

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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



Workers, Students Join Mexico "Teacher Insurrection": **NEED COMMUNIST VISION**

MEXICO, Sept. 4—More than fifty thousand teachers from the National Union of Education Workers (CNTE) have been encamped in the Zócalo (Mexico City's main plaza) for days. Every day they march through the streets of Mexico City.

The teachers' main demand has been against the Law of Professional Teacher Service (Education Reform). Last Sunday, Sept. 1st, Congress approved the law, which imposes punitive evaluations: If teachers do not approve this, they will be removed from their job!

Teachers have come from Oax-

aca, Michoacan, Guerrero, Puebla, Veracruz, Guanajuato, Jalisco, Chiapas, the State of Mexico, Mexico City, and elsewhere. They, along with tens of thousands of youth and workers, have converted the city into a battlefield where they face thousands of riot and mounted police.

This reform is an attack on the teachers and the whole working class. This law gives all the power to the government to evaluate, hire and fire teachers. It creates the curriculum deemed necessary for the needs of productive national and interna-

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A Week of Business-Labor War: **THE KEY IS REVOLUTION, NOT REFORM**

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, August 29 — Throw a stone here this week and you'll hit a picket line or rally. Labor activity reached a crescendo on Thursday, highlighting what the *Seattle Times* called a "summer of labor discontent."

Teachers rejected the school district's contract offer and held rallies at major crossroads all over the city. Farmworkers picketed local markets like Red Apple and Trader Joe's that carry scab Sakuma Bros. berries during their month-and-a-half-long strike. Low-wage fast-

food workers rallied downtown and at various restaurants to "Strike Poverty."

Non-union farm and fast-food workers led two out of the three labor actions. The teachers' union quickly went back to the negotiating table to get a tentative agreement to rein in the rank-and-file (see page 4).

Most importantly, hundreds have taken and read *Red Flag*. We're about to distribute every paper in the city.

The Seattle media and University of Washington historians are

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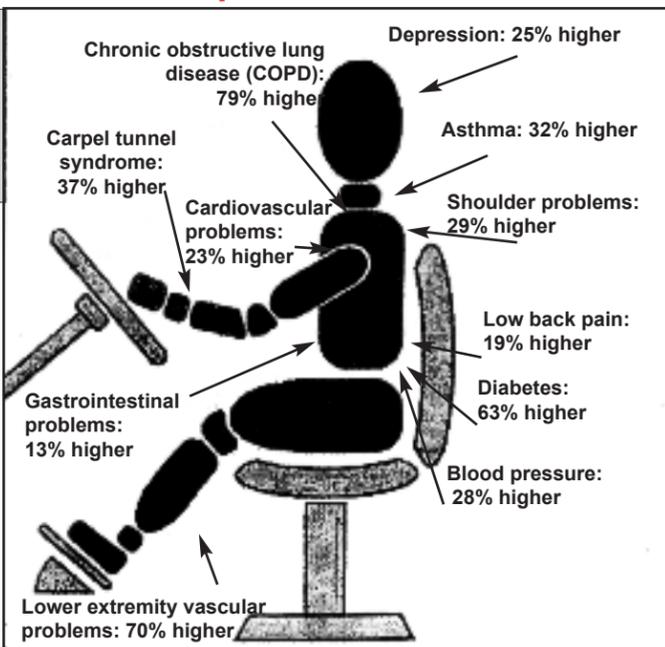
Communist Collective Work: **CURE FOR MTA KILLER STRESS**

"Job related stress," commented an operator on hearing of the death from a heart attack of a 54 year-old MTA Division Three operator with 32 years of service. "Most operators don't get to be 60, and those who do are riddled with many serious illnesses. The few lucky to retire after 60 don't live very long."

A study by the Southern California Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health corroborates this worker's assertions. It found that jobs in the transportation sector topped the list of occupations in California with the highest number of fatalities. It also concluded that transit work is one of the top jobs with a 120 percent above the average rate for contracting nine chronic diseases such as low back pain, asthma, depression and diabetes.

The results of the study were posted on the website of the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) in an article titled: "Driving a Bus is Hazardous to Your Health."

Recently also ATU Local 572 in Portland, Oregon, published an "Open letter to Our Trimet Passengers and Community." Trimet blamed its financial troubles on its transit workers' health insurance costs to justify raising



Driving a Bus is Dangerous to Your Health (The % are compared to the US national average)

fares.

The letter (see page 3) argues that transit workers' health insurance costs more "because we need medical treatment more often. Countless studies have found that the transit worker's job is more stressful and physically

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SYRIA CRISIS: ONLY COMMUNISM WILL END IMPERIALIST BLOODBATH
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Religion, Repression, Reform Won't Stop Class Struggle

SOLDIERS, WORKERS MUST LEAD MASSES TOWARD COMMUNISM

Five hundred industrial workers from Nepal, Pakistan, India and Bangladesh went on strike against the Awal Gulf Company in repressive Bahrain on August 24, responding to a co-worker's suicide.

They join an upsurge that includes general strikes this year in Colombia, Portugal, Tunisia, Turkey, Greece (four times), Poland (first in 30 years), England (first in 90 years), many cities in India and elsewhere.

Most workers and soldiers don't realize how much the capitalist-imperialist bosses fear us. If we did, we'd see the possibility and need, in this period of sharpening inter-imperialist rivalry and class struggle, for communist workers' power!

EGYPT: INSUBORDINATION IN THE RANKS?

The ruling generals have organized Muslim clerics to tell soldiers they have a religious duty to obey orders. This "is a signal that the generals are worried about insubordination ... because the ranks of both the army and the riot police are made up mainly of hundreds of thousands of conscripts," many of whom lost relatives among the 1100 or more killed last month. (*NYTimes*, 8/26/13)

Some conscripts must know workers in the Mahalla textile plant, where Army tanks rolled into the factory to intimidate strikers. Or sit-down strikers at Suez Steel, attacked by Army forces on August 13, or workers at Scimitar Petroleum, whose strike was suppressed on August 17.

One trade-union official said that the military "claimed that we were *feloul* (Mubarak loyalists,) then they claimed we were communists. In reality we are non-affiliated workers. We are not *feloul*, communists, or members of the Brotherhood."

One day, many brave Egyptian workers and soldiers WILL become communists. They will sweep union officials like these away along with the capitalist generals and their lying clerics.

Rank-and-file soldiers will turn their weapons around, joining rebellious industrial workers and recruiting dissident doctors, teachers, and other government workers who marched against General Sisi and have now turned against the Muslim Brotherhood too.

The key element missing is an International Communist Workers' Party,



COLOMBIA: GENERAL STRIKE

Miners, coffee and dairy and potato farmers, and truckers began a nationwide strike on August 19. Tens of thousands shut down major highways surrounding Bogotá and fought riot police, costing the bosses' economy over \$1 billion. They have exposed how free trade agreements with the United States and the European Union are de-

stroying the masses' lives.

Their march in Bogotá culminated in the largest demonstration Colombia has ever seen. Cacao workers, metro workers, healthcare workers, grade-school and university students, their teachers and others joined the strike.

President Santos first lied that the strike didn't exist. Then he offered reforms, which the farmers rejected. Then, after tens of thousands marched in Bogotá, he sent over 100,000 troops to occupy the city and re-take the highways.

Wealthy Colombians buy their way out of the "universal" male draft. The deployed troops are mostly from poor families. Half of the draftees refuse to serve. About 1,800 desert each year.

Meanwhile, armed Colombian resistance groups (FARC and ELN) are negotiating peace with the Santos government. They abandoned their communist roots long ago, choosing to become capitalists instead (mainly in cocaine).

The present crisis in Colombia shows the urgency of getting *Red Flag* into the hands of workers and soldiers there, who can then mobilize the masses for real communism.

USA: BOSSES PUSH REFORM TO PREVENT REVOLUTION

Many think the US rulers have no reason to fear the masses. Haven't they destroyed class consciousness with their onslaught of patriotism, racism, sexism, and consumer culture? Haven't they created an atmosphere of terror backed by a "national security state" that puts previous fascist regimes to shame?

But the Trayvon Martin protests are the latest reminder that US capitalism-imperialism can't take its workers and soldiers for granted. That's why their mouthpiece *The New York Times* published an editorial (8/31) supporting a \$15 minimum wage and other reforms. This, after applauding a \$14 starting salary for new hires in Detroit automobile factories a few years ago!

Thousands of fast-food workers in 60 cities joined organizers from the Service Employees International Union on August 29 to "fight for \$15." (See page 4). Many of these low-wage workers (or their children) are the same young adults that the US military will need in coming wars – if not Syria or Iran soon, then surely China later. They hope to win the loyalty of future soldiers and their families.

We must win these soldiers – and those in capitalist armies everywhere – to mobilize the masses for communism. We must turn the bosses' World War III into revolution for workers' power.

The *NY Times* wants "protections for undocumented workers that would limit exploitation" and a "growing share of rising labor productivity flow[ing] to workers." These bosses fear that we'll fight to END exploitation and for the collective use of ALL the products of our labor. And we will!

Spread the class struggle far and wide through



Soldier: Don't Bite the Hand that Feeds You!

Colombia teacher says: "Fight for a different society"

"Everybody I know wants to fight for a different society. We are no longer satisfied with small changes," said a teacher who reads *Red Flag*. She and two of her high school students joined the massive demonstrations.

"When you say a different society, do you mean a communist society where there are no bosses and the working class shares everything it produces?" we asked.

"In Colombia we are taught lies about communism with examples of Hugo Chavez and Fidel Castro," she replied, "but people are waking up. At my job, at home with my children, friends and neighbors I constantly talk about how workers are fighting back in Brazil, Egypt, and Turkey. Reading *Red Flag* has given me hope and confidence. I want to know how education will be under communism."

This question is crucial in building a mass communist society. Education developed in class society along with the contradiction between social production and private ownership of the products. Capitalist education produces many future wage-slaves and also a few trained to manage and justify capitalism for capitalist bosses.

Communist society will be organized to meet the needs of the international working class. Everybody will participate in productive activity according to their ability and commitment. The struggle to build this society will be the foundation of communist knowledge.

By eliminating exploitation and its division between mental and manual labor, we will unleash the creative potential of the working class. Learning will be a lifelong process, as nobody will do the same task all their life.

To build such a society, many readers like the teacher in Colombia must distribute *Red Flag* massively and join our party. We must struggle to win working-class youth in the army to fight for communist revolution.

increased distribution of *Red Flag*! Organize your co-workers and fellow soldiers, classmates and family, to respond to every attack on our class with bold action against capitalist exploitation and for a communist world.



JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY (ICWP)
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Teachers are Wage-Slaves, too

NEED TO BREAK CHAINS OF CAPITALIST EDUCATION

Flash: Tuesday night, in a raucous meeting, over 45% of the teachers voted against the contract and to strike. The leadership railroaded the contract down the angry teachers' throats despite demands for an accurate count instead of a voice vote. ICWP passed out a leaflet titled "Strike Against Capitalist Education Reform." More next issue.

The vote was part of a song and dance production that the bosses and the union have well rehearsed. Issues like lengthening the day for elementary teachers with no increase in pay were moved to the second year of the contract. Workload limits for support services were not set. A 2.5% raise is a joke no one is laughing about. A few more dollars for much-needed training and continuing education thrown in to sweeten the pot, etc.

As the bosses' capitalist system continues to spiral downward, it drags the working class along with it. The farmworkers and fast food workers who have made the news these past weeks are already at the bottom. They don't have much to lose.

For many years, teachers and others like them

who have college degrees and/or years of specialized training, used to think that we held a special position in society. Lately, it has become clear that this is no longer true. Longer hours, less pay, higher workloads, constant evaluations that serve to harass and eliminate, etc. are an everyday reality.

But, we said, we are unionized. We have a contract. We negotiate the terms of the agreement. We vote! But really, all we negotiate and vote for now is how much we are willing to lose in order to keep our jobs. This is the role of the union contract... To accept the terms of our wage slavery.

More importantly, we have convinced ourselves that we are voting to improve education for



our students. confines of capitalist education. As long as we have a system that is based on making profits off the labor of working people we will never be able to do away with racism, sexism and poverty and war. Exploitation is absolutely necessary for capitalism to survive. Our students will go forth into the future with only the skills to maintain this horrible system unless we teach them how to destroy it and create a world where science, arts, and technology will not be used to make money for a few.

Smaller class size, better materials, access to technology, less standardized testing, etc. mean nothing within the

Members and friends of the ICWP all over the world are involved in similar struggle. Many are on the frontlines at this moment in Mexico and Central America, especially educators. (See page 1) We have many discussion groups and events that reach out to our fellow education workers, students and parents to talk about what we envision communist education will look like. Please contact us to participate. We have a world to win!



ICWP BRINGS COMMUNIST IDEAS TO FAST FOOD STRIKE, SEE PAGE 4

MTA STRESS from page 1 capitalism's curse of "work (be exploited) or starve!"

damaging than almost every other job."

These studies, however, have also concluded that the "vast majority of these [work-related injuries and illnesses] can and should be prevented." What are these fearless ATU union "leaders" doing about this?

The International Union didn't utter a peep about a solution. The Portland local also proposed no solutions, but was eager to help Trimet's finances at the expense of its union members, accepting that "we are going to have to shoulder more of our health care burden created by our jobs."

Trade Unions – led by these traitors or honest officials – can't solve these problems

Only communist revolution can solve our problems permanently because capitalism's wage slavery is their root cause. Under capitalism we are wage slaves performing a job that creates profits for the capitalists.

That job is the only means of survival and wellbeing for us and our families. Losing our jobs is a major catastrophe. This puts tremendous pressure on all of us to try to obey all rules and regulations.

Under communism we won't have jobs, just creative useful work. There won't be any wages or threats about losing one's work. Everyone will be provided the basic necessities of life even if they can't, or refuse to, work. That is the only way of eliminating forever the stress created by

The secondary causes of stress – also caused by capitalism – will also be eliminated. Communism will have good free mass transportation for everyone. In the US, this means eliminating about 200 million automobiles and many of the 54 million trucks registered in 2012. This will eliminate congested, dangerous streets and roads, on which 33,000 people are killed yearly.

We will therefore have less stress and a more enjoyable work environment. Interacting with the public will be stress-free. It will be based on communist social relations of respect and comradeship which will flourish by eliminating the economic stress that engenders most, if not all, of people's antisocial behavior.

Also, no one will be expected to drive a bus or train all day, five days or more a week. Millions will be mobilized to participate in developing the technology and social arrangements to plan, build and operate a mass transportation system that will require the least driving.

Under communism, everyone will have the best health care that society can provide. The emphasis will be on prevention, not just curing. For example, mass transportation will eliminate the toxic pollution of capitalism's profit-oriented automotive industry which, besides destroying the environment, causes yearly 18,000 premature deaths in California, over 1.3 million worldwide.

No union contract, no matter how "good," could ever solve MTA operators' health issues,

ATU Local 572 letter said:

"Stress is the number one cause of major health problems for transit workers and is linked directly to obesity and heart disease. The second cause is one that may surprise people—no opportunity to use the restroom. Computerized transit schedules leave operators with little or no time for breaks. How do we cope? Two ways: We "hold it" for hours, and we keep ourselves dehydrated—often drinking nothing in a 14-hour stretch. Daily "holding it" and voluntary dehydration damage our internal organs, causing catastrophic long-term effects on our health.

"Being confined to the driver's seat for long hours is the third major cause of illness and injury. That immobility, as well as constant road vibration, has been linked to a wide range of chronic health conditions."

They have identified the problems but have no solutions

much less stop capitalism's genocidal attacks against the world's workers and the environment. Only communism can.

Understanding that we are in a life and death struggle against capitalism should motivate us to organize a political strike to inspire millions, who are also struggling against this racist murderous system, to see the way forward: to fight for a communist world. Join ICWP, spread *Red Flag* and organize readers' groups to make this a reality.

MEXICO TEACHERS

from page 1

tional capital, especially US imperialism. The capitalists need greater control of the working class in their fight for markets and raw materials, and for their coming war.

The education, labor and energy reforms (privatizing Pemex) are part of the US and Mexican rulers' plans to prepare to confront China economically and eventually militarily in WWII. The US imperialists and their Mexican allies need skilled and loyal Mexican workers and soldiers to produce and fight for them for low wages. For that, they need greater political, ideological control, and police and military control, to ensure the exploitation of workers' labor power and their loyalty to capitalism-imperialism and to prevent their rebellion.

But the working class is in motion, from the teachers to the community patrols. President Peña Nieto and his government gave their report, virtually under siege, protected by thousands of riot police. Are these the beginnings of insurrection or civil war? We don't know, but what is certain is



that the masses are fed up with capitalism and open to communist ideas.

Workers' Solidarity

Workers immediately showed their solidarity. Thousands come to the teachers' encampment every day to bring food, medicine, water, clothes, money and, most important, to show solidarity as class brothers and sisters.

"Aid is coming from some states, towns, UNAM students and the social organizations. Some come on bicycles, others in trucks full of aid," said a teacher.

Other groups of thousands of workers, like those in the Electricians Union, and members of "In Defense of Oil" have also taken to the streets, in solidarity with the teachers and for their own demands, creating a mass mobilization of workers. They have demonstrated in front of Congress, the Presidential House, the Interior Ministry, and the rabidly anti-worker television stations like Televisa and TV Azteca.

Today, the CNTE has convened a "Teacher Insurrection" in civil and peaceful disobedience, throughout the whole country, in the streets, plazas, and classrooms.

Taking Communist Ideas to the Teachers

On Saturday, August 31st, some ICWP comrades visited the teachers' encampment in the Zócalo.

The teachers there were worried about the threat of eviction and the imminent approval of the education reform law.

Teachers from Section 10 in Mexico City were meeting, asking for more participation. However, in spite of all the anger and proposals for more struggle, they did not say that this struggle should be to eliminate exploitation, that is the capitalist wage system.

When we asked them to read *Red Flag*,

We had good talks with young union staff workers, who were the majority of the people at the demonstration. We pointed out that the focus of the rally was not class struggle, but giving speeches for TV. We said that workers shouldn't beg for crumbs, but fight to run society, getting rid of money and wages and organizing a communist world where production would be for need, not for profit.

The staff workers we talked to are recent college graduates who got jobs with the union because they care about social justice. Many of them agreed that workers need to fight back,

ment politicians who just got beat by angry workers? A good start!"

Finish What We Start

We should have no illusion that militant reform is enough. This same capitalist crisis has broken the traditional alliances among imperialists, making the world a more dangerous place. As the capitalist system teeters, the bosses turn on each other like the cornered rats they are.

The only way out is to mobilize the masses for communism. Unions and community groups propose better laws. Laws aren't the answer and only divert us from the solution.

We need to eliminate wage slavery altogether, and with it production for sale and profit. Collective production for need is the answer.

The Seattle Education Association talks about better school reform. We don't need better capitalist education. We need to smash capitalist education and the isolation of classrooms. We need communist education centered on work and the working class.

We have to take this fight to our industrial concentration at Boeing. Many readers in the plants are inspired by these actions, but the labor leaders work overtime separating us from our natural al-

they all took it. Some gave a donation, although the majority did not, since they have serious economic problems. Some read it with great interest.

Capitalist ideology dominates, even in the minds of many of these workers. Nationalism clouds the reality of opposing social classes (workers and bosses) and makes people believe that we need to defend the nation, where the riches really belong to the capitalists, and democracy, which really is capitalist political domination, etc.

Even if the attacks on teachers are stopped and education is "improved," it's still education to meet the needs of capitalism. We need to destroy capitalism, its education, exploitation and its banks. The need to build a communist society based on meeting the needs of the international working class and not on profits is more urgent than ever.

A new vision of communist education which breaks down the division of mental and manual labor in service to the international working class is an important part of the communist vision we put forward to these teachers.

This mass mobilization is a great opportunity to meet teachers and workers from different parts of the country, and to establish a communist political relationship with them. It is also a big opportunity to mobilize our base among teachers and students to participate in these activities with our newspaper *Red Flag* and to organize ICWP study groups.

More and more, a change is required in the ideology in the current protests. *Red Flag* is putting in its grain of sand. Much more is needed to build communist class consciousness against the wage system. We invite the teachers and the rest of the working class to join us in the struggle for communist revolution!

rather than beg the legislature for nickels and dimes. We'll keep struggling with them, as well as our fellow students and fast-food workers, to join us to fight to abolish wage slavery, rather than begging for crumbs.



lies.

The International Association of Mechanics is straining to keep us in the confines of company-based trade-union negotiations. We have to prepare for political strikes by reacting to each and every attempt of the masses to fight against this system of poverty.

Both Seattle mayoral candidates are also trying to win votes by getting on the bandwagon, but when push comes to shove, they both back down.

"The last thing we need [is] a business-labor war," said the frontrunner Murray.

There is already a "business-labor war." We need to mobilize for communist revolution in order to win it!

Fast Food Workers:

ABOLISH THE WAGE SYSTEM

LOS ANGELES, August 29--ICWP members, one of them a fast-food worker, brought our communist ideas to a mobilization at a fast-food restaurant. Fast-food workers around the country have been hitting the sidewalks in protest against their extreme exploitation. The Service Employees International Union has tried to control this anger, focusing on lobbying the legislature for a higher minimum wage.

CLASS WAR IN SEATTLE,

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portraying this labor discontent as a temporary local phenomenon. They frame it in the context of trade union politics in front-page Labor Day articles and "expert" commentary.

"The current movement on behalf of low-wage workers echoes Seattle's past as a hub of labor activism," said James Gregory, a UW history professor. "Unions want ... these living-wage campaigns to turn [their declining] fortunes around."

That may be what union officials want. But the mass anger among low-wage workers echoes the movement of tens of millions who have hit the streets from Brazil to Bangladesh to fight the capitalist crisis. The masses are straining to break the confines of trade-union reform, rejecting labor leaders and taking the fight directly to the bosses' state.

The picture in *Red Flag* of Mexican teachers attacking government offices was particularly popular with workers at picket lines, strike-vote meetings and rallies. One retired hospital worker said, "What do you call three govern-

Fifty Years of Marching Against Racism:

COMMUNISM WILL BUILD SOCIAL EQUALITY

Fifty years ago, over 250,000 people marched on Washington, DC.

Decades of struggle against racism led to this march. Hundreds of thousands of people, mostly black workers, had faced racist police and vigilante attacks. Some participants saw the march as part of a movement for revolutionary change.

But the Kennedy Administration promised to support voting rights if the heads of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference promised not to shut down Washington DC with mass civil disobedience. The government pressured civil rights leaders, including Martin Luther King, to tone down the speeches, remove talk about revolution and instead to make it about passing laws to strengthen US democracy. They feared a mass revolutionary movement. Many grass roots activists, including Malcolm X, called the march a sellout.

Tens of thousands of workers and youth marched in Washington DC again this

year for the 50th anniversary of the 1963 March. Many were there to march against the Trayvon Martin verdict, the racist police murder of 18-year-old artist Israel Hernandez in Florida, racist profiling, attacks on Detroit workers, and for jobs.

The families of Emmett Till and Trayvon Martin shared the stage: for 60 years, racist terror has dominated US capitalism-imperialism. Marchers are seeking a solution to the attacks and crises of racist capitalism. They are open to communist revolution.

But speakers offered them the illusion of reforming the system. Obama, Carter, Clinton and others praised MLK, pacifism and reform to mask their real message: an attack on the best of the civil rights movement. Obama attacked demonstrations against police terror and the ghetto re-

bellions that rocked all major US cities in the mid-1960s. These rebellions terrified the bosses and forced them to make temporary concessions.

These speakers urged peaceful struggle for voting-rights laws, a higher minimum wage, against “stand your ground,” and for immigration reform. At that very moment, Obama was making plans to bomb Syria.

Showing their fear of the angry masses, DC security guards grabbed signs about Trayvon and the racist system out of some peoples’ hands. But



The 1967 Detroit rebellion, shown above, rocked the US bosses’ system. The 82nd Airborn was diverted from Vietnam to occupy the city.

others carried them. Brand-new fences divided workers from each other.

Speakers praised the “progress” made since 1963 by peaceful reform. But official unemployment for black workers today is 12.6 % (7.4% overall) and 42% for black youth. In 1963, unemployment for black people was officially 10.8% (5.7% overall).

In 1970, there were 196,000 people in state and federal prisons. Today it’s 2.4 million, over 70% black and latino. Lynching continues—look at the acquittal of Trayvon Martin’s killer.

Capitalism requires racism.

Racist practices and ideas divide the working class and super-exploit some more than others. Despite courageous mass struggles against racism, the capitalist crisis has sharpened racist

attacks.

Racism can’t end while capitalism-imperialism is left in place. The angry masses mobilizing against these attacks need to mobilize for communist revolution to destroy racist capitalism. They need to spread *Red Flag* and to join ICWP.

Ending the wage and profit system will eliminate the material basis of racism.

Communist society will free the whole working class to live, work and produce collectively to meet our needs—with no bosses, money or exploitation. There won’t be segregated living and working, as we all learn from and depend on each other to build a communist world. Each person will develop his or her full potential in a society based on communist social relations of respect, equality, and comradeship.

We will develop millions of communist leaders who will mobilize many, many more to struggle against racism, sexism, individualism, and other poisonous capitalist ideas and

practices. Communist social relations, production and mobilization – not laws — will guarantee that racism is eliminated.

History shows that fighting for “better laws” against racism doesn’t bring us closer to the communist society we need. Instead, it diverts us from revolution. It ties us to the system that both exploits us and tries to get the victims of racism to fight patriotically for the US Empire.

However, masses angry at the racism built into capitalism are rising up today from the US to Colombia. When more participate with *Red Flag* to show that only communism will meet our needs, none of the bosses’ politicians, maneuvers, or attacks will stop masses of workers, soldiers and youth from mobilizing for communism.

Capitalist Education vs. Communist Education:

STUDY AND LEARN TO MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM NOW!

Under capitalism, we are educated to be part of this exploitative system. The schools and universities prepare us for professions or jobs that reproduce the social, political, and economic relations that are necessary to maintain the power of the capitalist class. In these “institutions of learning,” the ideologies of nationalism, patriotism and democracy are taught with the aim of winning the students’ loyalty.

“Go to school and be somebody,” and “study so you can succeed,” we are told. They try to convince us that in order to escape from poverty we have to study and learn everything they try to teach us. If we don’t, we’re failures. Capitalism instills this in us, but we don’t need it.

“I don’t think it’s fair that a doctor and a garment worker receive the same amount of money. What’s going to motivate the doctor?” asked a student. Indeed, capitalism reproduces these divisions that justify one individual being worth more than another and they use education and money to do it.

With communism, money and the profession of doctor, just like all other professions, will disappear. From an early age, people will have a wide understanding of health and medicine. This process will be deepened throughout one’s life. Those that cure will also contribute in other spheres of production and distribution needed to

maintain a collective society. The health and well being of the collective will be the motivation for all.

“I want to be a veterinarian and I do not think that I will become part of a system of exploitation,” said another student. Under capitalism the care of animals requires an exchange of money. The veterinarian is paid to take care of animals; for the most part it’s done for a capitalist business whose sole interest is making profit. In comparison, with communism, the health of animals will be guaranteed for the well-being of the collective community.

We have to study and learn many things, not to become defenders of the capitalist system, but to learn how to mobilize the masses for communism.

But how can we study and learn to do this? Things are learned by doing them. In the struggle for a different world, a world where everything is shared and everyone contributes however they can, we will learn many things that will be used for and by the communist collective.

What can we do in the present moment?

We should learn languages to communicate, in all languages possible, the necessity of mobilizing the masses for communism. We advocate for the control the means of production where the factories, the land and the machines, all of indus-

try and agriculture, will be in the control of worker committees, organized in a mass communist party. These communist workers’ committees will make all decisions and elaborate on and carry out all of the necessary plans, not only in production and distribution, but also in culture and art.

We need to learn how to read and write critically so we can explain how the capitalist crisis leads to fascism and world war. We also have to learn to analyze how the masses all around the world are mobilized and are rebelling against the capitalist crisis. We need to effectively show that the only alternative to capitalism’s horrors is to mobilize the masses for communism.

We also have to learn aspects of science and mathematics so that we may use them to satisfy the needs of the working class and not to satisfy the profits of the capitalist.

We have to study and learn from all of the subjects, learning the lessons that will help our efforts in mobilizing the masses for communism.

But most importantly, we must write, study and evaluate *Red Flag* and distribute it as widely as possible in the schools, the factories, and the barracks. We need to organize study-action groups around *Red Flag* in all possible places. Let *Red Flag* be a tool for mass education and communist mobilization.

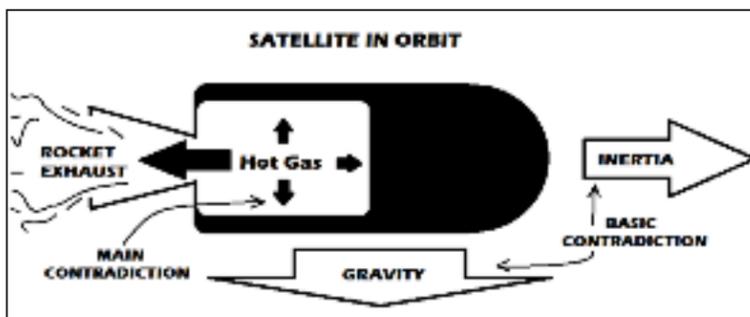
“Without revolutionary theory there can be no revolutionary movement.” Lenin, *What Is To Be Done*

APPLYING DIALECTICS TO THE NEW MASS MOVEMENTS

Recent issues of *Red Flag* have featured reports on mass protest movements in many places like South Africa, Brazil, Greece and Egypt, and the demonstrations about Trayvon Martin, just to name a few. The rise of these movements is an exciting new development that provides new opportunities for winning masses to communist ideas, but does this new activism change the course of history?

To answer this question we can use concepts from communist dialectics. Dialectics says that it is the conflicts (or contradictions) in things that make them change, and that some contradictions are more important than others in determining how things change. The conflict that has the biggest effect on a process at some particular time is called its “main contradiction” at that time. For example, when a rocket engine is started, the main contradiction is between the expanding gases from the burning fuel and the metal container that surrounds the hot gas. The expanding gas relieves this contradiction by escaping out the tail of the rocket and driving it forward.

The main contradiction is not the only contradiction in a process, however, and other contradictions have effects, some small and some large. For example, earth satellites often have small rocket engines to move them from one orbit to another. When the rocket isn’t turned on, the main contradiction that determines how the satellite moves is the conflict between gravity that pulls it down and inertia that tends to keep in going in a straight line. When the rocket engine is turned on, the main contradiction shifts to the expanding gas that is prevented from escaping anywhere but out the back of the engine. The contradiction between gravity and inertia is basic in any moving object, that is, always present and always having some effect. This contradiction is only the main contradiction when the rocket engine is not in use.



The main contradiction that has been driving world history for many decades has been the rivalry between the big capitalist powers, each trying to dominate as much of the labor, markets and resources of the world as it can. This network of contradictions has led to two world wars in the last century and many smaller ones recently.

Capitalism always has contradictions between workers and capitalists. Exploitation of workers by capitalists is the heart of capitalism, and always provokes some degree of resistance by workers. This worker-capitalist contradiction is basic, that is, part of what makes capitalism capitalism. Imperialist rivalry is also a basic contradiction of capitalism that has developed to the imperialist stage, a stage that exists now and has for a long time.

Although the basic worker-boss contradiction always exists and always produces some effects, like strikes and protests, it isn’t always the contradiction with the biggest effects, that is, the main contradiction. In fact, this basic contradiction isn’t the main contradiction throughout most of the history of capitalism, but will become the main contradiction when the revolutionary movement is strong enough that overthrow of capitalism will happen soon.

Contradictions among imperialist bosses and between workers and bosses are not independent of one another. The wars that resulted from contradictions between bosses in the 20th century weakened the Russian and Chinese rulers enough so that workers’ revolutions were able to win there. The recent mass movements in many

places have created more intense contradictions between workers and bosses there. They have forced bosses to make some concessions to try to prevent the movement from becoming a challenge to the whole system. In Brazil bosses took back bus fare hikes and president Rouseff announced half price movie tickets for people from 15 to 29, but fares are still very high compared to Brazilian wages.

The fact that these reform gains are very modest does not mean that the movements are not important. The bosses’ economic crisis has caused mass misery and angry masses are responding, demonstrating their potential for collective power and organization, a lesson that millions are learning. Intensifying worker-boss contradictions lead more people to look beyond reform and oppose capitalism. This is a very important opportunity to build the communist movement. In Brazil, for example, some people distributed *Red Flag* and an ICWP leaflet during the demonstrations.

Until mass movements challenge the capitalist system directly and fight for communism, the contradiction with the biggest effects will remain the rivalry of capitalist powers with each other, not with the working class. That basic contradiction will only become the main one when the masses are won over to communist ideas and fight under the leadership of a communist party.

In some places industrial workers have played key roles in the mass movements, including aerospace workers in Brazil, textile workers in Egypt and miners in South Africa. These developments confirm the ICWP’s outlook that the industrial working class is the key to mass mobilization for communism. They also challenge us to use our resources, and especially our paper *Red Flag*, to reach masses of workers and give them the ideas that they need to fight for communism and win. Now is the time to make a big increase in the circulation of *Red Flag*, and help make the basic worker-boss contradiction the main one.

LETTERS

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CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

Can we make revolution without world war?

Last week’s *Red Flag* said that we “expect to build communist society from the ashes of capitalist destruction, probably a world war.” A study group this summer discussed this question. Do we think that world war is a necessary precondition for successful communist revolution?

Lenin said that a revolutionary situation exists: 1) when the ruling class can’t rule in the old way and the crisis forces the ruling class to fight amongst themselves. 2) when the working class masses can’t live in the old way. 3) when working class is ready to fight, exhibiting tenacity, self-sacrifice and heroism. 4) when a revolutionary party steered in theory and practice exists with unbreakable ties to the working class. How important is world war in creating this situation? We looked at a couple of examples.

One is El Salvador in the 1980s. Was a revolution possible? If there had been a communist party with a revolutionary perspective with ties to the masses and work in the military, what would have happened? Would the imperialists have crushed a revolution? Did the sell-out leaders realize they were in a no-win situation faced with US imperialism, and get out

of it the best way they could? Would it have been possible to spread the revolution throughout Central America and Mexico? Would that have strengthened the revolutionary forces? What would we have done in that situation?

Another is the current situation in Egypt. What would make it a revolutionary situation? Would it be possible, with a mass party with a base in the working class and in the military, to take power? Soldiers refused to attack people in Tahrir Square two years ago. What if they had refused to follow orders this summer? What if they had been organized by a party with a vision of a communist society, in alliance with the masses of workers who were also organized to fight for that vision? Wouldn’t that make a communist revolution possible, whether or not there was a world war going on?

We know that world war makes governing more difficult for the ruling class, intensifying the contradictions, making survival impossible for masses of working people, and pushing soldiers to question why they are fighting. Is world war also necessary for a revolution to succeed because it weakens the rulers’ ability to crush it?

We’re living in difficult times. The ruling class can’t control us as they used to be able to; the workers are showing that they refuse to live in the old way. Out of that, assuming that we had built a strong enough party to seize that opportunity, should we wait for war to start a revolution? We think not.

—Seattle Summer Project Participants

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Guerrero: Armed Workers' Self-Defense

MEXICO—Men and women workers of many towns in 16 states of the country have organized community patrols armed to defend themselves from the drug traffickers, municipal police and rulers. But there is also a feeling of rebellion against poverty and repression, in essence, against capitalism.

A few weeks ago, a dozen members of the Regional Coordinating Committee of Community Authorities-Community Patrols (CRAC-PC) tried to force the municipal police in Tixtla, Guerrero to release the coordinator of their group in Olinalá.

In the town of Ayutla de los Libres, 800 people showed their strength by taking over the municipal offices of the town and marching on the Tierra Colorada road to Cruz Grande to release Bernardino Garcia and 22 other community patrol members. During this takeover, several municipal police were dealt with forcefully for opposing the demonstrators.

These community patrols have been arrested with the lie that the government of Guerrero received a judicial order for their arrest for supposedly having participated in the kidnapping of 6



people.

The senior command of the army and navy, together with the Governor, Angel Aguirre Rivero, are carrying out military exercises in the indigenous zone of the mountainous coast against any armed movement that arises.

The rulers and owners of the tourist resorts of Guerrero only care that their economy functions profitably. They have forced many people to depend for their subsistence on crafts. They see the whole region, as all the bosses see the

whole world, as a great source of wealth where they can plunder and rob right and left. The community lands function for the export market and not for the consumption of those living there, just like fishing.

Due to this exploitation and the lack of resources to survive, the people of Guerrero have become export commodities, immigrating to the US, taking the first place of all the states in Mexico in the number of émigrés.

The unity between soldier, worker, farmworker and student is key to destroying this capita-

list system and building a new communist society, where we will not have to immigrate to other countries, nor be subjected to the vilest exploitation.

The bosses and the government are terrified that we poor are armed with rifles, and they would shake even more if we were organized into an international communist party, ICWP, and with the ideas of taking power to build a communist society.

--Comrade from Mexico (or something)

Waking up to a Red Dawn

In El Salvador we are living in an electoral environment. The market of hypocritical promises has returned. There are three parties, three candidates, and the result will be the same: to maintain capitalism. The party of the "left" that claims to be the champion of workers' struggles really has the project of having economic power. They openly say they support private enterprise. I think, in my words, that they believe in "social capitalism;" yes, if you laugh or get outraged, it's ok. I laughed.

The situation seems to be sharpening. This has provoked the reality clock to tick in every corner of this country. Little by little the masses are realizing that elections will never bring the solution to this reality in which we live: the problems will continue to be those of this rotten system: hunger, injustice, oppression.

An important fact is that the politicians hoped that for the coming presidential elections in February of 2014, approximately 323 thousand young people would register, of whom only 222 thousand actually came. This shows that the youth don't believe in elections as a solution to their problems. With those with whom I have contact, it is related to a sleepiness imposed by the system. But now they are waking up to a red dawn.

One more thing. A few days ago, talking with one of the deputies of the party of the "left," about an evident change in the relationship of forces in the assembly, I asked that if this scenario happens would they form a block with the party of the right to maintain the majority in the assembly. Without hesitation, the answer was, "Yes." Electoral parties with capitalist ideology are what we have in elections.

Allow me to say one more thing. A few days ago, I met a friend from years ago. She is studying outside the country with a scholarship from the "left" party. I know that soon you will know and read about her. She told me, "There is no other way out of this than the fight for workers' revolution. The solution is not social-

ism, it is communism."

Soon she will return to the country to build this reality. With you and me, together. See you later.

--Young Red Poet Comrade

What Doesn't Kill You Makes You Stronger

If you grew up in the inner city any time since the 1980s, you got this message from your parents: "Don't you do like (fill in the blank with someone from your family or neighborhood who got caught up in gangs, drugs, prison, alcohol, etc.). You are better than that. Go to college, work hard, and reach the American dream. If you can conceive it, you can achieve it."

This moral argument completely ignores the material reality of capitalism and racism, gangs and drugs, pointed out in the article in the last *Red Flag* about the prison hunger strike, and in the movie *Bastards of the Party*. It's capitalist exploitation that requires racism and creates poverty, dysfunctional families, etc., not a personal moral failing.

But we also hear the other side of the argument: "Don't blame me, I'm just a victim!" Liberals, for example, say that students in the inner city can't learn because of poverty, dysfunctional families, etc., and that we're doomed to be drug addicts, criminals or gang bangers.

We have a dialectical materialist approach. We know that capitalism chews up people and spits them out, but we also know that with communist ideas and collective struggle, we don't have to be the victims of capitalist racism. Those who have experienced the worst of capitalism know it the best and have the strongest motivation to fight it. But we know we can't do this by ourselves, as an individual moral choice. We can only have the courage to fight against the murderous capitalist system when we are part of a communist collective. That's why ICWP is so important to us and why we in-

vite you to join us.

--Los Angeles Comrades

"The standpoint of life, of practice, should be first and fundamental."— Lenin

Our analysis of the Egypt crisis in the last issue (page 2) should have been better.

From the bosses' media one would think that the main (or even only) fight in Egypt is between two ruling-class factions: the army generals and the Muslim Brotherhood. However, the very important information we printed in the gray box proves that the Egyptian working class is not in any bosses' pocket.

Workers there are fighting mainly for their economic interests, not to support or oppose some faction of bosses. They rejected the official Egyptian trade-union confederation and put their hopes in a coalition of "independent" unions. Now they see the leader of that coalition turn against them, joining the military government and urging "productivity, not strikes." Many workers are defying him, too.

The main article should have used these facts as the basis for its main point: that "the masses are the architects of history" but "our class interests can only be satisfied with communism." It was a mistake to start instead with a discussion that was too abstract.

In general, articles are better when they develop communist theory in relation to workers' experiences and the political work of our Party. This is a new kind of writing that none of us learned in school. We must all figure out how to do it better as part of the process of mobilizing the masses for communism.

It was good that the main article tried to show how the communist philosophy of dialectical materialism helps us understand current events. We will try to do a better job of this in future issues.

—Red Flag Editorial Collective

Murderous U.S. Bosses Fight Over War Policy

COMMUNIST REVOLUTION WILL END THEIR BLOODY RULE

The current debate among the US rulers about whether to attack Syria, or not, to punish al-Assad for his alleged use of chemical weapons, has nothing to do with humanitarian concerns. Behind their farcical congressional hearings and their media lies is the cold sinister fact that they are squabbling about how to best save their sinking empire.

This debate erupted publicly when Obama announced the “pivot to Asia-Pacific” in late 2011. Those US rulers who support the “pivot” want to shift the bulk of US imperialism’s diplomatic, economic and military resources to that region. Others think all those resources should still be concentrated in the Middle East.

Those US bosses who support the “pivot” do not want another losing Middle East war that only benefits the China-Russia-Iran axis. Their “pivot” is to encircle China militarily, while striving to build military alliances with China’s regional rivals—hopefully Japan, Vietnam, Indonesia, Australia and India—for their eventual but inevitable clash with the Chinese imperialists, their main rivals.

The strategy of the other gang of US rulers who want to concentrate in the Middle East is to reassert US control of this oil-rich region to regain their world hegemony. They see Syria as the weak link in the China-Russia-Iran axis, and think that if al-Assad is toppled, Iran would be next. If Iran falls, Iraq and Afghanistan could be pacified and the whole Middle East would be a US fiefdom.

The region’s vast energy resources could be then used as a weapon to curtail China’s rise,

since it would depend on US imperialism’s whims for its energy needs. Russia’s imperial rise based on its vast energy resources would also be stopped.

Syria is the testing ground for this debate

The imperialists that favor the “pivot” are mad at Obama for setting a “Red Line” which now forces him to act militarily against Syria or have



US imperialism look like a wimp. This is unacceptable to all US rulers.

The “Pivot” gang, however, wants to limit the duration and scope of any military, with no “boots on the ground.” McCain, and perhaps Kerry, speaking for the other gang, want to leave that option open.

Congress will be the deciding factor because all US bosses want us to believe that their democracy – their class dictatorship over us– is an all

inclusive process where through the “representatives we elected” we have a voice in making decisions.

All capitalists-imperialists are butchers

Al-Assad is no saint. He and the Syrian capitalists have murdered thousands of Syrian workers. The US rulers, however, are the biggest murderers in history. We should not be fooled by their false sense of revulsion for the hideous crimes allegedly committed by Al-Assad. Aided by the Ronald Reagan and George Bush Sr. administrations, Saddam Hussein committed even more hideous ones.

In the 1980s, “The US knew Hussein was launching some of the worst chemical attacks in history—and still gave him a hand.” (*Foreign Policy Magazine*, 8/26/13)

He also gassed, in 1987-88, 40 Kurd villages slaughtering thousands of men, women and children. In the town of Halabja alone, over 5,000 were killed.

Later George Bush Jr. used these atrocities as an excuse for invading Iraq in 2003. Now Obama is using a similar pretext to shower Syria with at least 384 Tomahawk cruise missiles at a cost of \$1.5 million each. More men, women, and children will

be blown to smithereens than all the alleged victims of al-Assad’s alleged chemical attacks.

As usual capitalism-imperialism has money to murder workers but none for workers’ needs here or anywhere else. We need a society based on the human needs of our class. The aroused masses of the world are clamoring for such a society. Let’s build ICWP and *Red Flag* into forces capable of being beacons of communism for these masses in motion.

Red Soldiers & Sailors Have the Antidote to Capitalist Poison: ORGANIZE A RED ARMY!

“I’m not ready to wear my MOPP suit.” This is what a soldier recently commented about wearing military gear for protection against a chemical attack as news of a possible attack on Syria becomes a reality. The soldier’s comment reflects the unpopularity of this impending war among workers, soldiers and sailors around the world.

Even though Obama states that this will only be a surgical attack with no troops on the ground, it sounds similar to the “shock and awe” plan of the Iraq war that resulted in a ten year occupation using up to 250,000 troops. Once again, the U.S. bosses have begun a hyped up campaign of propaganda in an attempt to convince workers, soldiers and sailors that this attack is justified.

They don’t mention the interests of U.S. bosses like Dick Cheney and Rupert Murdoch from Genie Energy to exploit the natural resources in the disputed Syrian region of the Golan Heights. Again, the U.S. government is painting itself as the “world police” and “good Samaritan of world.” However, workers, soldiers and sailors are far more intelligent, and we know how to unravel their lies and bring out the truth.

It is true that Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad is another murderer whose sole purpose is to oppress his “own” people to remain in power, even if it means using chemical weapons.

Yet we need a reminder of how the U.S. government also used Napalm and Agent Orange during the Vietnam War. That seems like a long time ago, but just recently during the Iraq war combat teams and regiments used artillery shells made with white phosphorous and depleted uranium

during the attack on Fallujah in 2004. The weapons with white phosphorous killed and injured insurgents and civilians with chemical burns.

Depleted uranium is a byproduct of nuclear reactors and nuclear weapon manufacturing waste that is highly toxic and radioactive. After an explosion from shells laced with depleted uranium, it settles on the ground for a very long time. Anyone that comes into contact with a contaminated region is vulnerable to radioactive exposure.

As soldiers and sailors, we are the ones who have the power to deploy these weapons or not. We should mobilize our fellow soldiers to refuse orders to harm our working class brothers and sisters.

U.S. bosses have also ignored the consequences of using depleted uranium in Fallujah and Basra. A high number of children are being born with birth defects due to the radiation left behind by depleted uranium. In 2002, in a study of 530 children born in the general hospital in Fallujah, only one child had a birth defect. In July 2013, out of 107 births, 24% had a birth defect such as a short or undeveloped limb, a hand with six fingers or feet with six toes, internal organs outside the body, and even a child with two heads. These are the atrocities that the U.S. government ignores. These are the atrocities that U.S. officials do not mention when attempting to paint themselves as the “good guys.”

Soldiers and sailors are caught in the middle of these wars which only clear the way for bosses to exploit a country’s energy resources. The

bosses will always attempt to sell us insufficient evidence to convince everyone to go to war. Ultimately, workers pay the price to maintain these ruthless bosses in power.

But we have another option, and that option is to take matters into our own hands and build a communist revolution that fights for the needs of workers around the world. We should build on the unpopularity of war among workers, soldiers and sailors and spread communist revolutionary ideas so that we lay the groundwork for a communist society. In these moments, soldiers can play a key role in leading the whole working class in fighting to turn the bosses’ wars for profit and empire into a fight for communist workers’ power.



Thousands of Sailors and Soldiers During the Vietnam War Refused to Carry Out the Murderous Orders of the US Imperialists