

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

GENERAL STRIKE IN INDIA: OPPORTUNITY TO SPREAD COMMUNISM

September 2 – About 150 million workers in India held a one-day general strike today. From bus barns to banks to oil supply depots, workers brought most of this huge country to a standstill. Workers clashed with police in major industrial cities as the fascist government stood by helplessly.

The strikers and millions of others are fed up with the harsh policies of India's capitalists. They are looking for a real solution. That solution is communism.

In 1946 thousands of soldiers joined the workers to drive out British imperialism and its 500 years of atrocities. They inspired masses from Iraq to Indonesia. But nowhere did national liberation struggles end capitalist rule or the suffering of the masses.

This important history shows we must have full confidence in the masses. When mobilized for communism with guns in their hands, they will build the society that workers worldwide need.



FROM SOUTH AFRICA TO BOLIVIA: MINERS NEED COMMUNISM

SOUTH AFRICA-The Potosi mineworkers strike in Bolivia points in one direction only, that is communist revolution. Communist ideas must begin to shape the society that we want.

Whilst reading the article on Potosi miners in the *Red Flag* we couldn't help but look back at how mining in South Africa began. As early as 1870, diamond mining in Kimberly took place. Gold mining began in 1886 in the Witwatersrand, now called Gauteng, the place of gold. It is worth noting that the discovery of gold in the Vaal reefs attracted industrialists from all over the world as faraway as California, Australia, the Netherlands, and Britain etc.

They were all coming to make a fortune for themselves. Indeed they made billions of billions out of gold mining, leaving workers who dig the gold poorer and poorer, with diseases.

The profit made from these mining operations made it possible for the bosses to finance major wars. Millions of black South African workers were displaced and many of them worked over 18 hours a day underground digging for gold and diamonds.

Bosses' drive for profit led not only to long hours but extremely dangerous drilling where mines would collapse, killing the miners. Mining created a small number of rich capitalists in London, New York, and Amsterdam but it created horrific townships and barrios from South Africa to Bolivia where the workers lived in misery.

It will take only a communist revolution to alter the situation. Mobilizing the masses for communism becomes key; all other measures short of a revolution will only make our miseries last that much longer. From Marikana to Potosi, the working class is craving for change. Joining ICWP is the only solution.

“ALL FOR THE STRUGGLE” TRANSIT WORKERS PLAN COMMUNIST FIGHT AGAINST RACIST COP TERROR

LOS ANGELES, USA--As the Metro operator walked across the parking lot on his way to the Metropolitan Transit Authority building, he greeted the *Red Flag* distributor with a wave.

“Good afternoon!” shouted back our comrade.

Minutes later, the operator emerged from the building and walked toward our comrade with a big smile on his face and a dollar bill in his hand.

As he got closer, the *Red Flag* distributor, readied the paper he was going to give him, stretched it out to him, and said, “Thanks!?”

“It is for the struggle. It is all for the struggle,” answered the operator, giving our comrade a big bear hug.”

Touched by this gesture, our comrade blurted out, “Thanks. It is people like you that keep us going.”

“Yes, I understand. We are all in the struggle”

“They killed another black youth on Wednesday in St. Louis,” said our comrade.

Two weeks earlier, he and another comrade had met with an MTA operator from another division. They spoke about the need to organize some kind of angry, rev-

olutionary response by MTA workers to the racist police murders of workers.

That worker liked the idea of wearing a *Red Flag* arm band, and suggested that it say, “Stop racist police killings! Kill capitalism!” He also suggested making stickers with a more revolutionary communist message to make it a mass campaign.

The comrade realized that not much had been done about this. We could have at least have written a leaflet.

“He was just 18 years old,” added our comrade.

“They just don't care. They keep on murdering people. They have been doing it for so long that it is now in their genes. They must be destroyed...completely wiped out!” answered the operator.

Fearing that the word “genes” referred to all “white people are racist,” our comrade interjected: “We have been fighting racism for over 500 years and it is far from dead because what we need is to make a revolution...”

“Yes!” he interrupted, “it is in the capitalist genes! Capitalism has to be destroyed...completely wiped out.”

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We Need Your Help:**CONFRONT OPPORTUNITIES TO OPEN DOOR TO REVOLUTION**

To paraphrase a character in a famous Pogo comic strip, “We are confronted with overwhelming opportunities!”

That was many years ago, but it describes the situation (ICWP) faces today.

At first sight there doesn't seem to be much ground for optimism. The crisis of overproduction deepens and stock market volatility threatens a repeat of the financial breakdown of 2008. Austerity will be the order of the day, with resulting cuts to services, and more unemployment, hunger and homelessness. More wars and eventual World War are coming.

This really is bad news for workers, but it is not the whole story. The good news is that the world's workers are not taking this lying down. All over the globe workers are rebelling against the bosses' attempts to offload the crisis onto the working class. And these rebellions create opportunities to mobilize masses around communist ideas and recruit people to the ICWP.

Unlike all other political parties, we have something to offer: communism. Under communism there will be no financial crises because there will be no finance – no money, no stocks, no bonds, no banks no hedge funds. We will abolish the wage system and we will work collectively to provide food, shelter and other basic necessities for all.

Abundance will be a boon, not an attack, because it will mean that we can satisfy everyone's needs. It will mean that we can work less, and slower, and more safely, and with less damage to the environment.

We can use the extra time to enhance our educational, political and cultural life. For instance, workers could use the extra time to organize revolutionary support for others still under the yoke of capitalism like the recently striking Potosi (Bolivia) miners.

Overwhelming Opportunities

We could fill the whole newspaper reporting on the rebellions and opportunities created by the current crisis. Let's just look at a few.

For a start there's the migrant crisis in Europe (which *Red Flag* has been covering). The numbers are astounding. Literally millions are fleeing the Middle East and Africa. Germany alone plans to “welcome” up to 800,000 this year. Last week, 71 immigrant workers died in a truck in Austria and 150 did in boats in the Mediterranean. Masses of workers have seen some of the worst that capitalism has to offer. Many who are outraged by these attacks on immigrants will be open to communism. And we shouldn't neglect the many brave volunteers who show up to support them and even take them into their homes.

Then there was the rebellion in Potosi (mentioned before). The mainly-indigenous silver and tin miners took over the town and sent a 500-strong ‘delegation’ to La Paz (they walked!) to confront Evo Morales, the populist president of Bolivia. When he refused to meet with them, they attacked the police with dynamite.

In Quito (Ecuador) tens of thousands of protesters demonstrate every week against the government. They are led by a contingent of



indigenous workers and farmers with representatives from all over the country. On August 13 workers and even professionals (including doctors) joined them in a one-day general strike.

In Baghdad (Iraq) earlier this year thousands attacked the cops in a protest against the lack of electricity. In Beirut (Lebanon) the city government has stopped collecting garbage, which is piling up everywhere, smelling bad and burning. On August 23 protesters of the “you stink” movement took to the streets and battled the cops. Even though misled by the bosses' agents, many of these workers can be won to communism.

Self-critically, we have not done enough to take advantage of these opportunities. Sometimes the obstacles themselves seem overwhelming – for example, we don't yet have any members in many places – but we can take advantage of rebellions where we are.

Sometimes we do too little, and too late. And sometimes we just completely miss the boat. For example, in Seattle there was a debate on rent control that drew over a thousand people. We didn't anticipate the large turnout. As a result, we didn't insure we had a presence at the debate. This was doubly unfortunate because we had just published a *Red Flag* article explaining how communism could provide housing for the masses.

At the root of these weaknesses is unconscious pessimism – lack of faith in the world's workers. Revolutionaries have to be optimistic; it's part of our outlook. Better coverage of these opportunities in *Red Flag* (and on our web site) would help. But the best cure for pessimism is success: the more we take advantage of opportunities and advance our work, the more optimistic we will feel.

We often get a positive reaction to our communist politics (sometimes unexpected), but that's not the limit. We can do more. The increased opportunities of our time open up new arenas of struggle. Almost every attack and fight-back is a chance to mobilize new workers in many ways to advance the fight for communism.

You can help by joining the ICWP. If you like what we say in *Red Flag*, or even just this article, talk to anyone already in the ICWP. We'll want to find out a bit about you, and we'll show you our manifesto, *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* (MMC). If reading, at least in English or Spanish, is a problem, we have one page summaries (also available in other languages such as French or Chinese).

If you agree with MMC, join us. We need your help in confronting the opportunities that really are overwhelming us.

Taking a Second Look

A couple of weeks ago a good number of Boeing workers and their relatives came over to my house for an ICWP BBQ. This multi-racial crowd included workers that spoke many more languages than I did. Together they had seen the worst capitalism has to offer all around the world.

Our dinner discussion began in the usual way. Everybody had a story about how horrible capitalism is. I had, however, begun thinking more lately about the opportunities to mobilize masses for communism.

Tentatively, I began to explain my thinking. The world crisis of overproduction was intensifying, but, unlike the last crisis in 2008, workers seemed to be rebelling much more quickly.

Slowly the conversation began to shift. A veteran black worker who hailed from the South agreed. “People aren't taking it any more!” he said. He started talking about the demonstrations and rebellions against racist cop terror.

“That's good for us!” he concluded referring to those of who want communist revolution.

I have this conversation about opportunities far too infrequently. To correct my errors, I hesitantly began to circulate a draft of this issue's editorial to everyone who came to the BBQ and to my broader base at work.

One friend at work complained about our line on rent control to which the editorial referred. “I think there should be rent control. My daughter can't find an affordable place to live,” he told me.

I said the real problem was that housing was a commodity for sale. We can't ever solve the problem until we built housing based on our need, not for some boss's profit.

Now this worker reads *Red Flag* regularly. He probably had read the article on how communism will provide housing for the masses. After this discussion he asked for two copies of that article: one for his daughter and one for himself to take a second look.

“Get me another copy of *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* also,” he demanded. I guess he wants to take a second look at that too.

As the opportunities increase, my guess is that a lot more will want to take a second look at communism and our party.

--Boeing comrade



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GARMENT WORKERS WILL BECOME THE GRAVEDIGGERS OF CAPITALISM

In Los Angeles, “the specter of communism” lives, and we garment workers will be the gravediggers of capitalism. In the garment industry, International Communist Workers’ Party distributes more than 800 newspapers each edition. We want garment workers to get in touch with those who distribute *Red Flag*, to participate in study groups and discuss how they can help distribute the paper so that we all make our need to organize a reality.

The organization of the workers is crucial. Without this the bosses will continue to rob our labor for longer. Join our party so that the organization is conscious, solid and lasting. We do not promise to stimulate the fight for the bosses to give us crumbs—we are not a union—but we support any struggle against the bosses. However, the best struggle against the bosses is that we learn the true significance of communism, which is to build a society without classes, without rich or poor, a society without money.

We workers around the world have the experience that only in cases of natural disaster do we respond to the needs of other workers, whether it is earthquakes, floods, or tornadoes. But these are temporary and this need is forgotten with time. Even the past experiences of wars have been forgotten, because we don’t see how they can be repeated.



Mexican garment workers, September, 1996 “One garment worker is worth more than all the machinery in the world.”

This coming September 30 will be the 19th anniversary of the earthquake that occurred in the capital of Mexico, in which possibly more than 35 thousand people died. The entire population mobilized to try to rescue any survivors from the rubble. The government only brought out the army to protect the bosses’ businesses and property. Among the dead were many women and men who worked in the garment industry.

The conditions of exploitation in which these workers worked and lived came to light and a mass movement began which tried to improve these conditions through what was then called the

“September 19 Movement.” It later turned into a union. They won some contracts, but with time these are being lost, with the bosses’ constant threats, their changes of the locations and names of the companies. The conditions continue to be the same or worse than before. The workers have to work 11 hours a day; if not, they are fired. They are paid between \$650 and \$700 pesos a week, an average of US\$50 weekly, and the conditions are getting worse as many workers get older. Capitalism does not want you as much as before since older workers don’t produce the same amount as before.

Only in a communist society will garment workers not have to work all day doing the same thing. There won’t be any production line. We won’t only be garment workers. We could help produce for and study about meeting all the workers’ needs. We will all be appreciated for our contribution, since we will understand that no work is less or more important than other work. We workers will analyze what work is needed for the survival of humanity not so that a small handful of capitalists get rich off our labor. Join the fight for communism. Join ICWP.

Capitalism: the material basis of anti-social violence

COMMUNISM WILL END CRIME

EL SALVADOR —On past occasions when I have had the opportunity to speak a little about crime or the massacres that occur in the country, I have noted how some fellow students in the University, friends, and a good part of the population in the country believe (as shown mainly through social networks) or have been forced to believe that violence is a simple problem. This fact has no relation with capitalist social factors. They forget the great weight that economic conditions exercise in the crimes in a community.

The bosses promote programs of “analysis” in which intellectuals spend hours talking about “ideal” or subjective solutions for a changing reality, or they simply say nothing. And the propaganda of the government of the “left” of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) which has left to one side dialectics, Marxist-Leninist philosophy, and the teaching of communist political economy is submerged in the reformist idea that with more violence (repression for the offenders) and stricter laws they will resolve the problem of organized crime.

The bosses leave aside the analysis of the conditions of life to which these workers have been subjected which push them to decide to be criminals to survive. For human nature is not that we are evil, since knowledge, ideas, and emotions are acquired through practice, since “we aren’t born like that, we learn to be like that.” Our nature is modified by our living conditions and life experiences, both individual and collective.

The International Communist Workers’ Party through the work of its clubs promotes critical and objective thinking about reality based on communist dialectical materialist philosophy. Our mission is to build a Party and a Red Army that destroys the capitalist system and resolves problems like organized crime. This crime plagues countries in which the consumption and transport of drugs provides the means of subsistence for the families of hundreds of men and women workers who have been the victims of the crisis in the capitalist market.

With the elimination of money as part of the politics of mobilizing the masses for communism, we will deal a direct blow to crime. The initial goal of any criminal consortium, from drug trafficking to the treatment of people, is to generate profits, to get money. For wage slavery and the theft the value that workers produce forms the basis of the socioeconomic structure of the capi-

talist system.

It is enormous cynicism to think that ideas generated at the luxurious desks of the electoral politicians like the current representatives will eliminate or reduce the more than twenty homicides a day.

A society led by ICWP, focused on the wellbeing of all, will allow workers to reduce our working hours, reducing the level of stress and eliminating worry about paying the banks, mortgages, and companies selling basic services. Today, all of this ends up leading some workers to take refuge in drugs, alcohol, or even suicide as happens in Europe or the USA. In addition, having strong quality education that is really free and organizing cultural and leisure activities in which entire families are involved, will help eliminate criminal activity carried out by organized crime.

For those who choose to be social misfits, there will be centers of reeducation and rehabilitation. If after this they continue their harmful activities to the community, they will be physically disappeared since we cannot risk the wellbeing of the workers’ families for “a bad apple.”

Thus we are showing as a lie the idea that the bourgeoisie tries to make us believe, that the criminals or the masses of people who form part of organized crime do this because they are bad or because they simply want to be criminals.



Raise the Red Flag against Capitalism, Fighting for Communism

Union Wants “Labor Peace”

COMMUNISTS MOBILIZE WORKERS FOR WAR AGAINST CAPITALISM

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA, August 24 – “What do we want? Justice!” This was the cry of eighty hotel workers, union activists and community members who held a short march and rally here today. But the signs and speakers provided by UNITE HERE Local 11 treacherously called for “labor peace.” They’re mainly concerned with a new hotel that Kimpton is developing in a historic city-owned YWCA building. Most of the marchers took communist leaflets and some also gladly took *Red Flag*. Excerpts from the leaflet follow:

Some describe our goal as “labor justice” but surely that means more than management neutrality in a unionization campaign. It must mean more than \$15/hour five years from now, when even \$30,000/year (the average income of hotel workers in Pasadena today) is not a living wage here.

“Labor justice” should mean ending exploitation. Trade unions at best negotiate the terms of exploitation. They don’t and can’t fight to end it.

Exploitation is the core of the capitalist market economy.

Workers must sell their labor power at the market rate (“prevailing wages”) so they and their families can live. They are wage-slaves. Capitalists buy that labor power and put it to work creating goods and services that they can sell at market rates. They profit because the value added by the workers’ labor is greater than the cost of that labor.

In 2014, for example, the InterContinental Hotels Group (which bought Kimpton in late 2014) reported \$651 million in net income with 7,797 employees. That works out to about \$84,000 profit PER EMPLOYEE for the year.

Our broader perspective must include the fight to end capitalism! But even that’s not broad enough. We need a vision of what that “something better” is.

How we can build a world where the working class collectively shares the fruits of our labor. A society without poverty or privilege, where the masses plan and carry out all work to meet human needs sustainably.

Where society is organized around comradely relationships, not the marketplace.

You might call that “labor justice” but a better name for it is “communism.”

Too often we hide the broader perspective fearing it will “turn people off” or be-



cause “it’s not time.” But the global crisis of capitalism is making it impossible for the masses to live in the old way. We see it in the affordability crisis driving our neighbors out of Pasadena and in the massive waves of refugees trying to cross borders into the US and Europe.

People are looking for alternatives. That’s why Bernie Sanders is popular – and why the Islamic State finds recruits. Now is exactly the time to discuss, develop and disseminate a communist vision that can inspire many to fight for a real solution.

Will there be hotels in communist society? Sure! We’ll encourage people to travel widely to build strong comradely ties around our world without borders. They’ll need places to stay – for free and without luxury. But they won’t be pampered – they can cook and clean up after themselves!

Nobody will make beds or bus tables all day. Everyone will learn many skills and do different types of work. Nobody will live better or worse than anyone else. We won’t need unions to confront “management” because workers themselves will run all of society.

If these ideas appeal to you, please contact the International Communist Workers’ Party



Hotel Workers Strike, San Francisco, 2011

MTA from page 1

As another operator approached, he said, “Speak to this brother. Speak to this brother.”

Unfortunately, that brother was not interested in speaking. He never takes *Red Flag*. The two hugged and started speaking of something else and began to walk away.

“Here,” said our comrade to the first operator, “take another paper for a friend. Help us spread the word.”

“Sure. I can do that. Thanks.”

Minutes later, as he was driving out, with the window of his car rolled down, our comrade walked up to the car. The operator shook his hand and said, “Have a nice weekend.”

“Thanks. We need people like you to join us,” said our comrade.

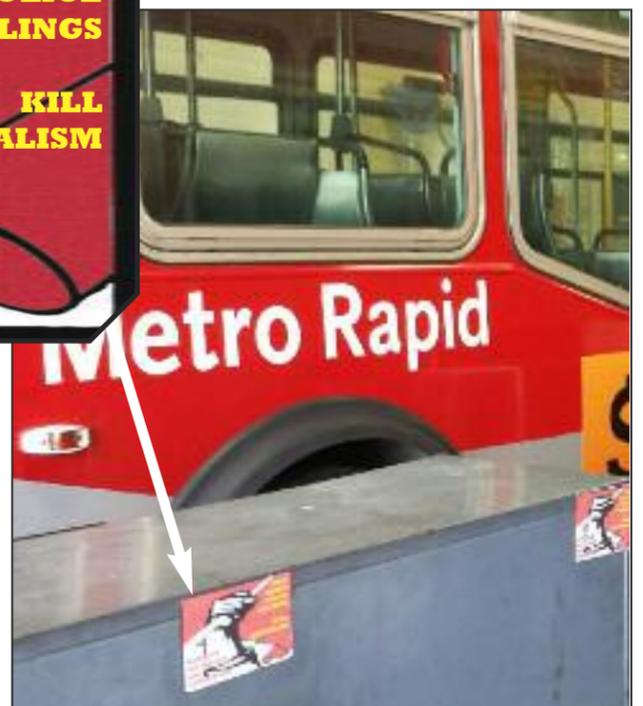
“I know. We will talk. We will talk.”

Since this conversation, we have produced a sticker (see picture) which is being distributed among MTA workers. We will mass produce this and other stickers to wage a mass campaign for



communism and against murderous capitalism.

We invite you, the readers of *Red Flag*, to join us in building the International Communist Workers’ Party to “completely wipe out capitalism.” Your contribution is crucial. You could make a huge difference in mobilizing the masses for communism. We must become the architects of our own destiny. “Communism in our lifetime” must be our slogan!



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IT'S NO PRIVILEGE TO LIVE IN RACIST CAPITALISM!

The capitalist mass media bombard us with vicious racist and xenophobic lies. They need to keep alienated white or native-born workers from turning their anger against the wage-slavery that exploits us all. But anti-racist anger is rising. So they also need to pacify black workers and youth and to separate “white allies” from “people of color.”

The key to this so-called “anti-racism” is to hide the material basis of racism, capitalism itself, behind the smokescreen of “white privilege.”

Capitalists created racism by forcing some workers (“blacks”) into conditions of super-exploitation and super-oppression. Others (“whites”) were still exploited and oppressed, but to a lesser degree. That allowed the racist rulers to convince them that they were “different” and “better.”

The capitalists called indigenous people “savages” to justify genocide and expropriation of the lands where they lived. They used a thousand propaganda tools, starting with children’s books, to convince exploited workers in imperialist countries to identify with their rulers’ wars of conquest.

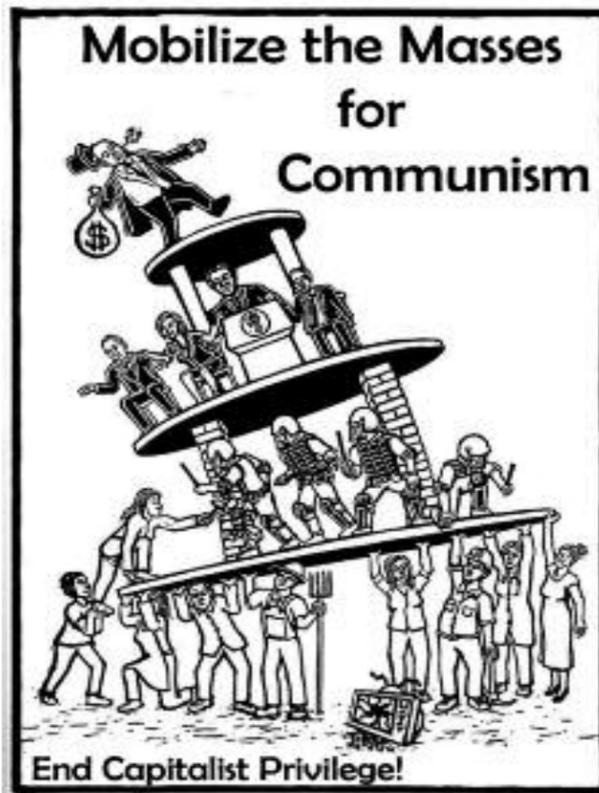
Capitalism thus invented the idea of “race” and the ideology that justified it, and with it the divisive theory of “white privilege.”

The magazine *Foreign Affairs*, published by the powerful imperialist Council on Foreign Relations, dedicated its March/April 2015 issue to “The Trouble with Race.” The lead article was by Kwame Anthony Appiah. He is an Anglo-Nigerian philosopher important in Critical Race Theory, invented at a 1989 University of Wisconsin conference.

Appiah admitted that race is “socially constructed” rather than a valid biological category. But he hid its historical material roots in class society.

Instead, he claimed that human beings are biologically predisposed to “essentialism” and therefore to creating racial categories. So, he said, “it would take a massive and focused effort of education, in schools and in public culture, to move into a postracial world. The dream of a world beyond race, unfortunately, is likely to be long deferred.”

That “dream” will be “deferred” until communism has ended wage slavery, the material basis of capitalist racism. Then we will con-



tinue to mobilize massively and successfully not only against racist ideas but also to destroy all remaining vestiges of racism in practice. The “postracial” world will be a communist world.

But Appiah has a different goal: “Wouldn’t it be better to organize our solidarities around citizenship and the shared commitments that bind political society?” he asked.

Translation: don’t let racism stand in the way of building nationalism and patriotism, especially in a world increasingly at war.

Critical Race Theory has grown into a broad theory of “intersectionality and privilege” that is pushed especially in majority-white churches and colleges. Supposedly we each have many intersecting “identities.” Even a white woman minimum-wage worker, for example, is told to recognize her “white privilege” and “straight privilege” and “citizen privilege” although she doesn’t have “male privilege” or “class privilege.”

According to this “identity theory” almost everyone is “privileged” somehow. Nobody is described as “exploited” or “oppressed.” It focuses our attention on “our own privilege” instead of on building a system without privilege. It physically segregates “white people” and “people of color” within so-called “anti-racist training.”

Identity Theory hides the truth that all the

forms of prejudice and super-exploitation we know today, all the “-isms” and “-phobias,” are rooted in class society. Every ruling class has used a combination of ideology and armed force to “divide and conquer” the exploited masses. It might be caste or tribe, gender or race, religion or nationality, dis/ability or sexual preference, and usually a combination of these.

“Privilege” theorists howl that communism “privileges class over race and gender.” Communism actually says that only a united working class, led and inspired by communism, can overturn the foundation of all structures of oppression.

Communism recognizes differences in the principle “From each according to ability and commitment, to each according to need.” But it also calls on all oppressed people to “identify” ourselves as part of the international working class. Communism will abolish classes, creating the material basis for us to identify ourselves as part of all humanity.

As we mobilize the masses for communism we begin to change ourselves and those around us. We build connections and learn from our increasingly diverse collective. We struggle to overcome stereotyped attitudes and habits. And we develop the confidence that communism will win.



Budapest, Hungary:

CRISIS OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES IN EUROPE IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO WIN WORKERS TO COMMUNISM



September 2—As we go to press, hundreds of migrants, most notably Syrians fleeing war and Eritreans fleeing poverty and violence, are confronting Hungarian police at the Budapest train station. They are furious at being stopped there by police unexpectedly enforcing to the letter the European Union’s policy on borders and migration.

At the same time workers around the world are horrified by the deaths of 71 of our working-class sisters and brothers in a truck in Austria and 150 more in boats in the Mediterranean this week. This anger and disgust at capitalism’s horrors provides an opportunity to win workers internationally to fight for a world with no bosses, no money and no borders.

These angry migrants can give leadership to the fight for communism, both in the countries to which they are fleeing and in the places which they have fled. **More next issue.**



“WHO NEEDS COMMUNIST REVOLUTION WHEN CITY HALL IS ANTI-RACIST?”

RICHMOND--Can a gentler, kinder capitalism work? Do we need activists who fight for reforms or communists organizing for revolution? Of late, Richmond, California, a city of about 100,000 has become a poster city for the gentler-kinder-capitalism argument. Apart from winning Richmond City Council (RCC) elections by way of defeating multi-million dollar-backed Chevron candidates, the RCC reformists have made Richmond the first California city in decades to institute rent control.

Their greatest achievement, however, is the decrease in street murders. From a high of 47 in 2008 to as low as 4 so far this year, the murder rate has dropped dramatically. How? It took a monumental change. They rejected the ‘stop-and-frisk’ racism that sees inner city youth as thugs and criminals. Instead, they saw them as young shellshocked victims who needed help.

A City Hall that’s Anti-Racist?

They worked out that most of the shootings in the Iron Triangle neighborhood involved just 17 individuals between the ages of 16 and 25. They offered these 17 a deal: respond to the city’s mentoring, stay out of trouble, don’t pull the trigger and they could earn up to \$1,000 a month for nine months!

This has made a huge difference. One neighbor told the local radio station “I haven’t sat on my front porch in 30 years. I do now” And the City Council no longer discusses asking the National Guard to come and occupy the city! Have

anti-racist attitudes triumphed at City Hall?

Unfortunately when humane policies win out, they become arguments that bolster the idea of reform and dismiss the need for revolution. If we the people organize, the reformists argue, we can make the government, or state, work for us.

What Are the Racist Bosses Getting out of This?

Red Flag disagrees. Nothing significant happens (and the reduction in the murder rate is significant) unless it primarily serves the needs of capitalism. The only time the government appears to work for us is when our needs temporarily coincide with those of some capitalist. Communists bring a key analytical tool to the movement: historical materialism. Its basic tenet is that the way a society reproduces itself (works) determines its form of governance. Imagine the politics of government in a society where people produce for social needs, not private profits.

In three years during World War II, Richmond’s population exploded from 24,000 to 94,000. That wasn’t to meet the needs of black families to escape the racist South, but to meet the needs of Kaiser shipyards for labor. After the war when the shipyards closed, Chevron Oil Refinery became Richmond’s dominant political player. It is still the biggest employer, but tomorrow it won’t be.

A City Hall that Serves Capital!

The University of California at Berkeley is building a new 10,000 graduate student body Berkeley Global Campus in Richmond. Its Chancellor, Nicolas Dirk, is jetting the world over (including the World Economic Forum at Davos, Switzerland) attracting major cor-



porate and academic partners. The campus is a component of US imperialism’s plan to maintain its world dominance.

Trying to entice academics, bio-tech firms and international postgraduate students to study next to a neighborhood that vies with Compton for the title of “murder capital of California” is not a winning proposition. Richmond has to be cleaned up!

There is nothing anti-racist about capitalism. Everything it does is for profit or investment (future profits). Everything it does that even looks humane is hypocritical.

Pacify a violent neighborhood so that UCB, the institution that built the bombs that obliterated Hiroshima and Nagasaki, can continue its work on weapons of mass destruction in peace!

Nothing in the RCC reforms will stop the ongoing ‘ethnic cleansing’ that has affected communities from Palo Alto through San Francisco, Oakland and Richmond for years. One way or another, black families find themselves relocated to the ‘exurbs.’ In the years to come, RCC rent control and the safer streets it has created will benefit the international grad students instead of the present residents of the Iron Triangle.

Far from becoming an argument rejecting communism, the story of the Richmond reform movement shows the need for a revolutionary movement. When we raise our ideas from within this movement, we help to change the people in it. We have a role to play in discussing, reading, writing for and distributing our paper--*Red Flag*. While the capitalists have their ‘global university,’ we are building a revolutionary movement of the international working class.



LETTERS

LETTERS

LETTERS

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

Below is an extract from a response to our final draft of the article above that an activist who reads *Red Flag* offered after having been part of the original discussions about the article.

I agree with your argument that the reforms will not bring fundamental change to the political economy. They reproduce capitalism ultimately, as your article said.

My reply is broad. When I got involved in the Richmond reform movement, I didn’t think it could create fundamental political economic change. I got involved because I didn’t want 400 acres of open space to become a casino resort. In the process, I saw people change in remarkable ways, and I started to wonder if engagement by people in Richmond’s reform movement reproduces capitalism while it contributes to the possibility of resolution by people changing in the process of engagement.

The reform movement has engaged otherwise completely disengaged citizens. People who even thought the status quo was great and people who have known for a long time

it’s not working (and didn’t act because they didn’t think anything could change) are, themselves, changed by engagement. It’s not a revolution, but I’m not sure I want to be part of a revolution with most of the people I live with. The problem is a national one. The people who I have worked with and been changed in the process are another story, and they are thinking about what could be possible outside the capitalist economy. While most are not always thinking outside the system, thinking outside the system is a possibility for many in ways that it was not before engagement in reform.

There’s a split in the Richmond movement. A smaller part of the leadership wants revolution and sees reform as a road to that, and a larger part sees reform as the answer, or a kinder gentler capitalism. But at least everyone is engaged in the debates, and that’s more than much of the American public. I have worked on social issues with like-minded people in the past. Working in Richmond politics was the first time I worked with the public,

and, frankly, I’m shocked at how far the small public I engaged with is from seeing the need for fundamental political economic change.

While revolution is the answer, how we get there, and, moreover, what we do when we get there is the challenge. Marx underestimated ideology, and ideology can only be overcome through practice, or engagement. Your paper is praxis, and in some respects the reform movement may be, too, for some. While the reform movement does bolster the idea of reform, it may not, at least for everyone, dismiss the need for revolution.

However, I think the Global Campus will destroy any revolutionary potential, no matter how small, of the progressive movement. The ideology around Education is so strong, it’s very hard for people to see that the university and Silicon Valley culture are one and the same, and neither one is a good thing in itself, though there are contradictions.

It’s an interesting article about which more needs to be written.

--*Red Flag* reader in Richmond, CA

South Africa: Activists need real communist alternative

I want to share with you my experience today. I had an unexpected meeting. There are three comrades who live near my home. There's an old man and 2 other guys. That old man is from the South African Communist Party (SACP). But now he has renounced his leadership position in the SACP.

So we started to discuss about all the politics in South Africa. What came out is that yesterday they attended a meeting organized by the United Front, a political party that was set up by the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (NUMSA). What they found out and were not happy about is that most of the comrades who had leadership positions in NUMSA now were getting leadership positions in the United Front (UF). But when the idea of that party was sold to them, it was sold as if the UF was an independent group.

What they found is that NUMSA has much

influence in that party and in the leadership positions. They were unhappy about that meeting. So I told them that the UF and NUMSA are one and the same thing. Because in the first place the UF is the brainchild of NUMSA, so you can't expect to separate NUMSA from the United Front.

Then we started to discuss communism. They were very much interested because most of them understood about communism. Yet it was out of desperation for them to want to join the United Front because it was presented to them as the most radical organization as the alternative to the SACP. So they were disappointed and felt they had no other option.

I explained to them that there is another alternative, the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP). They

were very much interested. I gave them **Red Flag** and they told me that they will get back to me. I told them about my comrade members of ICWP and they told me that I should set up a meeting with them.

I also told them that we will have a conference. They were very interested in that too.

--A comrade in South Africa



Red Flag thanks the comrade for this letter. What do you think? We hope to get many responses.

Better Editorials

The editorial in the most recent **Red Flag** "Workers Everywhere Need to Mobilize for Communism" had a good title but the content did not support it. Workers worldwide should understand what is happening in today's world. More importantly, they have to understand what we can do about it.

The big struggle is to find out how we can leverage the opportunities workers' fightback provides. An editorial that doesn't support revolutionary optimism, that we (workers, led by ICWP) can and will lead a revolution to destroy the horror that is capitalism, is not doing its job.

Most workers understand the ravages of this system, but many believe there is nothing we can do about it. Masses need to see fightback around the world and understand how this contains the potential of our ultimate success. That's what workers need to become revolutionary Communists. ...And that is what our editorials should be about!

--A Comrade.



ourselves. We are our own liberators."

Our International Communist Workers' Party must help make this movement a school for communism, including stepping up our Twitter game. Only by mobilizing the masses for communism can we end this murderous capitalist system.

From Rebellion to Revolution

The article on Potosí was rightly self critical about our failure to organize international communist support. But the authors themselves missed an opportunity – to explain what the ICWP would do if we were already well established in the area.

We would turn the rebellion into a revolution.

First, we would take power in Potosí itself. We would send armed squads to occupy the government buildings, police stations, newspapers, TV and radio stations etc. We would decree the immediate abolition of money, private property, and the wage system.

Next we would make an inventory of food

and arms available, in stores, warehouses, and the homes and estates of the wealthy. The food we would start distributing "to each according to their needs." The guns would be used to arm the new Red Army.



Depending on how many guns we could find – even hunting rifles would be welcome – we could soon have a force of many thousands. We would immediately go on the offensive. We would not make the same mistake the Paris Commune made, namely, waiting for the bosses to attack. As Engels said, "the defensive is the death of every armed uprising."

Our army could spread out in the countryside, procuring food, then concentrate to take power in other towns and gain recruits and more guns.

At this point President Evo Morales would finally quit his football game and send in the Armed Forces. If our comrades in the the bosses' army had done their work, many units would turn their guns around on their officers and go over to the revolution. Some elite units might stay loyal but they would find themselves surrounded and heavily outnumbered.

Before long we could have a force of tens of thousands strong, ideally one or two hundred thousand. At this point we could think of surrounding and closing in on La Paz itself.

A lot of this is speculation, but at least it's plausible. And it's based on a real event, the Potosí rebellion. Revolution is not an impossible dream.

--A Comrade

MASS ANTI-RACIST STRUGGLE from page 8

McKesson is a TFA alum and a former school administrator. He and St. Louis native Johnnetta Elzie were lauded by *Fortune Magazine* in April as among the world's 50 greatest leaders. They have over a hundred thousand Twitter followers. Their website wetheprotesters.org models its introduction after the US Declaration of Independence.

"Black Twitter" posts information about police shootings days before other news media. It is a forum for debate over the strategy and goals of the movement.

On August 20, Elzie, McKesson, Packnett and a San Francisco data analyst launched a new website, Campaign Zero. It integrates "recommendations from communities, research organizations and the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing" into a package of reforms "to change the way police serve our communities." This, they claim, can "end police killings and other forms of police violence in the United States."

Campaign Zero will track the policy statements of presidential candidates McNalley,

Sanders, Clinton and Ron Paul to see how they address their recommendations on use of force, police training, community oversight, etc. at the federal, state, and local level.

This makes "wetheprotesters" a lobbying organization like the National Rifle Association and the League of Women Voters. It hopes to influence the Democratic party platform and, most importantly, to steer activists into the electoral process.

The ruling-class media were overwhelmingly positive, but Twitter included more critical voices:

"The only way to change systems from the outside is through violence."

"Policy change after slavery was sharecropping, chain gangs, and the for-profit prison industry. The lesson: policy change won't liberate us."

"You want to end police killings? Dismantle the system which the police serve to protect and uphold."

"The justice department won't save us or provide justice for us. We will provide justice for

Don't get "Berned" in the bosses' elections: **COMMUNISM WILL MOBILIZE MASSES OF LEADERS**

Without Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump, the main response to the coming US presidential election would be boredom, disgust and rejection of the candidates and the capitalist election process.

This endangers capitalism. Discontented workers and youth can be won to see the communist alternative to capitalism. Thus, the bosses put these masses in motion to win them to the idea that voting and reforming capitalism is the way to improve their lives. However, once they are in motion, the opportunities for us to win them to communism are even greater.

That is what those 27,000 people, who came out in Los Angeles to support Bernie Sanders, and thousands more elsewhere, represented. Many are attracted because he calls himself an "Independent" and a "Socialist." Many because they hate, as Sanders claims to, that the top 10% has more than the other 90% combined. His solution is tax the rich more, pushing the illusion that these taxes will benefit the poor. In reality, these taxes will be used to help the bosses compete better economically and fund their wars.

Many follow Sanders because they are furious at the lack of decent health care, attacks on immigrant workers, and the racist criminal justice system and police murders of black and latino/a people.

But Sanders supported Clinton's military intervention in Kosovo in 1999. When anti-war protesters occupied his office, he had them arrested. He voted against a 2001 resolution opposing war on Afghanistan. He voted to fund the Afghanistan and Iraq wars. In 2003 he voted for Bush's "War Against Terrorism." He supports the racist Israeli government.

His role in this election is to deliver to the US bosses the social sectors – mainly multi-racial youth– who are fed up with capitalism's attacks and who are looking for radical alternatives. He has promised to support and to turn over his populist base and fund raising to whichever Democratic Party politician gets nominated.



Sign at Occupy Oakland, 2011

One of his targets is the Black Lives Matter movement. After some of their activists demanded that Sanders address racist police murders issue, he had a one speak at the LA event and made her a leader of his campaign. This should come as no surprise: Black Lives Matter and Sanders are both funded by capitalist billionaire George Soros.

We can't and shouldn't ignore these movements. The thousands that both Black Lives Matter and Sanders have put into motion present us with great opportunities to massively distribute our literature and win many to ICWP and the fight for communism.

We must, however, expose both movements as pro-capitalist-imperialist. Neither questions, much less challenges, the fact that the capitalist 1% get their wealth mainly by exploiting the rest of the 99%, paying us a fraction of the value we produce and keeping the rest. Exploitation and racism are the very foundation of capitalism. They can only end when capitalism is ended with revolution and the working class builds a society without money, where we work to produce only to meet our needs, and not to make anyone rich.

The capitalist election process is the opposite of mobilizing the masses for communism. Masses of workers, organized in ICWP, will collectively confront obstacles to building a commu-

nist society, and overcome them together. Everyone will be encouraged to actively participate in planning, producing and distributing the fruits of our labor according to need.

Everyone will be encouraged to participate in making all decisions concerning the development of the communist productive and social relations that will be the lifeblood of our communist society. There will be no need for politicians of any kind. Elections promote illusions, lies and passivity. The bosses try to fool us into thinking that their politicians "who think and speak for us" can solve our problems.

Communism will have no elections. Those most dedicated to serve the working class and fight for communism will take leadership. Their main responsibility will be to create more communists and leaders. The more leaders the better. Hundreds and eventually billions – organized in neighborhoods, workplaces and area collectives --will be won to help lead and administer our communist world.

Just as the bosses are using Sanders to try to hook workers and youth into believing in capitalist reform and elections, they are using open racist Donald Trump to try to scare workers into looking to the Democrats as the "lesser evil."

Racist Trump is a dangerous buffoon. Whipping up racism against immigrants, he calls for mass deportations, trying to activate his racist base.

One activist said that every time Trump speaks, more pro-immigrant activists sign up to help elect Democratic Party candidates. This despite Obama's record deportations and broken promises.

ICWP calls on all workers and youth who are angry about the racism and inequality of capitalism to join the fight for communism. Help distribute and write for *Red Flag* and contribute money so that *Red Flag* and other literature reach workers all over the world. The working class mobilized for communism will sweep capitalism and all its politicians into the dustbin of history.

Mass Struggle against Racist Police Murder Must Become **SCHOOL FOR COMMUNISM, NOT CAPITALIST TOOL**

USA--A year ago, a militarized police force rolled into Ferguson, MO to confront mass protests against the police murder of Michael Brown. Slogans like "Hands Up, Don't Shoot," "Black Lives Matter" and "Say Her/His Name" became hashtags and organizations. From mass anger, social media and established organizations like unions and foundations, a new movement against racist police terror was born.

When masses are in motion as they are today, their movement can become a battleground: on one side, efforts to make it a school for communism; on the other, attempts to make it a tool to tie the masses more securely to capitalism.



Ferguson, August 2014

Capitalism needs racist police terror. From its beginnings, the kidnapping of Africans combined brutal class oppression with what Marx termed "primitive accumulation." Enslaved persons produced wealth and at the same time were themselves the largest capital reserve in the United States.

Racist ideology justified that enslavement and separated unfree laborers of European, African and Native American ancestry into strict "racial" categories. Those divisions have been enforced by the murderous police forces which emerged out of slave patrols and strikebreakers in the US and elsewhere in the 18th and 19th centuries.

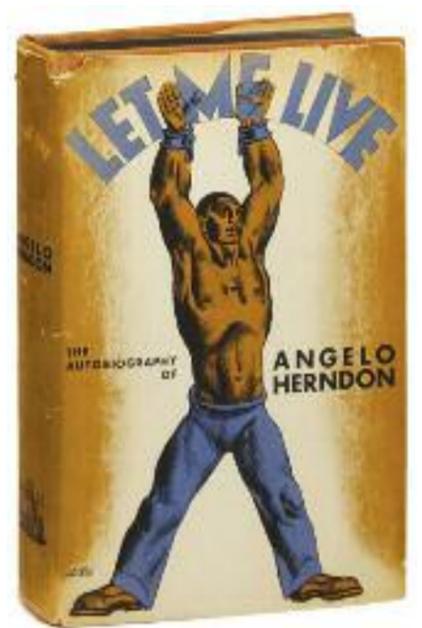
Capitalism cannot exist without racism, which provides its competitive edge and prevents the unity of the oppressed masses. The fight for communism cannot succeed without dealing a decisive blow to that racism. This will enable a final victory over racist practices and ideas. No capitalist reform can do that.

The capitalist rulers have always been terrified that black workers and youth, targets of their most vicious capitalist attacks, will seize communist ideas as their own. They targeted black US communists, including Angelo Herndon in the 1930s and Paul Robeson in the 1950s,

trying to separate black Americans from the communist movement in which they played a leading role.

The leadership that has emerged from the current movement against racist police

murder has no such militant class perspective. Two of its best-known spokespersons are DeRay McKesson and Brittany Packnett. Packnett is the executive director of St. Louis's Teach for America (TFA) program. She was appointed to the Ferguson Commission and to President Obama's Task Force on 21st Century Policing and anointed by *Time* magazine as one of "12 New Faces of Black Leadership."



See MASS ANTI-RACIST STRUGGLE, page 7