

# RED FLAG

## MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

Angry workers in West Point, Liberia, West Africa, confront Liberian President Sirleaf over fascist response to Ebola epidemic, see pages 2 & 4



### Advance Under Attack:

## LET'S RESPOND TO MTA'S TERROR TACTICS BY BUILDING RED FLAG NETWORKS AND JOINING ICWP!

LOS ANGELES, September 4--"I work for MTA (the Metropolitan Transit Agency)," explained the Sheriff. "Management is accusing you of trespassing. They don't want the workers here reading that newspaper," continued this Sheriff as he harassed two ICWP members distributing *Red Flag* at Division 18 on Wednesday, August 27.

In all, three Sheriff patrol cars showed up to intimidate and stop ICWP members from distributing *Red Flag*. An MTA supervisor came out and threatened to have them arrested for trespassing. She denied that management doesn't want MTA workers reading *Red Flag*. "It is a question of safety," she lied.

We have been distributing *Red Flag* at many MTA Divisions for over four years and never had a safety incident. We also avoid trespassing on MTA's "private property" even though it is paid for with our taxes.

**Whether acknowledged or not by MTA and the cops, the truth is: MTA and US**

**bosses don't want MTA drivers, mechanics and service attendants reading *Red Flag*. Why?**

They are afraid of the hundreds of MTA workers who regularly read each issue of *Red Flag*, especially when the contract is pending and there are rumors of a possible strike.

Their economy stands to lose billions in such a strike. But, most important they are terrified by the thought of MTA workers taking *Red Flag's* ideas as their own and organizing a political strike against capitalism and for communism.

They know that their fascist contract, which will make their farce of "job security" an even sicker joke, has many workers fuming. They know workers understand that it will allow MTA to unleash their reign of terror with impunity. They know that many understand that workers are nothing but wage slaves under capitalism and they're looking for ways to break those chains.

Already, MTA sent a letter to all its [See MTA, page 4](#)

## BUILDING ICWP IN SOUTH AFRICA

Revolutionary greetings. Things are heating up in South Africa. The NUMSA (National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa) leadership has decided to launch a political party fighting for socialism and nationalism. As we have discussed numerous times, this development comes in the light of the total bankruptcy of the African National Congress and other political parties.

South Africa has witnessed a series of militant strikes. Many times workers are armed to fight the whole might of the state. NUMSA is trying to divert this revolutionary potential of the workers into reformist, nationalist dead-end parliamentary democracy where the bosses always stay on top.

Amidst all this development, we made a contact who has invited us to meet with a group of workers. Their invitation is open for us to participate in their preparatory study groups. This would open up avenues for us to be directly involved with metalworkers and expose them to our correct revolutionary line of mobilizing the masses for communism as opposed to socialism. This would give us a great opportunity to recruit workers to our party, the International Communist Workers' Party, for communist revolution, not capitalist reforms.

Another interesting development is that we will soon be visiting the mineworkers in Marikana with the purpose of recruitment and establishing direct contact and the presence of ICWP among the miners. We are in regular contact with a miner who distributes *Red Flag*. He considers himself a member of ICWP. The miner comrades are very eagerly waiting for a visit from us. **Roar, hungry lions, roar! Amandla! Forward!**

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## WHAT CHOICE DO WE HAVE BUT TO FIGHT?

The recent racist murders of Mike Brown in Ferguson, MO., Ezell Ford and Omar Abrego in Los Angeles, CA. and Eric Garner in New York have shocked and angered workers everywhere. Rather than a series of isolated incidents involving a few racist cops, they are part of a growing racist, fascist movement, designed by the US ruling class and carried out by their storm troopers.

Their capitalist system is slowly decaying; they cannot save it. The US bosses are no longer on top of the festering heap of garbage they have created. The shifting of world power from one rival capitalist to another has forced them to attack their own working class.

A huge capitalist disaster is occurring in Liberia and Sierra Leone, Africa. Thousands of people have died from a terrible virus called Ebola. It is estimated that 20,000 people will contract the disease before it runs its current course.

There is no vaccine against Ebola yet and the original source of the virus is still being studied. We do know the disease spreads from human to human through direct contact with blood or other bodily fluids from an infected person, or corpse.

As soon as a person exhibits symptoms they should be brought to a hospital and isolated. Strict universal precautions must be used. Patients should be hydrated with a balance of fluids and electrolytes. This would be done automatically in medical centers in most industrialized countries.

In Sierra Leone and Liberia, people live in extreme poverty with very little medical care, the results of racist capitalism-imperialism. Liberia has only 51 doctors for 3.8 million people. Healthcare workers who work with Ebola-infected patients often contract the disease because

of inadequate protective equipment. These heroic dedicated workers have seen hundreds of their coworkers die, yet they risk it all to continue their work.

Perhaps most impressive of all are the young men who have volunteered to find and bury the corpses. They receive no pay and can't return to their families and villages, who fear they will spread the virus to them. They call themselves "the burial boys".

One 21-year-old man said, "If I don't volunteer, who can do this work? There are no other people to do it, so we decided to do it."

These young men should inspire us. They are risking their lives for the collective good. The way they see it, they have no choice but to fight the disease. For their heroism not to be wasted, they, and we, need to fight the system that caused it.

When we hear of young black men being gunned down by killer cops, or see people having to fight to get their water turned back on in Detroit, or see blocks of expensive condos being built for millionaires while families are homeless, we should know that we have no choice but to fight the system.

The way to do this is to mobilize the masses to make a revolution and bring capitalism down forever. We will make a new world based on communism: a world where healthcare, housing, food and education will be available to all.

### Communism Will Rely On Mobilized Masses to Defeat Disease

Communist-inspired masses can accomplish amazing feats. Massive outbreaks of diseases and natural disasters could be brought under control by huge numbers of well-trained workers ready to jump in at a moment's notice. Their prime mission will be to help organize masses locally to provide the care needed.



**Barefoot doctors doing village health education in China in the 1950s.**

In Africa, Ebola has broken out several times before. Yet there are no teams of trained medical people being brought in from all over the world. They did have volunteers from Doctors Without Borders initially, but they were pulled out when the going got tough.

After the Chinese revolution in 1948-49, thousands of poor peasants and students were trained for 3 to 6 months to become "barefoot doctors." They promoted hygiene, preventative health care and family planning in rural areas. They helped the peasants mobilize to wipe out diseases like schistosomiasis, small pox, polio and malaria. Malaria is, to this day, the biggest killer in western Africa, not Ebola.

Unfortunately, this program was considered in China a temporary tactic born of necessity. When capitalism was consolidated under the cover of socialism, the revisionist leaders of the so-called communist party did away with collectivization and the rural health care program. Conditions in the rural areas are once again terrible and diseases like schistosomiasis have returned.

The capitalism system, based on exploitation and war, racism, sexism, and inequality can only take us backwards.

The masses of workers can only move forward under the banners of communism. We in the ICWP agree with these brave young workers in Sierra Leone and Liberia...we have no choice but to act and fight for the collective!



**Ebola "burial boys" in Liberia, Africa**

Read our new pamphlet:

**BIGGER INDUSTRIAL WORKING CLASS:  
BIGGER COMMUNIST POTENTIAL  
WORLDWIDE**

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## GARMENT WORKERS: DESTROY THE CHAINS OF WAGE SLAVERY

LOS ANGELES, CA—The day starts and we have to make plans about what to do with the little time we have left after work. Just think about the next work day. This is wage slavery. This is the life of a garment worker tied to a machine. We workers have no hopes of changing the situation under capitalism.

No matter how much we make, we are still wage slaves. That's why we have to destroy the system of exploitation with a communist revolution. There are no islands—factories where they pay and treat us “well”—that save us from the disaster produced by a society that creates wars and false illusions for millions while a tiny few live as millionaires.

American Apparel uses the myth of paying “high wages” to super-exploit its workers. In 2013 its sales were \$624 million, based on the work of 5000 workers. Each worker produced \$126,000 that year, receiving in wages between \$28,000 and \$29,000, leaving the company a surplus value 4 times the wage received by the worker. That is, the workers received one fifth of the value that they produced.

This is the capitalist system, which only produces for the profits of the bosses who own the means of production (factories, mines, land, machinery, and materials needed to produce commodities).

Utilizing the production model from American Apparel, the US bosses want the garment industry and other manufacturing industries to return to the US. They maintain that they can pay “high” wages, without losing out to the competition. “Made in the USA” means competition to the death with other companies.

In Los Angeles, there are more than 50,000

garment workers registered, not counting the thousands who work in unregistered shops in terrible conditions similar to millions of garment workers throughout the world. Even though the bosses can through use a few more crumbs than the \$68 a month that garment workers in Bangladesh are paid, \$95 a month in Cambodia or \$300 in China, we workers have more in common with these workers than with our respective bosses.

**The US imperialists are preparing for wider wars, including World War.**

Neither control of quality nor rising costs of transportation are sufficient motives to return part of the manufacturing to the US.

The bosses' armies will need greater and greater quantities of uniforms, coats, backpacks, sleeping bags, etc. All of these are required for battle; and they have to guarantee that they are produced in the US.

That's why in the next decade the bosses are planning to return 200,000 jobs in clothing manufacturing to the US.

Ralph Lauren invested \$142 million to expand a factory in High Point, North Carolina. This year other companies have invested \$1.8 billion in expanding existing factories and building new ones, the majority in the southern US where wages are lower due to racism against black workers.

In their thirst for profits and preparations for war, the bosses hire more workers, creating more opportunity for those who are exposed to communist ideas and take up the task of communist revolution. Currently in Los Angeles, an average of 1,000 garment workers take *Red Flag* every issue. This creates huge potential to develop



Workers at American Apparel receiving *Red Flag*

dozens of communist leaders.

**Workers need communism.**

Capitalist wage slavery requires our super-exploitation. Only a communist society will abolish exploitation. No longer will a few decide what to produce and how to produce it. We workers will have control of the means of production and will decide what we need so that all continue to function in good mental and physical health and without the need to be closed inside a factory for many hours. In a communist society, we workers will do different activities during the day, all to benefit our class, the international working class, instead of doing the same thing, slaving for a bosses' profits, day after day. Help organize ICWP!

### YOUTH: HELP THE PARTY GROW AMONG INDUSTRIAL WORKERS & SOLDIERS

I am a young student, preparing myself to work and organize with communist ideas in a factory. In an international meeting of the International Communist Workers' Party, this need was discussed. We must think about and contribute to this discussion. What kind of youth leadership do we want?

The struggle for communism is not a momentary struggle, lasting days or months. It is a lifetime struggle and it will be achieved after a long process, for which ensuring the future of our party is a necessity. Spreading communist ideas to the working class is a task of the party's youth. This is how we will build the future of ICWP.

Mao defined the young revolutionary based on the criterion of whether he or she was integrated into the masses of workers. He identified our same goal: “Our intellectuals and students must go to the masses of workers who represent 90% of the population and mobilize and organize them.”

The vanguard of the Party must be the workers and soldiers. It is on these pillars where the youth leadership should stand. Our line must not change by age, gender or region. We youth, like all the members of the party, must be clear that the revolution will come from soldiers and workers who are organized. The young members of the Party must join the ranks of the working class or the army. Our struggle should not be only in our free time, or momentary; it is the struggle of a whole life.

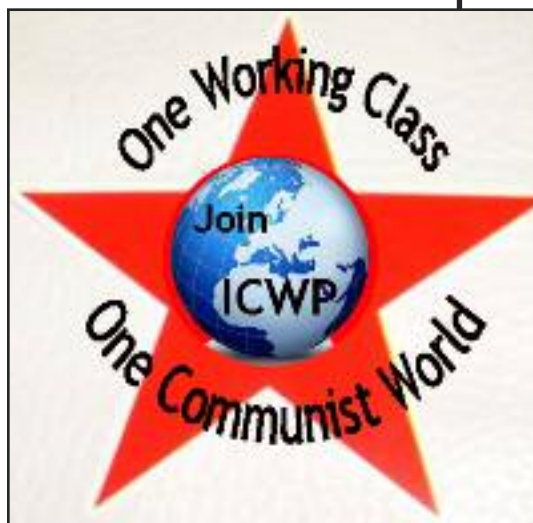
Within the Party there are youth who are not workers. How can they struggle? The youth who are not in a factory or the army can fight for communism, always bearing in mind that

they must carry out the struggle in favor of the work among workers. These youth should always put forward our line clearly to their friends, and sell the paper outside the factories and military bases. The youth who is not a worker should understand that one of his or her main tasks is to help the party grow inside the factories.

We must also fight against our obstacles and errors. We must make a struggle against our individualism, against the bosses' ideas that they teach us since we were very young. We must avoid over-stating our importance in our Party, and above all we should feel part of the Party.

We are on the road of this struggle for a new world for our whole class. “Communism is coming and no one can stop it,” shout the youth in the streets of San Salvador. This chant, through *Red Flag*, must be and is present among the workers in the maquila, machinists, aerospace workers, and transit workers. This chant must be and is on the barricades and in the barracks. We cannot be observers of history. This is a life-and-death struggle to victory.

—Communist in transition from student to industrial worker



### SPAIN: PUSH OURSELVES A LITTLE HARDER

Enthusiasm, desire to keep fighting, support from the comrades, advice and a lot of work is what we bring back to Spain, after sharing with the comrades from South Africa in an international meeting of the International Communist Workers' Party.

I feel privileged, because I know that in many parts of the world *Red Flag* is distributed, and

that the ideas that we have in Spain don't stay in Spain, but go out to thousands of workers around the world.

There are many workers fighting to destroy capitalism, liberate ourselves from wage slavery and to be able to enjoy the fruits of a communist system where the working class will be able to produce 100% for the needs of the workers our-selves.

The experiences shared by the maquila workers in El Salvador, what they do to survive in their daily lives and their methods of distributing *Red Flag*, have

raised our spirits and made us think about what we can do here. It has made us realize that we have to push ourselves a little harder, and when we've done that little bit more, then we have to push ourselves a little bit more to reach our goal.

As true communists, we rejoice in the advance of the proletariat worldwide. It serves as an example for our struggles and so that our efforts can be stronger and we can fight harder. Thank you, comrades, all over the world! We continue the struggle to build Communism! LONG LIVE ICWP!

—Comrade in Spain

## FROM MISSOURI TO LIBERIA: RACIST CAPITALISM KILLS!

MONROVIA, LIBERIA, August 20—The world woke up today to see Army troops, barbed wire and Coast Guard ships surrounding the West Point shantytown in this city of 1.3 million residents. The excuse: the Ebola epidemic. West Point residents immediately revolted.

Fifty thousand poor workers and their families were cut off from food, fresh water and any semblance of reasonable sewage sanitation. Sacrificing workers is always the capitalists' answer to crisis.

West Point doesn't have any more Ebola cases than any other part of Monrovia. What it does have is a lack of medical care facilities. Young people are forced to queue in close proximity to each other to get food, increasing the risk of infection.

The US-armed troops shot at workers trying to force their way out. The soldiers killed Shakie Kamara, a 15-year old boy who had gone to buy tea and bread at a shop near the entrance to West Point.

The Defense Ministry said the wounds in Shakie's legs were caused by barbed wire. The hospital staff revealed he had actually died from deep bullet wounds and denial of prompt medical care.

A week later, after consultation with Obama, Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf tried to calm things down with a half-hour tour of West Point. Her entourage, surrounded by concentric circles of heavily armed guards wearing surgical



Workers in West Point confront riot cops enforcing Liberia quarantine



gloves, handed out a few envelopes of cash.

Masses confronted the president anyway. "We [are] suffering! No food, no eat!" one man yelled. "We want out," another demanded.

"I wouldn't die of Ebola but of hunger," yet another said, explaining his underground escape with his girlfriend from the armed cordon.

### Capitalist Leaders Have Blood on Their Hands

The Nobel Peace Prize-winning Sirleaf ordered the military siege. She trained at Harvard University, then served the bosses at the World Bank and Citibank.

"So we know what kind of piece she wants," commented a Boeing shop steward. "She wants a piece of the exploitation."

There is something to this. She appointed her son to run the National Oil Company in alliance with US oil behemoths. He diverted millions to the family coffers, according international investigators.

Meanwhile, Sirleaf's allies

The foreign aid they're talking about is the "fair-trade" agreement. It allows special treatment of these African imports to the US *New York Times* columnist Nicholas Kristof calls this agreement "one of the best aid programs for Africa."

We should support an "apparel maker in Liberia [that] would be competitive only if it paid very low wages." In this way, the US can support Sirleaf, "a wonderful president." ("My Sweatshop Column," Nicholas Kristof, 1/14/2009)

All this sits well with Sirleaf who received the 2013 Entrepreneur of the World Award herself. It might not sit so well with the 500 garment workers locked in the West Point ghetto!

The spokesperson of the US State Department expressed alarm the day after the West Point revolt. He was afraid US allies in the region would be "de-stabilized." Nothing about the racist and sexist genocide of this diseased capitalist system!

The siege of West Point was finally lifted on August 30, after thousands escaped and many more openly revolted.

Liberia, founded by ex-US slaves, has essentially been a US puppet since the mid-nineteenth century. Now the Chinese are trying to get a "piece of the exploitation." They employ about 1,500 workers in their Liberian factories.

Capitalism is a system of crises. The general economic crisis has been compounded by this medical crisis. The imperialist rivalry in Liberia and throughout Africa will make matters only worse.

The West Point rebellion shows again the potential to build the International Communist Workers' Party in Africa and worldwide.



West Point slums in the shadow of rulers' luxury

### MTA from page 1

workers saying they cannot post anything on social media that reflects "badly" on the company. The threat is clear: "Post anything we don't like and we will fire you!" Now, they want to make *Red Flag* inaccessible to MTA workers, hoping to use their murderous racist cops to intimidate and terrorize its distributors.

The most recent police murders of black and latino young men from Ferguson to LA to New York have exposed the racist nature of US capitalism. They also sparked massive demonstrations nationally and a heroic rebellion in Ferguson. The fascist militarized police could not break the rebels' fighting spirit. These rebels need communist political guidance to get off the treadmill of reformism and the bosses' electoral charade.

Millions of workers like them are simmering with anger and hatred for this racist capitalist sys-

tem. Millions are looking for radical alternatives. MTA workers have a great potential to give leadership to these workers and youth throughout LA and beyond by organizing a political strike that points to that alternative: communism.

### MTA workers are up to the task

"Sure, I know people who work at Division 18. Give me more *Red Flags* to take to them," responded an MTA driver at Division 7 when told what happened. Other workers there and at other Divisions responded similarly.

These workers are helping defeat the bosses' fascist tactics to stop the circulation of the working class' communist press. There are many ways to receive and spread the paper. One is outside the divisions, until the bosses no longer allow it. Another is to give us your address to mail it to you. Or get it online. Workers can come up with other ways and let *Red Flag* know.

However, as MTA workers and others show more interest in communism and revolution, the

bosses will resort more and more to fascism. We won't be able to rely on outside or internet distribution.

We need to build and donate to our own media: *Red Flag*. To evade the bosses' fascist tactics and guarantee the survival of ICWP

and *Red Flag* under any and all conditions, workers must organize clandestine ICWP clubs and *Red Flag* distribution networks in all MTA divisions, all work places, schools, barracks and neighborhoods. Then nothing the bosses do can stop us!



## IRAQ-SYRIA CRISIS SHOWS NEED TO MOBILIZE FOR COMMUNIST WORKERS' POWER

September 1—The US rulers have stepped up air raids over Iraq against the Islamic State (IS or ISIS or ISIL) and may send “advisors” to coordinate with the Kurdish peshmerga or the Iraqi army under the new al-Abadi administration. US surveillance flights extend over Syria, with air raids possibly to follow.

Unlike the huge marches before Bush’s 2003 Iraq invasion, protests against Obama’s return to Iraq are scarce.

Widely-shown video of IS attacks on Yazidis and the beheading of US journalists promote the lie that US imperialism is waging a humanitarian campaign against fanatic religious butchers, which IS leaders certainly are. But can anyone believe that US rulers are motivated by humanitarianism? (See box)

### New Mideast Oil Politics

There must be another reason. “Usually it’s oil,” said a friend at a study group.

Mideast oil won’t be allowed to sustain the dollar as the global reserve currency indefinitely. (see BRICS, p. 8). Domestic reliance on Persian Gulf oil is dropping (though it’s still the world’s cheapest) with the rapid expansion of fracking in shale fields, a secure source for US rulers in wartime.

Iraqi oil exports are booming, and China is the biggest winner. China buys almost half of Iraqi oil, and PetroChina just won a 25% stake (equal to ExxonMobil’s) in the huge West Qurna 1 field.

“We lost out,” said a former Defense Department official. “The Chinese had nothing to do with the [Iraq] war, but ... they are benefiting from it, and our Fifth Fleet and air forces are helping to assure their supply.” (*NYTimes*, 6/3/13)

### US Imperialists Tilt toward Kurdistan

The oil fields of Iraqi Kurdistan are now at stake. Since the war, ExxonMobil, Chevron, and others have developed the Taq Taq and Tawke fields. Kurdistan is selling this oil directly to the world market via Turkey, defying Iraqi law without US objection.

As IS advanced, Kurdish “security” forces seized oil-rich Kirkuk and began pumping, again defying Iraq’s central government. Key US imperialists like Vice-President Biden openly urge US support for an independent Kurdistan, seeing



that as their best chance for a foothold (besides Israel) in the region.

IS already controls oil fields, refineries and pipelines in northern Iraq. Its move on Erbil, a Kurdish oil center, provoked the US military response. If IS can consolidate a significant oil-producing region, its “caliphate” could become viable like the sultanates of Brunei and Oman or the Emirates.

No established powers seem to want that. *The Wall Street Journal* (8/30/14) analyzes how opposition to IS has thrown together many “strange bedfellows.” It warns that they will collaborate secretly and lie about it.

Maybe. But any such unity is relative and temporary, while deadly conflicts are absolute as long as capitalism rules the earth. For example, the US and Iran both oppose IS, but some analysts consider their simmering conflict to be more likely even than a US-China clash to boil over into all-out war, sooner rather than later.

### US Rulers’ Declining Influence

Some say that US military aid to anti-Assad rebels in Syria found its way to IS. Certainly the US invasion and occupation of Iraq, and its long-term support for al-Maliki, helped to drive Saddam Hussein’s generals into IS, where they now play leadership roles.

“The US strategy has been to keep the region as fragmented as possible, like in Yugoslavia,” said a comrade. “But it’s not working as well as they might like.”

At the NATO summit in Wales this week, the US is trying to rally support for an air war in Syria and a more vigorous response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. “But we don’t have a strategy yet,” admitted President Obama.

Meanwhile, US imperialists argue about how much these crises are derailing their attempted “rebalance” (or “pivot”) to Asia.

### Industrial Workers: Lead Masses to Communist Revolution!

Forget about trying to get “our” government to “do the right thing.” The governments belong to the capitalists, not to us.

“The rulers and the workers are pulling in opposite directions,” commented a friend.

Instead we must mobilize the masses to prepare for communist workers’ power to end the deadly capitalist-imperialist system.

Fifty years ago, the Iraqi Communist Party united Arabs, Kurds, Jews and others in mass organizations based firmly among industrial workers. Its fatally flawed political line, however, kept it from seizing power even at its strongest in 1959, and led to its slaughter by the CIA-sponsored coup that brought Saddam Hussein to power in 1963.

Today the potential exists to build a new International Communist Workers’ Party from Capetown to Kurdistan, from San Salvador to Seattle. To find out how, read the ICWP “Industrial Working Class” pamphlet at [www.icwpredflag.org](http://www.icwpredflag.org).

### US RULERS: DEADLIER BUTCHERS THAN ISLAMIC STATE

US sanctions killed 500,000 Iraqi children during the Clinton era. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright told CBS, “We think the price was worth it.” Another half-million Iraqis, mostly civilians, died because of the US invasion and occupation (2003-2011).

During the Iraq-Iran war in 1987, the US told Saddam Hussein where to gas Iranian troops. When the Hussein regime killed 6800 Kurds in Halbja with poison gas in 1988, the US spread the lie that Iran was to blame.

Can anyone forget US atrocities in Abu Ghraib, Baghram, and Guantanamo? The “extraordinary renditions” of prisoners to secret torture prisons around the world?

The Obama administration authorized drone attacks that murdered hundreds (mostly civilians) in Pakistan, Yemen and elsewhere, including Anwar al-Aulaq and other US citizens.

Inside the US, local police and sheriffs kill at least 400 people annually, possibly twice that number. At least 93 were murdered by cops in August 2014 alone!

The US has officially executed 1,385 people since 1975. None was beheaded, but many died in agony.

Humanitarian? Hardly.

Only communist society can truly meet human needs.



**This is the paper of the working class.**

**We get no funding from the capitalists, their foundation or NGOs. This newspaper is not a commodity produced for sale. We fighting to abolish commodity production. However, we have to pay for the costs of producing and distributing the paper, as well as for other expenses of building an international party. The box below includes a suggested donation of \$20/year which is about the current cost of mailing a single copy to a U.S. address. PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY.**

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## Bosses Justify Racist Police Murder with Divide-and-Rule Ideas

### COMMUNIST SOCIETY WILL VALUE ALL WORKERS' LIVES

LOS ANGELES, September 3—"Don't shoot me! I'm going to college!" was, according to the bosses' radio, what students chanted when they walked out of Augustus Hawkins High School last week in protest of the racist police murders of Michael Brown, Ezell Ford and Omar Abrego. Does that mean that it was OK to shoot Ezell Ford, who wasn't going to college, or to beat truck driver Omar Abrego to death?

#### Racist capitalism in crisis hits black & Latino workers hardest

Capitalism worldwide is in crisis, and its essentially racist nature means that black and Latino workers have been hit hardest. Black workers, historically oppressed since the institutionalization of slavery in the US, continue to experience higher rates of poverty, lower wages, higher unemployment. The black-white income gap is 40% greater than it was in 1967. The US now has a greater wealth gap by race than South Africa did under apartheid. (*NYTimes*, 8/30/2014) Ferguson, Missouri, is no different from any other neighborhood—or ghetto—in this regard. Capitalism is racist to the core.

#### US rulers fear black workers

Since the late 1970s, the rulers, terrified by the 1960s urban rebellions against racism and even more by the rebellions of black soldiers in Vietnam, have pursued a strategy of mass incarceration of black workers. Nearly 70% of middle-aged black men who never graduated from high school have been imprisoned; black men in their 20s without a high school diploma are more likely to be incarcerated today than employed. (*NYTimes*, 8/30/2014) Black youth are systematically pushed out of school, faced with economic pressures and a racist educational system.

This has only gotten worse since 9/11, when



Red youth bring communist ideas and Red Flag to protests against racist police murder.

the federal government began paying for body armor, mine-resistant trucks, night-vision goggles and other military gear for local police forces. Even school police are now militarized. Parents in Compton, California, recently protested the school board's decision to arm school cops with semi-automatic AR-15 assault rifles, as have LA Unified, San Diego Unified and Fontana Unified in Southern California. At the same time, recent Supreme Court decisions have emphasized what black folks have always known: killer cops have a free pass. (*NYTimes* 8/26/2014)

#### Bosses divide & rule working class

But the bosses have a problem: they want to win black and latino/a youth to support this murderous racist system, especially as inter-imperialist

rivalry sharpens and world war looms. So they encourage people to register and vote for black politicians who will supposedly come up with less racist policies, although looking at Obama should teach us that changing the skin color of the politician doesn't change the capitalist political agenda. They organize protests that call for reforms like more video cameras on cops, as if that will make them hold back or persuade a racist injustice system to lock them up the next time they murder a black youth.

And they push a blame-the-victim ideology: "If you don't succeed, it's your own fault! Look at Obama!" A particularly vicious form this takes is "Don't shoot me! I'm going to college!" Does this mean that black youth who don't go to college are worthless thugs who deserve to be shot in the back? This anti-working class idea ignores the millions of black workers who go to work every day, who drive buses, make airplanes, mop floors, flip burgers, just trying to make ends meet and feed the children who chant, "Don't shoot me, I'm going to college!"

#### Build working-class unity to fight for communism

We must not fall victim to capitalist ideology which tells black and latino/a youth to reject the working class and their working-class parents, that college is the way out, and that they should strive for the illusion of capitalist success. We must fight against the racism that the bosses use to divide our class. We must build a movement which can mobilize the masses for communism. The lives of all workers are important, regardless of color. This will only be realized in a communist society where the division between mental and manual labor has been abolished along with class rule, and we can work together to produce what we need, without cops or bosses or money.

## Unions Support Imperialist War & Wage Slavery

### ONE BILLION INDUSTRIAL WORKERS CAN BUILD COMMUNISM

*Auto Workers: Part 2: Our previous article looked at the added value wage workers create every hour we work.*

**In 1999, during the war against Yugoslavia, NATO bombed the Zastava auto plant.** They reduced it to rubble and left the workers jobless. Last year Fiat opened its new factory on the bombed-out site. Ready to exploit the 15 years of high unemployment there, they pay about a 1/3 of the \$10.00 per hour they pay their workers in Poland.

In fact, the wages and conditions in auto, as in any other industrial job, are determined more by inter-imperialist rivalry, or government manipulations of the domestic economy, than anything that happens over the management-vs-union bargaining table. Imperialist war plays a big part in impoverishing workers.

Although the bombs were dropped on Yugoslavia, the destruction was designed to "shock and awe" the whole of East and Central Europe. The region that was in part controlled by Russian imperialists was now, the war and its bombings announced, to be completely under the thumb of their German and US counterparts. The area's low-cost workforce was now at the disposal of Western capital. Whether we like it or not, the military plays a key role in the capitalists' rate of profits!

**Between 2000 and 2011 the region's auto production more than doubled.** Jobs in auto rose 60% to 535,000 in 2010. Volkswagen, Fiat, Ford and General Motors led the way, investing in new

plants and equipment and taking advantage of the cheaper labor. Toyota and others followed.

One in every four cars now sold in Europe is made in Eastern Europe, where the bosses pay much lower wages than in their "home" country. The cost of labor varies. In Romania, where Ford and the French firm, Renault, have plants, workers get between \$6 and \$7 per hour. In Hungary at the VW-owned Audi engine plant, the world's largest, workers get about \$18 per hour, close to what VW pays in Chattanooga, USA. In Germany, their counterparts get \$67 per hour.

And the jobs workers in the East gained, workers in West lost. Within one year of the war in Yugoslavia, Ford announced plans to close one plant in Belgium and two in England, while GM planned to cut 6,000 jobs. All the other manufacturers made similar projections. From that year on, the wages and conditions of industrial workers in the East were used to extract concessions from all industrial workers in Western Europe.

**Yet, in 1999, not one union in Western Europe even suggested organizing a strike against the NATO-led imperialist war on Yugoslavia, even as they bombed the Zastava workers out of jobs.** What a pathetic failure! Still, it's a point *Red Flag* continually struggles to make with our co-workers: Unions play a reactionary role. While they claim to defend the quality of our lives, they actually defend the wars of their imperialist masters, refusing to attack the wage system as the source of capitalist power. We would have organized a political strike against imperialist war and

against the wage system itself.

The ruling class acts as if wage labor is embraced by the masses around the world as a liberating force, lifting them out of poverty. In fact the gigantic explosion of wage labor in the last 30 years was only made possible by the brutal impoverishment of rural families in Asia, Africa and the Americas.

Never in world history, from the "Enclosure Acts" in 18th-century Britain to the NAFTA agreements in Mexico in the 1990s, have the masses embraced the factory with its wage-labor system. Instead they have been driven into it through state-imposed poverty or inter-imperialist wars. Never, until today, have so many workers been pitted one against the other by the necessities of capitalist profits.

Yet never in the history of the communist revolutionary movement, has the slogan "Workers of the World, Unite!" had such resonance. Never in the history of the world has a billion-strong army of wage workers had the opportunity to reflect on their common existence and build a communist alternative to the wage system, its increasing poverty and intensified exploitation. The production and distribution of *Red Flag* have a key role to play.

*(Future articles will look at the crisis of over-production and the threat of China's growth to US dominance. For a final article we request letters and thoughts especially from industrial workers about the way they think auto production would look after a communist revolution. More broadly, how would transportation be organized?)*

## LET'S MAKE OUR PARTY MASS

The reason that we must join the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) is that every day it is harder to live under the capitalist system. The main reasons that sometimes keep people from joining are fear and anti-communism. We have to dispose of doing everything on our own, of all individualism, racism, selfishness, and nationalism. Not doing so will be sufficient cause to abandon all attempts to join the party, and doom us to perish under capitalism.

The worker, on joining the party without doubt will have some confrontation with their communist way of thinking, against the capitalist way of thinking, thus establishing an internal ideological struggle, that is, a struggle between the two ways of thinking. In this struggle, without doubt communist ideology will dominate, and this will keep the worker constant and active in the struggle for communism.

If on joining the party he or she does not dispose of anticommunism, then that person is not sufficiently convinced, they don't have enough anger to remove all the anticommunist propaganda from their mind. Anticommunism

and fear are two big obstacles to confronting capitalism. Because even being a member of ICWP doesn't conquer anticommunism; they can't be active as they should, and they could even leave the Party.

In the agricultural fields, I have known relatively young workers, my co-workers and friends, many of whom died as victims of capitalism. However in life they never decided to accept communist ideas, only due to their anti-communism and fear of the bosses.

I knew a worker who received a blow on the head with a defective tool during work hours. Because of the blow he spent many years suffering until he died.

Another worker who worked fumigating the grapevines without adequate protection was poisoned and after suffering for several years he died.

Another worker who picked oranges by contract fell off a ladder. He fell to the ground and broke his spine. He spent many years as an invalid until he recently died.

Another after working a nine hour shift by contract, got to the place he lived. He lay down

on the bed to rest and he never woke up; he died there.

None of them received any compensation that I know of from the bosses. And even though some of them knew about communist ideas, because I talked to them about these ideas, none wanted to accept them, much less struggle against capitalism that eventually killed them.

With so much exploitation and so many workers dead and injured like those mentioned, do you need something worse to join ICWP? Come on, come on! Let's get inspired, raise our heads, and join the Party now; look the bosses in the eye; show them that we are not dead nor alone, that we can conquer our fear and our anticommunism, stand up on our two legs, organize ourselves, confront them and defeat them. Because we can organize a workers' revolution, overthrow their decaying capitalist system, and establish a communist society.

Read your revolutionary communist newspaper **Red Flag**.

--Farmer member of ICWP



### Ice Buckets and **Red Flag**

Last week my teenage granddaughter challenged me to dump icewater on my head and give \$10 for ALS research. Silliness aside, this challenge reflects the reality of medical research in a society where profit is primary over human need, and a cure for a disease can only be found if there's money to pay for it. This challenge raised \$80 million from 1.7 million donors last month to fight against a progressive and fatal disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord and for which there is no known cure or effective medicine.

Under capitalism, medical research must get funded, labs set up, staff hired. Getting research grants is a competitive process, so scientists don't collaborate: sharing your results would give the competition an edge. All of this drastically slows down the search for treatment

and cures.

And, of course, when they do find a cure, it will be for sale at a profit.

In a communist society without money, we will mobilize society's resources to collaborate to find a cure for such diseases. Decisions about where resources will be dedicated will be made collectively; with the participation of patients, families, and health care workers. Medicine and medical care will be available to all, based on need rather than ability to pay. Diseases like Ebola, which is a disease of imperialism, will be eliminated. We will live in a healthy environment and make production decisions based on workers' health, not on capitalist profit.

For working people to live healthy lives, we have to get rid of capitalism. But bringing communist ideas to the masses takes funds, to print and mail our paper. And it costs a lot to bring workers from around the world together to build an international Party. But you won't see us on Facebook pouring buckets of ice water over our heads. You'll see us at the factories and bus divisions, at the schools and barracks, distributing **Red Flag**. We hope you will take multiple copies for friends and fellow workers and give a generous donation to ICWP to help us hasten the day when all workers live healthier lives.

—Red Grandmother

### Bring Communist Ideas to the Masses in Motion

In a previous edition of **Red Flag**, a letter en-

titled "The Working Class in History" put forward the view that most workers are anti-capitalist but, because there isn't a mass communist party to lead them, they do their best to stay under the bosses' radar. The author emphasized, correctly, that many workers are open to communist ideas. However, I think the writer got it wrong about workers passively waiting for communist leadership.

The week after we printed that letter, residents of Ferguson, Missouri, defying a curfew, marched in the streets in angry protest over the police murder of Michael Brown. While the protests became more organized in the weeks that followed, they began immediately. Angry working people speak up and fight back—around the world.

In Los Angeles, the cops killed another unarmed black man the following week. Protests followed. Police murder, designed to terrorize, brought forth a collective and angry response.

People are angry. They look for answers. But they don't automatically come to anti-capitalist or communist conclusions. We took **Red Flag** to the protests in Los Angeles, and a sign saying "Don't Pray for Justice; Fight for Communism," People engaged us in conversation, took the paper and gave us their contact information.

Angry people fight back, with or without communist leadership. But without a Marxist analysis and the vision of a communist world, the fight will be a reformist dead-end. Bringing communist ideas to the masses in motion is our job.

—Student of history

## MECHANIST PHILOSOPHY from page 8

Since mechanical forces can cancel each other out, Bukharin said this can happen in a contradiction. "We then have a state of 'rest,' i.e., their actual 'conflict' is concealed." Bukharin applied this idea to the conflict of rival imperialists. He claimed that empires that are equally matched can come to agreements with each other "when there is equality of forces, when victory is beyond belief, when struggle is hopeless."

The example of imperialist rivalry shows that Bukharin was fundamentally wrong about this. The intensity of conflict between empires of

approximately equal strength can be very high, as it was between the US and the USSR in the 1960s, '70s and '80s. Even when they avoid direct military confrontation with each other, imperialists back wars fought by smaller forces that they sponsor. The Soviets did this against the US in Vietnam in the '60s and Egypt in the '70s. The US did the same in Afghanistan in the '80s and in Israel for many decades.

Contradictions between sides which are both strong enough to hold back the other tend to be much more intense than those where one side is

obviously dominant. Georgia did not resist much when the Russians invaded them in 2008, and Brazil did not put up much of a fight against Germany in the world cup.

Because contradictions have both struggle and unity, because the sides reflect each other and penetrate each other, dialectical contradictions are not very similar to combinations of forces in physics. In particular, their sides don't cancel out.

*In our next column, we will see the reactionary consequences of the mechanist philosophy of contradiction in the early political struggles in the USSR.*

## New BRICS bank, attacks on the petrodollar...

# WORKERS NEED NO CURRENCY! LET'S MOBILIZE FOR COMMUNISM!

In July, the 70th anniversary of the founding of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank, an alliance of leaders from Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS), announced the creation of the \$100 billion New Development Bank (NDB).

The BRICS, a group of rising imperialists challenging US imperialism, aim for the NDB to start lending in 2016. It will be headquartered in Shanghai, China, which will provide the largest share of capital. This comes as anger among rival imperialists mounts over the dollar's dominance in lending and trade.

The NDB was formed to compete with the IMF and World Bank, which have controlled international trade since they were created at the Bretton Woods Conference in 1944, when the US, as a result of WWII was becoming the top imperialist power. The conference established the dollar as the world's reserve currency. In the 1970's the US forced OPEC to sell all its oil in dollars, creating the petrodollar and making every country trade in dollars. The BRICS are taking aim at the dollar and petrodollar's reserve currency status.

With the dollar as reserve currency, any country trading internationally had to use it. This gave the US great advantages over its rivals. The world's most important commodities, especially oil, have been priced and traded in dollars, even though most of them are not produced in the US. This has allowed the US Federal Reserve to print money and export inflation to other countries while the Federal Government runs a huge deficit.

### Capitalism makes war inevitable

The NDB is only part of the growing challenge to US hegemony, part of the imperialists' fight to the death for world domination which will result in world war. The next world reserve currency will be decided, as in the past, by murderous world war.

Russia and Iran's attack on the petrodollar, along with declining US market share, have led to more international financial transactions taking place in euros, yen, and yuan, rather than dollars. Iran sells oil in a combination of euros, yuan, yen, gold, and goods. The euro and the dollar have been exchanging the top spot for most international financial transactions since last year.

### US Disciplining of France Backfires

The struggle is sharpening. For example, the US recently levied an unprecedented multi-billion dollar fine against French bank BNP Paribas, for secretly violating US sanctions against Sudan, Cuba and Iran. Christian Noyer, governor of the French National Bank, said that the result of this case will be to encourage "diversification" from the dollar, that it is "inevitable" that "trade between Europe and China does not need to use the dollar and may be read and fully paid in euros or renminbi (yuan)."

This ruling was actually a US attempt to pressure the French government to cancel the delivery of Mistral amphibious warships to Russia, but

it backfired. Instead, the French delivered the ships and have accelerated the movement in Europe toward a multi-polar policy away from the dollar.

Putin's response to US sanctions over the Ukraine has been to sell more Russian-held US treasuries and move away from the dollar, while encouraging transactions among the BRICS to take place in local currencies. Most importantly, Russia has begun selling oil to China in yuan and plans to sell it to Europe in rubles. On August 27, Gazprom sent a huge shipment of oil to China in exchange for yuan.

As the pressure on the dollar accelerates, the US imperialists' position is becoming more desperate. They will ramp up even more their attacks on US and other workers to prepare for wider wars and world war, to defend their declining empire and dollar. They and their capitalist-imperialist rivals will resort to more patriotic appeals for military recruitment and workers' loyalty to slave in their arms factories.

### We Need Communism, Not Currency

Workers around the world have no stake in the crisis-ridden capitalist system heading toward a genocidal world war to decide which imperialist and currency will rule over us. Money was created to mask the bosses' theft of the value produced by workers' labor power, their wage slavery, and to facilitate buying and selling the things workers need to live.

Masses of workers, soldiers and youth must mobilize to turn the bosses' deadly competition and war into a communist revolution. In communism, the masses will mobilize to produce everything we need, nothing will be bought or sold and there will be no wage slavery. We have a world to win by mobilizing to get rid of all currencies and producing only for our needs.



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

## MECHANIST PHILOSOPHY IN THE USSR

This column is the first of several about the development of dialectics in the USSR in the 1920s and '30s. This was a period of intense struggle over the basic principles of dialectics and the application of these principles to politics and economics. In this column and the next one, we will discuss the false philosophy of change called "mechanism" or mechanical materialism.

The part of the science of physics that deals with forces and the changes in motion that forces cause is called "mechanics." Mechanics has specific laws that determine how forces combine. In particular, forces of equal strength that push in opposite directions cancel each other out and cause no change in motion.

### Mechanism

Philosophical mechanism is modeled on some aspects of mechanics. It was advocated in particular by Nicolai Bukharin, an influential Bolshevik leader, who used mechanism to defend his pro-capitalist policies. In the philosophy textbook

that he wrote, Bukharin defined a contradiction as "antagonism of forces acting in different directions." This conception of contradiction leads to very serious errors.

One problem with this definition is that it isn't just forces that can be contradictory. Marx saw that the tendency of the rate of profit to fall is contradicted by a fall in wages, but tendencies and wage cuts are not forces. Not only tendencies, but other things like requirements and ideas, can be the sides of a contradiction. Bukharin also did not explain what antagonism is and how it differs from contradiction.

### Unity of Opposites is Critical

The main problem, however, is that Bukharin said nothing about how the sides of a contradiction are connected. Dialectical contradictions combine both struggle and unity of opposites. Opposites have a connection of mutual dependence, called an "organic relation." Bukharin denied that any organic relation was neces-

sary, but the unity of a contradiction is in fact essential.

One important kind of connection of opposites is each side coming to mirror its opposite. In a soccer game, each team tries to undermine its opponent's strengths and overcome its own weaknesses. Against an opponent with a star striker, a team may assign several midfielders to mark him or her. Against another opponent, it will organize its players differently. Each side is partly determined by its opposite.

Opposites can also get inside each other. Since the bosses know that they can't prevent workers from fighting back, they use their laws, the media, bribery, etc., to try to give pro-boss leadership to workers' struggles and weaken them. Opposites penetrate each other. This is a fundamental fact of dialectics which is ignored by mechanists.

**See MECHANIST PHILOSOPHY, page 7**