the error of trying to get there through socialism is that we promise the world’s workers something better (communism), but give them capitalism in disguise. It’s like keeping workers in chains and saying that simply feeding

them better is enough, when actually they want the chains removed!

One comrade mentioned that another reason that people give for saying that socialism is a necessary step toward communism is that there would be too much chaos if we went straight to communism. Another added that Marx wrote that abundance was necessary for communism to work because people wouldn’t share scarcity.

A comrade responded by asking us to envision the type of destruction created by natural disasters such as Hurricane Katrina. People could either work together to rebuild without the obstacle of money or they could put back in place the markets and money first before rebuilding.

Others brought up examples of War Communism during the Russian Revolution and the Supply System during the Chinese Revolution as examples of communist sharing during a crisis. Others mentioned the society of the !Kung San in the Kalahari Desert where sharing scarcity is the basis of life. Others talked about families that share scarcity daily and how the Party works in this way as well.

“When we started this discussion, I felt like I was under attack,” said the comrade. “I felt like I was being put on the hot seat. But by the end, I could see that it was a helpful discussion that will strengthen me in my discussions with my friend. Hopefully it will help others as well.”



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

Part III in a Series:

COMMUNIST MOBILIZATION WILL DESTROY IMPERIALISM AND ITS WARS

Our previous article showed how capitalist profits are the material basis of imperialism.

Imperialism provokes mass resistance, as in Vietnam and Algeria in the 1960s. Imperialist policies today – such as “austerity” imposed by the International Monetary Fund or the European Union – provoke class struggles like the recent mass uprisings in Greece.

Some capitalists in weaker countries also resist imperialist domination or try to play one imperialist against another in order to get a bigger cut of the profits for themselves.

In some countries with a lot of oil, like Venezuela, Iraq, Iran and Libya, local capitalists have tried to use their oil wealth to challenge the dominant imperialists. For example, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was formed in 1960 to resist pressure from US, British and Dutch imperialists to reduce oil prices. The Arab oil embargo in 1973 directly challenged US imperialist policy in the Mideast.

Agricultural bosses in less-developed countries try to sell products to the richer countries. But they run up against the government subsidies, tariffs, quotas and other measures that the US (through NAFTA and CAFTA), the EU and other big players use to maintain market dominance. A decade of bitter negotiations in the World Trade Organization about eliminating these imperialist policies was finally broken off in 2008.

Giving up on the WTO, the US and China are each trying to make separate trade agreements with the capitalist bosses of individual countries. For example, China has been part of the “BRICS” grouping, with Brazil, Russia, India and South Africa, since 2009. The US has pushed since 2011 for the formation of a “Trans-Pacific Partnership” (TPP) also including Aus-

tralia, Brunei, Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam.

Since imperialism means higher profits, capitalists who have the economic and especially the military power to dominate and invest must do so. If a powerful capitalist class didn’t follow imperialist policies, it would weaken itself and make competing imperialists stronger.

Dog-eat-dog competition for maximum profits is the material basis for imperialism and the reason that it can never be ended under capitalism. This means that mass poverty, hunger, disease and war will last as long as capitalism lasts.

Class Struggle Must Become Mass Mobilization for Communism

Class struggle is an inevitable response to imperialism. In the past the communist movement often organized angry masses in weaker countries to support national capitalists against the imperi-

alists, or to ally with one imperialist power against another. This was a huge mistake. From Indonesia in 1965 to Iran in 1979, millions have paid for this policy with their lives. The only way the masses can get the imperialists off their backs is by mobilizing to destroy capitalism with communist revolution.

Two of the largest imperialist powers today, China and Russia, were once led by communists. But these leaders maintained money, wages, markets, and other core elements of capitalism that have led them to become imperialists themselves.

Communism has no need and no means for some people to exploit others. Unlike capitalism, which pits workers against each other, making us compete for jobs by accepting the lowest pay, communism unites workers globally.

Under communism, extra hands are not a threat to workers but a resource for the working class. Someone has to build airplanes and make clothes but the questions of who, how and where to do this will be decided by the working class ourselves, based on communist principles of equality and not driven by profits. Areas where people have more will help those who have less until production everywhere is capable of meeting everyone’s needs.

Under communism, life will sometimes be hard (especially at first) but the exploitation and misery of capitalism-imperialism will no longer exist. We will have to fight, for some time, against imperialists who still control parts of the world and counter-revolutionaries who try to restore capitalism. However, the material basis of wars, large and small, will be destroyed.

Communist equality will provide the material basis for unity and cooperation for all of humanity. This is the job that history sets for us!



CITIZEN-IMMIGRANT SOLIDARITY NEEDS COMMUNIST OUTLOOK

ADELANTO, CALIFORNIA, August 6— Sixty people came from as far away as Santa Barbara and Irvine to rally outside a huge privately-owned immigration detention center in this remote desert town. The protest was organized by Friends of Adelanto, which tries to break down the “ICEolation” of detainees through visits and pen-pal letters, and exposes the racist abuses there. After three weeks of visits, and blog posts critical of ICE, they have now been denied visiting privileges.

Organizers raised only the demand, “Let us visit our friends!” but signs and chants included: “No deportations!” “Tear down the walls!” and (in Spanish) “We want a world without borders!”

These demands can only be realized by mobilizing the masses for communism. In communist society, there

will be no borders. No human beings will be caged, or tortured with long-term solitary confinement, or deprived of the companionship of their friends and families.

A strong spirit of solidarity animated today’s rally. Truck drivers honked in support, and the prisoners heard the chants. Speakers included two young women whose father is in Adelanto,

and an “undocumented and unafraid” young adult who’d been imprisoned for a month in Georgia.

It’s not just private prison companies like GEO that profit from immigration jails, as some activists think. It’s the US capitalist-imperialist class, which imposes terror on immigrant workers in order to super-exploit them and drive down wages for all workers. That’s how the ruling class – led by Obama – plans to amass the capital to rebuild US industry and prepare for world war.

“It’s so overwhelming,” said one of the protesters. “We need to focus on this one little pebble of an issue, and get more people involved.”

“Getting more people involved would be good,” her friend responded. “But we need to talk about how to fit the ‘pebbles’ together in a fight for a totally new society.”



LETTERS

Are you sad about the death of Hugo Chávez?

This was the question a man asked as he walked into a Cuban restaurant.

The waitress answered, “No. I’m sad that Fidel Castro hasn’t died yet. He’s the one who invented Communism and, to me, Communism is evil.”

“Communism is not evil,” responded the man. “Those who say that are the government officials and the capitalists. Communism is equality. It’s when we all have what we need. I’ve read this in several books by Marx and Lenin.”

The waitress insisted, “Do you want me to tell you who the communists are? They don’t like to work and that’s why they want to take the money away from the rich who have gotten it through the sweat of their brow.”

“So I’ll give you an example,” said the man. “I like to work and if I were a communist what would you say?”

“That you can’t be a communist.”

This conversation reflects the need to bring communist ideas to the workers so that they can come to the understanding that in a communist system, no one will accumulate wealth.

LETTERS

LETTERS

Instead we will have what is necessary based on what we need—without exploiting the workers. While neither Hugo Chavez nor Fidel Castro were communists, millions of workers can and will be.

—Comrade

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

MTA Driver Says “Contact Red Flag!”

MTA is obviously violating the Contract, by setting formal hearings for rolling stops (red lights). Article 27: First Safety Violation within 6 months will be “Counseling/Training”. Ask the union representatives to file a Grievance (for contract violation) and Time Claim (for lost time). When MTA uses the Smartcam video recorder against you, ask for a copy of the video. Just try it, is not hard to fill out a miscellaneous form.

There is a fine line between discipline and harassment. Judging MTA’s management style, we can conclude that they do not care about their workers and the service to the public.

First, there was a dependency on friendship between upper management and union officials that allowed management, to do as they wanted. Richard Hunt (now head of MTA’s labor department) used to wine and dine with James Williams (his old time friend, a driver and now General Chairman of the union for the last 20 years) in order to get what MTA wanted. Now, their services are no longer needed. It seems that upper management has lost it completely and is now kicking their workers

for no logical reason.

In the name of safety, everything is fair, hell, yeah! Well, for how much longer are we going to keep playing the role of the nice workers instead of really standing up and deal with MTA’s attacks?

Our union officers have “tried and failed,” or so they claim. We can no longer just sit and wait any more; we must rally the troops. The old drivers earned what we are losing, we have to make a stand and fight for our rights. Old drivers did not just throw money at union officers hoping that matters would be taken care of. Some drivers saw all of these things coming and moved up to middle management and now they too are facing similar attacks.

There is no end in sight and no hope, unless we wake up and deal with the problem. We have to stop hoping that management is going to, eventually, feel sorry for us. It is time to stop depending on those union officials (traitors).

We must come to realize that we can do things and start developing the will to fight back. Small actions can lead to building up everyone’s spirit.

MTA installed Smartcam to “modify the operators’ bad driving habits.” It was a cheap way to control and terrorize operators.

Politicians in Sacramento were “convinced” to change the law to allow MTA to install cameras on the windshields with the provision that they must provide in five days a copy of the video to the operators, if requested. Well, always request one!

I encourage you to get in touch with **Red Flag** distributors to organize our fight against the company. Don’t count on the union!

—MTA operator



LOS ANGELES, August 3—Comrades heading to an international meeting here saw a dozen workers picketing a carwash. They quickly pulled over, hopped out of the car, joined the picket line, and began handing copies of *Red Flag* to the workers and passers-by. The workers have been protesting the refusal of the new manager to honor an existing union contract. A picket captain handed his megaphone to a comrade from Mexico, who used it to explain that the only way to end exploitation was by mobilizing for communist revolution. An LA comrade gave a solidarity speech with the same message, and a comrade from El Salvador led chants. As we left, the picketing workers were eagerly reading our literature.

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.

ICWP in El Salvador Discusses Trayvon Martin Murder

COMMUNISM WILL DESTROY CAPITALISM AND RACISM

We have been discussing the murder of Trayvon Martin, who was killed by a vigilante as he walked unarmed from a store in his neighborhood in February 2012. This is one of many crimes, caused by racism and xenophobia, committed in the US and the rest of the world.

This crime doesn't mean that all human beings are naturally racist. Racism and discrimination are the results of the capitalist system's rotten and cancerous education which teaches us to think we are superior to our class brothers and sisters, and to adopt "our national identity," and to "love and defend our country." This is part of the capitalist game to keep workers divided. In addition to being exploited until exhaustion and death, workers also suffer discrimination and abuse by the bosses and their lackeys.

We working men and women of the world need to organize to resist the attacks of the bosses and their capitalist system. We must build communism because only communism will end racism, xenophobia, the division of classes and nationalism, which have provoked havoc and bloodshed throughout the world. Workers are one race and one class. Workers'

power and strength lie in our unity.

Communism means that workers will grow and learn how to live in community, solidarity, and equality during our entire lives. From the time they are young, children will be taught the human values of sharing and collectivity.

From this moment on, we workers must rid ourselves of individualistic and consumerist attitudes that capitalism teaches us every day through massive bombardment of advertisements on television, radio, and the internet. This process requires time, effort, unity, and organization so that the world will no longer be a cradle for people who think they are superior to others and commit crimes like the murder of Trayvon Martin.

We need communist leadership, the leadership of the International Communist Workers' Party, to stimulate Communist revolution worldwide, to get rid of the structural problems of the capitalist system once and for all. These can't be solved with reforms or with "fairer" laws or "better" public officials because there is no justice in capitalism. The courts, judges, and police are at the unconditional service of the system and will defend it with their lives if necessary.

Constitutions are the collections of laws that guarantee the continuity and security of capitalism. They can't be reformed to be at the service of the working class. Organized together, we will form an army of millions of men and women willing to live and die for a dignified world in which every man, woman and child has food, shelter, education, health, and recreation. We will govern ourselves with rules, discipline, and order that guarantee peace and tranquility for the working class, for the love of our convictions and ideas that promote justice and equality for all.

It is the workers organized into committees, as history shows us, for example in the strikes in Honduras in the 50's, who will solve the problems of delinquency and discrimination by ending the problem physically and at its root. It is the workers and only the workers who can solve their problems.

Join the International Communist Workers' Party in the struggle for a Communist World.

Read and Distribute **Red Flag**.

A New and Just World is possible.

Long Live Communism.

Communism: Not "More Stuff" But Transformed Social Relations

On our vacation in Germany we bought a refrigerator magnet that said "Lenin's Advice; Our Achievement." Illustrating how people understood socialism, it showed a picture of Lenin under two impressive structures from East Berlin: the TV tower and a skyscraper.

The post-unification tourist guides make a big deal about the Cold War competition between East and West Berlin. Berlin had two zoos, for example, one on each side of the wall. It still has two zoos and more zoo animals than any other city in the world. The main thoroughfare of East Berlin, Karl Marx Allee (previously known as Stalin Allee) is exactly one meter wider than Paris' Champs Élysée.

On the one hand, this is an example of the collective work that took place in East Germany to rebuild cities that had been shattered by World War II; women in East Berlin formed brigades to dig out and make available for reuse the bricks of bombed-out buildings.

It is clear from this and other examples that socialist reconstruction at the end of the war allowed the mass mobilization of the population to create a city of which people are justifiably proud. The monuments in the city include a stained-glass window of Lenin in the law library and photographs documenting the struggles of working people around the world surrounding huge statues of Marx and Engels. These show



important aspects of a city whose popular culture equated building a better society with the legacy of Marx, Engels and Lenin.

However, these monuments and the souvenir magnet reveal a fatal flaw in the German Democratic Republic and 20th-century socialism as a whole. Instead of transforming social relations, the main thing was building big buildings and expanding factories where production remained in the mode of capitalist relations. Workers still worked for wages, produced commodities for sale, and struggled to maintain their individual domestic economies. The most basic production relations were never transformed.

The maintenance of money and commodity production allowed the emergence of a new privileged class of communist party bureaucrats. Socialism became increasingly obviously state capitalism and was finally rejected.

We in ICWP do not define a successful communist society as one with wider streets, taller buildings and more stuff than the capitalist societies we live in today.

We define a successful communist society as one which fundamentally transforms social and economic relations, producing for need, not for sale, breaking down the divisions between manual and mental labor, and mobilizing the society for sharing and cooperation.

While it's inspiring to see the heroism of the Communists who went before us, we need to learn from their mistakes, and fight for communism, nothing less.

—Red Travelers

Communist Power: Not from the Top Down

An article in *Red Flag* said that the State was responsible for all the problems in society, as if the state had feelings. But it is not the State. It's the government. The government is the representative of the State for a limited period. Under capitalism this is true for all governments around the world.

The government controls the means of repression and the media to make us believe the things that are convenient for the ruling class and its interests in this class war. The government guarantees that the capitalist State is reproduced generation after generation.

The State includes all those writings like constitutions, laws, and educational systems which force those members of society who don't own much property to obey them without questioning their validity. This lack of criticism prevents people from seeing that the class that benefits is the wealthy and exploitative class, and that is the one interested in the capitalist State continuing its existence.

Government and State imply control from the top down. That's why under communism there won't be a government or a State, since there won't be a pyramid of power from the top down.

The communist party will control everything that affects the workers, as we get used to acting and thinking that we are the ones who should make the most important decisions in society. To guarantee this, the International

Communist Workers' Party will have to be massive, with millions of workers.

As the saying goes, "A journey of a thousand miles starts with the first step." We workers

who are in the party are the first step. Join the party!
—Industrial worker.



Lessons from the Trayvon/Zimmerman Verdict

LET'S LEARN TO MOBILIZE ANTI-RACIST MASSES FOR COMMUNISM!

The anti-racist outrage sparked by the Zimmerman verdict showed that many more of us must prepare to bring communist politics to the masses in motion.

At a protest in the First AME Church in Pasadena, the local police "community relations" guy showed up to tell the audience (over 100 people) that the police "cared." During Q&A, the first speaker linked Trayvon's murder to Kendrec McDade, a black youth killed last year by Pasadena cops who were exonerated by the LA County District Attorney.

Speaker after speaker confronted this cop. Finally he declared that in 25 years he had never seen a single case of racial profiling! An audience member later said, "They had to get him out of there quickly. The church was about to explode."

During the march, a middle-aged black woman said, "We've told our children not to act stupid, not to give anyone an excuse to stereotype them, but what are we supposed to tell them now?" A comrade replied, "I guess we need to tell them to organize against this racist system."

"That's right!" she shot back.

Three students out of 24 in a summer-school class joined the protests in Crenshaw/Leimert Park. None had ever marched before. They criticized "kids with nothing better to do" who were

shown on TV trashing cars and pummeling bystanders. They insisted that most of the marchers, like themselves, were serious. Many have personally experienced racial profiling:

*A black student was asked by Culver City cops, "What are you doing here?" He lives in Culver City.

*A latina student was asked by Whittier cops, "What are you doing here? No Hispanics live here." Two-thirds of Whittier residents are latino/a.

*Cops stopped another black student, approaching his car from behind and complaining that his front window tint was too dark. It was standard factory issue, and how could they see it from the rear? He suspects it was his skin that was "too dark."

*Another was leaving a Hollywood club with friends when they were surrounded by six cop cars. Instantly a cop pointed a shotgun at the head of the friend standing next to him.

The students eagerly took copies of *Red Flag*. Some signed up to help organize at school this fall.

The weekly meeting of an interfaith peace group started with a reflection on the Trayvon Martin case. The speaker identified "the roots of racism in exploitation and super-exploitation, in the divisiveness intentionally fostered by the few

in order to divert the righteous anger of the masses, in capitalism itself. She called for a new society "in which love, instead of money, is the currency of society. One without exploitation, in which goods are produced to be shared as needed, not to be sold for profit."

Several group members read *Red Flag*. One said she was surprised when others suggested that this statement should become the organization's official position. Communist ideas can become mass ideas!

When the masses are in motion, we all have the opportunity to lead, to learn, and to grow. "People aren't afraid of the cops anymore," declared a *Red Flag* reader who brought friends on the big march in New York. She, and all of us, must resist the reformist training we get in school and mass organizations and learn to give revolutionary political leadership, especially in situations like these.

Imagine the impact on youth in Leimert Park if contingents of MTA operators or mechanics, or other industrial workers and soldiers who read *Red Flag*, had been there to focus the marches against the capitalist state. Imagine the impact of taking these lessons back to the workplace.

Let's translate imagination into action!



RED FLAG CAN BE A CATALYST

We responded to the Trayvon Martin verdict by distributing *Red Flag* along with a leaflet that described how communism will destroy racism to protestors. Altogether we distributed over a thousand *Red Flags*.

This victory did not come without obstacles. There were some nationalists and a few anti-communists verbal objections. As always, we pushed forward and were able to accomplish a small victory. Even though we faced a few dozen who opposed us, we had over 1,000 receiving the newspaper.

Those who took the paper are the more politically conscious individuals. And, as Lenin put it, we must use our newspaper to sway over the sympathetic to the pure, mathematic logic of communism.

As the inter-imperialist rivalry between China

and the U.S. intensifies, so does the conflict between proletarians and capitalists; this is awakening the masses. This has been a slow process that seems to be speeding up fast.

To clarify, the Martin-Zimmerman verdict was not a catalyst. A catalyst is something that lowers the energy required to activate something. The "something" we are trying to activate is communist revolution. That makes *Red Flag* the catalyst and the energy to bring us closer to that goal. And as we get closer to that goal, the capitalist-imperialist bosses can smell it.

Now the conflict, the contradiction between the capitalist-imperialist class and the working class, which they were putting on the backburner while the U.S. bosses struggled with China, is becoming increasingly volatile. The capitalist-imperialist bosses know that they cannot win a war

with radicalized laborers and soldiers. Thus, they must make this secondary contradiction primary, and concentrate on prolonging armed conflict with China until they placate the masses.

It is our responsibility to do our part in sharpening this contradiction. This can be done by educating and mobilizing the workers and soldiers of the world. In addition, we must not only make our newspaper a mass communist international paper and get it into the hands of millions, but also position ourselves in strategic places like the military and industry and mobilize ourselves, workers and soldiers; the masses for communism. In this way the worker-capitalist contradiction will become a permanent feature until it is resolved with communist revolution.