



# RED FLAG

## MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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



FOR A WORLD WITHOUT BORDERS, FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM!

Los Angeles



Senegal

# COMMUNISM = NO BORDERS, REFUGEES OR DEPORTEES

## Workers Help Spread Communist Leaflet

SEATTLE, WA--It's been a few days since the party's leaflet on the current refugee crisis has been published. (See page 2) We've had a chance to circulate it outside one Boeing plant, inside the plants, to striking teachers and to friends and relatives across the United States. We'd like to share a few reactions.

Two Boeing workers who came from India noticed us passing it out at the plant. We were distributing *Red Flag* at the same time. This issue featured a front page blurb about the Indian general strike. Nonetheless, it was the leaflet that showed our vision of how communism would end this capitalist refugee crisis that caught their eye.

They stopped and read it. Thanked us for publishing it. Said this was the answer that had to get out. Asked if there was a way to get in touch with the party. Then took extras.

Some said they had already heard about the refugees and tried to walk on. One comrade wasn't taking it. She asked, "What are we going to do about it?" This gave her an opportunity to discuss the need for a communist revolution ... and get out more papers.

Naturally, we've had more in-depth discussion at work. Next week we'll get many more

reactions after more workers get a chance to read it and comment.

One Vietnamese worker agreed the situation was bad. Then he learned about all the people who are defying their governments to help the refugees. "They have a good heart," he commented.

Then the discussion got serious. He knew how the union misleaders jumped to the front of the march that emptied the plants during the 1995 strike. "That is what these [capitalist] politicians do," he said, with a disgusted look on his face. That's how he explained the change in tune of the European media and capitalist political leaders.

See SEATTLE LEAFLET, page 3



# GARMENT WORKER SPEAKS OUT AGAINST CAPITALIST ABUSE

LOS ANGELES —A garment worker from the Jean Mart factory recently contacted *Red Flag*.

"I'm calling because lately they have been threatening and harassing us in this factory. The last time something similar happened, you put it in the newspaper and it calmed down a bit, and now I want to report what has been happening," she stated.

A comrade explained to her that something would be written based on her report. He suggested setting up a meeting so that she could approve the article. The following is the written text.

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The International Communist Workers' Party distributes more than 800 *Red Flag* newspapers to workers in factories here, including American Apparel and Koos. Up to three hundred workers take papers at Jean Mart alone.

"Many of us have worked here for years," the worker explained. "There have been several lawsuits from workers. They tell us that the company is going through bad times and that work is going down.

"They have paid us the same few pennies for

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## Developments in Refugee Crisis Show Sharpening Contradictions

### JOIN ICWP FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

September 16—Tens of thousands across Europe have welcomed immigrants fleeing from the horrors of capitalism. Many are marching for a world without borders.

The rulers opened their doors briefly, but are now slamming them shut. Hundreds of thousands of migrants have to seek more dangerous routes. More will die in leaky boats or crossing fields strewn with landmines left over from the Balkan wars of the 1980s.

Millions of Syrian refugees are stuck in camps in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey as rival imperialists use the crisis to intensify war plans. We must work tirelessly to win migrants and their supporters to fight for a communist world, with no money, no bosses, no borders, and no wars for profit.

#### Solidarity with Immigrants Shows Possibility of a World without Borders

The death of three-year-old Aylan Kurdi on a Turkish beach energized public opinion in Europe. Tens of thousands demanded that their governments welcome refugees. Many are helping refugees directly. Some are defying the Hungarian government. Many applauded the German government's temporary suspension of border controls. As our leaflet explains (see below) this shows that we can build a society based on human solidarity—not profits and money.

Angry migrants, massed on the Hungarian border, forced an emergency response. They can be

an important force in organizing for communism.

Syria, Sudan, Iran and Iraq had mass communist parties in the twentieth century. Immigrants from Europe and the Caribbean led the first communist organizations in the US over a century ago.

Today immigrant workers, including janitors, truck drivers, construction and garment workers, are leading militant class struggle. Immigrant comrades play a major role in the International Communist Workers' Party.

Immigrants in Europe will lose the dangerous illusion that it's the Promised Land. Nineteenth-century Greek and Italian immigrants to the US also hoped to find the streets paved with gold. They found lynch mobs and extreme exploitation instead.

Recent immigrants from Latin America face intense racism, exploitation and police terror. Police attacks, neo-Nazi rallies and racist rhetoric in the US, Australia and Europe reveal the racist exploitation that awaits the current refugees.

#### Only Communism Can End This Crisis

The civil war in Syria has displaced twelve million people. The vast majority have taken refuge elsewhere in Syria or in camps in neighboring countries. And this war in Syria is only

Destroy borders and wage slavery with communist revolution



one of the capitalist horrors which have driven millions from their homes.

Environmental disasters, racist attacks on ethnic minorities, gangs of narco-traffickers tied to state power, proxy wars between rival imperialists and the sharpening economic crisis have made survival nearly impossible in much of the world.

The hypocritical legal distinction between “asylum-seekers fleeing war or persecution” and “illegal economic migrants” obscures this reality. (See Qatar letter page 5) This distinction has always been cynically political.

During the Cold War and the civil wars in Cen-

See SOLIDARITY, page 3

### Refugee Crisis:

## COMMUNISM = NO BORDERS, REFUGEES, OR DEPORTEES

Imagine a world in which no one is driven out of their home or forced to flee for their life.

That's what the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) is fighting for. Communism, the real thing, based on “from each according to their ability, to each according to their need”. And you can help us.

According to the media the exodus from the Middle East and Northern Africa is the biggest migration since WWII. Some 60 million people, according to the UN.

There have been plenty of other crises during this period. For example, the birth of India drove 14 million people out of their homes and killed half a million of them. The founding of Israel drove hundreds of thousands of Palestinians into permanent exile. Add to this the refugees from New Orleans, the Yugoslavian war, the Rwandan genocide, the war in the Ukraine, and the state-sponsored xenophobia in South Africa. The list goes on.

These refugee crises will continue as long as capitalism exists. For example, the Maduro government in Venezuela is whipping up xenophobia against the millions of Colombians who live in that country. It has already deported hundreds.

Capitalism produces continuous small but vicious wars between regional powers. Many are proxy wars

between big (imperialist) powers. And occasional direct conflicts between the big powers resulting in World War. Also, its chronic crisis of overproduction brings unemployment, homelessness and starvation. And finally, to obtain cheap labor and divide the working class capitalism whips up racism, sexism and xenophobia.

**Communism will change all that.** Under communism, as we plan it, there will be no money and no wage system. Everyone will labor collectively to satisfy everyone's needs, including work, food and shelter

The abolition of the wage system will tear up the roots of racism and sexism. However, these weeds will not disappear on their own.

The end of racist super-exploitation will open the door. Communist mass mobilizations can then eliminate the last vestiges of racism inherited from the old system.

Under communism there will be no nations, no borders, no citizenship, and no one will be illegal. In truth, workers have no nations. Nations

are a capitalist invention. Workers can only rely on each other the world over.

Once we have communism in one part of the world, we will welcome anyone who wants to join us. They will have work, food, and shelter like everyone else. They will join us in fighting the capital-

ists.

Many of the current refugees will become leaders in the fight for communism. A number of the tens of millions forced to migrate to the US from Mexico and from Central and South America already have.

Refugees confronting the cops, marching by the thousands across countries, have inspired hundreds of thousands more.

**The bosses tell us that communism goes against human nature; but once again events have proved them wrong.** In Austria and Germany thousands have cheered when the refugees arrived. So many brought food, clothes, and toys that the bosses' police began to turn some away. Railroad workers put in free overtime to bring the refugee trains in. A woman in Vienna organized a convoy of 140 private automobiles to ferry refugees from Hungary to Austria. Twelve thousand as far away as Iceland have volunteered to help, putting the government's plan to accept 50 refugees to shame.

Did they do this all for money? Of course not. They did it in the spirit of “to each according to their needs”. Communism is possible ... but it will take a lot of work and fighting. It will take a revolution led by a mass party. You can help.

Download the complete version of the leaflet available on our website and distribute it massively.

[icwpredflag.org/RME/refugees.pdf](http://icwpredflag.org/RME/refugees.pdf)



**JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY (ICWP)**  
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## YES, WE CAN LIVE WITHOUT MONEY—IN COMMUNISM

LOS ANGELES—“Would you like another copy of *Red Flag* for a friend?” asked a comrade at a Metropolitan Transit Authority division.

“Sure. My brother-in-law is Cuban,” answered the MTA operator.

“Well, Cuba was never communist.”

“I know. They were something else.”

“Yes, Cuba is socialist. Socialism kept money, wages, wage differentials and privileges. This gave rise to a new capitalist class that today oppresses and exploits its workers. Communism will eliminate money and exploitation.”

“So, you think it is better to live without money?”

“Yes. For thousands of years, people in this continent and the world over lived without money. No one was exploited. They all contributed their share of work and collectively shared the fruits of their labor. No one was rich, and no one was poor.”

“That was then. How can you do that now without money?”

“Because, money, in and of itself, has no value. It can’t produce anything. Only human labor can do that. Everything sold on the market – food, cars, houses, garments, etc. – is produced by our

labor. The capitalists’ labor doesn’t produce anything. They must buy our labor power in order for us to produce goods for them. These products – like food, houses, etc.—originally only have use value, which means they can satisfy some human need. The bosses exchange or sell these products for money. Communism will distribute those goods freely according to need. Also without money, some workers will produce food, others will construct houses, others will provide health care services ...”

“You mean communism will have some kind of barter system?”

“No, it is completely different. In the barter system, even though no money would be used, things would still have an exchange value: something would be exchanged for something else. The exchange or barter would only take place if the two things are similar in value. A cow, for example, is worth much more than a chicken, and would only be bartered for many chickens. Thus some products would be considered more valuable than others and their producers would be more important.

“Communism is different. No matter how little or how much we each contribute to society, we will all have our needs met. All decisions of planning, producing and distributing will be done collectively. No product will be more valuable than another and no producer more important than others.”

“It all sounds good. But, I still don’t understand completely how it can be done without money,” said the operator before driving off.

In another division, another operator said he did not think we could live without money. These operators and many other people are struggling with the idea of living in a world without money. We communists must become better at explaining how this is pos-

sible. In a brief conversation, like the ones our comrades had with the MTA operators, it is not completely possible to fully explain.

That is why MTA workers who agree with much of *Red Flag*’s message need to come to our Party’s study groups for deeper discussions. A few days ago, we met with two workers, one from MTA, and we discussed this and other topics at length.

There we explained that everything of value in society is produced by the working class. The capitalists steal the use value our labor produces and impose exchange value on it. In other words, they exchange or sell it for money.

For them only the exchange value matters. They couldn’t care less how the product is used as long as it is sold. If they can’t sell it, they would rather destroy it than give it away. Thus, food is thrown away while millions starve to death.

Not only does money not produce anything, but the money system actually destroys much of the use value we produce. When not able to be sold profitably, food rots, houses are boarded up; medicines are left to expire, etc.

Since under capitalism we can’t survive without money, many people think that we can’t survive without money—period. But what we need to survive, and all that we need to survive, is the use value that we workers produce. In communism, this use value will be used only to satisfy everyone’s needs.

Money prevents this from happening. It enslaves us to the capitalists to whom we must sell our labor power in order to survive. Getting rid of money will humanize the planning, production and distribution of our use value. It will allow us to realize the full potential of our humanity. No longer will we be wage slaves but fully productive creative human beings!



### SOLIDARITY from page 2

tral America, the US granted refugee status to Cubans, but never to those fleeing US-backed dictators in Guatemala and El Salvador. Nor has the US granted refugee status to those who are fleeing the drug lords in Mexico today.

The politics of the current crisis are equally cynical. The bosses of Germany, Sweden and Austria are posing as humanitarian heroes while guaranteeing themselves a source of highly-skilled cheap labor. Only 3% of Syrian refugees, often young adults with middle-class education and economic resources, have made the journey to Europe.

#### Using the Refugee Crisis to Promote War

Most cynical are the calls in the ruling-class media for increased military action in Syria supposedly to resolve this crisis at its source. The French government has threatened air-strikes. The *New York Times* is trumpeting the increased Russian military aid to the Syrian government.

Obama has said “Assad must go.” But his administration has worked to calm tensions with Iran (which supports Assad) as part of the pivot to Asia. The Syrian refugee crisis provides support for those who want a more aggressive Middle-East policy. We can’t predict how this will work out in the short run.

We do know that inter-impe-

rialist rivalry leads to world war and the masses of workers will pay the price. But the masses, won to communist ideas and with guns in our hands, will put an end to this murderous system.

Millions are outraged at the suffering of our class brothers and sisters. Tens of thousands are trying to help them. We must take on more urgently the work of mobilizing them for communism.

The deepening contradictions of global capitalism have created a crisis which can only be resolved by communist revolution. There are no national boundaries in the fight for a communist world, where we will work for human need and not for profit—where the international working class will be the human race.



September 16--Hungarian police pepper-spray migrants after they broke down the fence between Serbia & Hungary. This attack forced migrants to go through Croatian minefields.

### SEATTLE LEAFLET from page 1

Experience has taught him to be wary of capitalists “bearing gifts.”

Meanwhile, striking teachers were discussing this issue in two comrades’ living room dining . Our house has become the official break area for the local picket line. A comrade who recently retired from the school district, left the leaflet, *Red Flag* and the party’s pamphlet on communist education out for all to see. (see article page 14).

Some comrades’ relatives back east had already posted some pictures and comments about the crisis on social media. They got real excited when they saw the solutions spelled out in our leaflet.

Two relatives have already commented on what a “great leaflet” it is. They have figured out ways to make sure it gets circulated. First, they posted it on their refrigerator so that the generations of relatives and friends that pass through the kitchen will see it. They created a special Facebook group to send it to and to have political discussions with this group.

We have lots of friends at work, the schools and the neighborhood. Many have an inkling about our communist politics. Our discussions in just the last few days have made our view of what we fight for much clearer to them. Many come from different parts of the world. They have promised to help in our campaign to get the leaflet translated and circulated around the globe.

We are convinced we have just scratched the surface. Many more will help us if we struggle with them.

## SOUTH AFRICA: MASS VIOLENT PROTESTS IN LIMPOPO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY TO REACH MASSES WITH COMMUNIST IDEAS

SOUTH AFRICA--Tens of thousands of workers, teachers and students were joined by housewives in a violent protest in the Limpopo province of South Africa, showing enormous possibilities of spreading revolutionary communist ideas.

Limpopo is located north of Johannesburg and shares borders with Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Botswana. Masses of workers set up barricades to support the workers who were fired from Eskom power utility company. Roads were blocked; police vehicles and police stations were burned.

This rebellion quickly spread to a fight against the ruthless labor brokers, relocation of schools and lack of basic services in the impoverished towns of Limpopo. As the news of these rebellions spread, masses were up in arms against the mining companies. Thousands of students and

parents joined, angry because a local school is going to be relocated to clear the space for mining operations.

Limpopo province is also the area where masses of workers from all over Africa risk their lives in search for jobs. They face heavily armed immigration police, borders sealed with barbed wires, dangerous wildlife and xenophobia. This province has vast natural resources but all of them have been used for the superprofits of European multinationals while the masses of workers live in perpetual poverty and misery.

The traditional economy of Limpopo is changing as China looks to South Africa for natural resources. "Limpopo has become a destination of choice for international investors," said the Premier of Limpopo. But it is the Chinese capitalists who are feverishly investing in Limpopo. To fa-

cilitate this change not only in Limpopo but all of South Africa, the government is planning to teach Mandarin while millions of children in South Africa live in townships that lack basic human needs.

The Limpopo rebellions are giving us more ways to reach out to the masses in others parts of South Africa with our communist ideas. We distributed the leaflet about the refugees to our friends and we are planning to massively use this leaflet to recruit more members to ICWP. Capitalism has created a situation where workers from Syria to Limpopo and from Ferguson to Ukraine are all facing the vicious brutality of capitalism. In South Africa we are responding by urgent recruitment of workers to our party. We ask you to join us to end capitalism once and for all with communist revolution.

## GUATEMALA: TURN CENTRAL AMERICAN SPRING INTO A COMMUNIST SPRING

Since April 2015, thousands of people have taken to the streets of Guatemala to protest against the corruption in the government of Otto Pérez Molina discovered by the United Nations International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG). Although this has been a massive mobilization we must have a materialist analysis of it. This is the only way to understand the essence of mass movements and use it to advance the fight for communism.

The CICIG discovered a smuggling network in the customs sector as well as tax evasion. The now ex-President Otto Pérez Molina was linked to this network, as well as the ex-Vice President Roxanna Baldetti, other senior government officials, and more than a thousand private companies which benefited from this tax evasion. The profits are in the millions of dollars. Bribery of government officials is what led the population to demand the resignation of the President and Vice President.

The CICIG is a commission whose research the United States uses to overthrow governments that do not respond to their interests or where they need to establish a greater presence, as they have done in Brazil, Argentina, and Venezuela. The USA has a special interest in Central Amer-

ica due to the strong presence of China in Nicaragua and China's industrial incursions in countries like Honduras, Costa Rica, and Guatemala itself.

The Chinese company "Communication Services and Systems" will invest at least \$500,000 in Guatemala in a factory to assemble electric cars at low cost. In the context of economic and military disputes worldwide against the Chinese bosses, the US is fighting for every square inch of the region's territory.

That is why the US ambassador never stopped pressuring Otto Pérez Molina to resign. This also explains why many people contend that the US was a major factor behind his resignation and jailing.

Corruption is a despicable act worthy of the kind of evil that is found in the USA. But mostly state corruption is driven by the capitalists to increase their profits and manage the markets. Corruption will exist as long as money exists and we can only eliminate money by destroying capitalism with a communist revolution.

The mass mobilizations show that the masses are rising up and showing their anger when they are indignant. However, these mobilizations were not against capitalism, much less for commu-

nism. These mobilizations against corruption, and with a nationalist character, will not achieve any real change. The elections were carried out last weekend, and they will have to go to a run off to elect the next people who will respond to the same capitalists who bribed their predecessors.

Through **Red Flag** ICWP must fight against reformist and nationalist ideas. We must mobilize the masses for the fight for communism. By themselves, the mass actions are not opportunities for the working class, but when we raise our communist ideas in them and about them, the working class can advance toward communism.

We will be better able to take advantage of the opportunity if we have a base among workers, farmworkers and students. The way to make the movements an opportunity for the working class is to work with workers, farmworkers and students anywhere in the world where we are and mobilize them for communism. We shouldn't just wait to ride the crest of a wave.

There is talk about a "Central American Spring" because of the mass demonstrations in Honduras and the failed attempt of the right in El Salvador. Each country has a particularity. We must make a materialist analysis of how to build a Communist Spring.

### JEAN MART from page 1

the same operation for years, with no increase. Now we are threatened with layoffs and told to sign a letter promising they would call us back.

"Recently there were many layoffs. Each year there are more. There are over 300 workers here and more than half are expected to be laid off.

"Many of the male managers try to take advantage of us. They abuse women by inviting them out, buying them bouquets of roses or offering other unwanted 'favors.'"

This Jean Mart worker, like many workers, is tired of exploitation and abuse at the hands of the bosses. This exploitation and abuse can only end with communism.

We must reject this capitalist exploitation, abuse and false promises of rehiring. We are all wage slaves. From one day to the next any of us could be left jobless. Then we are forced to seek new employment and enrich a new capitalist boss, to sell our labor just to be able to survive.

A communist world is possible where there will be no exploitation, wage slavery or borders. There will be no bosses or money. We will organize new methods of making clothing where we workers will collectively decide what and how to produce. In this way everyone will contribute as

they can and get what they need.

These new methods of work will be managed, controlled and organized collectively by workers in all fields of production, food, housing, education, culture, etc.

**Red Flag** shows us the way. Read it, study it, and distribute it at work, in neighborhoods and to your family. Organize groups based on the newspaper. In this way we begin to mobilize the masses for communism.

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"I agree with all of this and it is presented well," said the worker after reading the draft of this article during the meeting. She added, "I would love for all of this communism to happen even though I will not see it. With **Red Flag** I feel heard and protected."

"Do you consider yourself a member of ICWP and **Red Flag**?" a comrade asked her.

"I think it's too fast. And what does it mean to be a member?" she replied.

"What it means is having the commitment of reading **Red Flag**, writing, studying, distributing it, and joining a club and participating in actions of the Party," the comrade explained.

"All this reminds me of the country where I come from. There I participated in a farmworker

organization in which I attended meetings, sit-ins, protests and we blocked roads," the worker said. She agreed to take five newspapers, to keep in touch and to continue meeting.

Workers are open to communism! We have to be bolder and more consistent in bringing it to them.



## COMMUNITY COLLEGES MUST BECOME BATTLEFIELDS FOR COMMUNISM

LOS ANGELES—“I have so many students, it feels like I’m a grindstone in a giant mill,” a community college teacher told a guest speaker.

“You are working in a system that works against what we’re trying to do,” the speaker replied. “Capitalism is coercive. It thrives on desperation and exploitation. You work for a system that has failed the community.”

His remarks struck a chord. He had identified an important contradiction. This explained why so many students, faculty and staff are often frustrated.

Another teacher noted that the speaker presented no alternative. He just talked vaguely about “letting students know you’re on their side” and “empowering resistance.”

The only system that can serve the working-class masses is communism. Communism is cooperative. It thrives on revolutionary optimism and voluntary labor to meet the masses’ needs.

Today the US rulers are pressuring community colleges to grind out workers with technical skills for industry and the military.

In contrast, communism will combine lifelong learning and work. We will all continually develop our ability and commitment to contribute to society in many different ways. Above all, we will learn to build communist social relations of mutual aid and worldwide comradeship.

Communist society will erase the separation of “mental” and “manual” labor and blind reliance on “experts.” All young people will learn to be communist leaders instead of being schooled as wage-slaves.

### Capitalist Individualism versus Communist Comradeship

The US community college system mushroomed after World War II. It was part of US imperialism’s Cold War strategy.

The Soviet Union wasn’t communist. Its “so-

cialism” was at its core capitalist. It maintained a money economy with wages, markets and privilege. By the end of World War II, the Soviet Union was becoming a full-fledged imperialist power.

But anti-communist ideology motivated the expansion of community colleges. The 1947 Truman Commission argued that they would produce “effective, informed and responsible” citizens who would identify with the US government. Students would develop “ethical principles consistent with democratic [capitalist] ideals.” They would help “maintain a free [not communist] society.”

The California Association of Junior Colleges declared in 1948 that junior colleges were “committed to the democratic way of life.” They put “the individual man as the highest value in the world.”

Capitalism means dog-eat-dog competition for maximum profits. It is the material basis for the ideology of individualism. This me-first mentality is deadly for workers. Only through collectivity can we end exploitation and build the communist world we need.

Communism values our interdependence and common interest. In communist society these values will motivate us to work and share. We will welcome every individual’s contributions. That’s how the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP) is today. Check us out and you’ll see!

### Revolution no Reform

During the 1960s, the number of community colleges doubled. This was a period of mass struggle worldwide. The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution fought “capitalist-roaders” in the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party. Anti-imperialist rebellions rocked Algeria, Vietnam and many other former European colonies.

US soldiers and sailors mutinied against the Vietnam War. Black workers led a strike wave that swept basic industry. The civil rights movement erupted into urban rebellions.

Masses rose up against police violence, slumlords and racist unemployment. The rulers gave them – community colleges! “If there was no [Watts] rebellion, there would be no Southwest College,” a daughter of that college’s founder said in 2001.

The rulers hoped that this reform would blunt class-consciousness. They encouraged youth to try to “succeed” by escaping the working class instead of fighting to destroy class society. Some were coopted and many were disappointed.

Today, community colleges enroll over half of all US undergraduates. Individualistic illusions still attract many. Yet their stark contrast with reality creates huge opportunities for communist mobilization among students (many of whom are workers) and even college teachers.

Many more must read the ICWP pamphlet “Communist Education for Classless Society.” Download it at:

[icwpredflag.org/EDU/EdPamE.pdf](http://icwpredflag.org/EDU/EdPamE.pdf).

If you like what it says, contact us to join the Party or a study group.



### LETTERS

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### CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

#### Communism and Education

The other day in my township there was a strike of parents, workers and students. They struck against the shortage of textbooks and teachers and the lack of proper sanitation in the schools. And then a thought struck me that these are the consequences of a capitalist education. These are the same people who teach learners, who limit the learners’ ability to think and to be able to do things for themselves, and their ability to cooperate with one another.

And then the thought struck me that in a communist education all these things, these shortages of textbooks, this lack of cooperation between learners and teachers and between learners themselves will be a distant memory. Under a communist education, no learner will be limited to learning some few subjects. A learner will learn as much as possible so that she or he can actually realize his true potential.

What I’ve noticed is that under a capitalist education, they seem to limit a learner’s imagination and ability. They don’t tend to push the boundaries, to push the learner to learn as much as possible, to go as far as she or he actually could. So under a communist education those boundaries which capitalist education has set trying to imprison the learner’s mind, will be pushed. So that’s why we should strive for a communist education, not a capitalist education.

So me and my friends were talking about the strike. I didn’t know why people were striking so

they told me that sometimes there are 50 students in one class. So then you find there’s a lack of concentration by the learners, between the learners and the teacher. The teacher’s message doesn’t get across in the classroom. So when the learner doesn’t understand, the teacher doesn’t care about that learner; they simply move on to the next topic. That got me thinking about capitalist education. The learners are too dependant on the teacher and the message the teachers teach.

In a communist education, it will be much easier for other learners to explain to each other. If someone understands something better than another, we encourage learners to help one another so that they can move forward together, so they can learn at the same rate. At the same time, that strengthens now the bond between learners so that one doesn’t see himself as clever than another, but they help each other. Capitalist education fails to address those issues.

We’re not made exactly the same. Some learn faster and some slower than others, but it doesn’t make them more or less clever. They are the same. So it’s those problems that communist education can address and eliminate the stigma. When a learner is slow at grasping something, if they have more questions, now they become afraid of asking questions because they don’t want to appear dumb. A capitalist education doesn’t make a good foundation for learners to realize their true potential.

--Comrade in South Africa

#### Qatar:

#### Immigrant Workers on Front Line

Thanks for the document about the refugee problems. We live in Qatar in a very difficult situation. I know many people who have died in accidents in construction work. Many people are being injured; there are workers with no legs, no hand. It is sad to see this pain. We are not refugees but we come from many countries. We have no families here; the contractors keep our passports and we work like slaves many long hours and we sleep like prisoners.

Many people live in a small room. My room has 16 people and we have to sleep at different times because there is not enough space. All my friends come here from different countries because of war and no jobs. I have very little money so internet is very costly for me, but thanks for sending me your paper *Red Flag*.

As you know, many of my friends are from Syria. They don’t speak English so I showed them this document you gave me about the refugees. I translated it for them in Arabic. They say to me the situation in Syria is very bad, worse than for refugee people in Europe.

The situation is very bad in Qatar. We die there and we die here. We have no bombs falling on us in Qatar, no war, but we feel we live in war. Everybody likes the idea of communism. We will make everything very nice if we don’t have people who kill us for money. I will give this document to many people here. I hope to see you one day.

--Comrade in Qatar

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## LETTERS

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## CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

## Seattle Teachers Strike for the First Time Since 1985

The Seattle Teachers' strike is the result of the contradictions and self-destruction of capitalist education. However, it is also a window of opportunity to bring communist ideas to education workers, students and their families.

I retired from Seattle schools last year, but I have been on the picket line of the elementary school in my neighborhood. I also volunteered to let strikers use my bathroom. This has given me an opportunity to talk to a lot of people every day and give them our literature, including the new leaflet on the refugee crisis. We also distributed 200 plus of the ICWP pamphlet on communist education at the strike sanction vote, along with *Red Flag*.

Many of the teachers on strike are people I have worked with in the past, but too often my conversations with them focused on how rotten the district was, not on what we needed to do to change the world!

For example, I had a conversation with one young teacher over the dining room table. He

had already got the communist education pamphlet and *Red Flag* at the sanction vote the week before. We got to talking about our favorite TV shows. He told me that he liked one particular show because it exposed corruption in the criminal justice system. He remarked that it reminded him of similar corruption in the school system. In fact, most of the people I've talked to since the strike started have told me that the system is broken, and no amount of money is ever going to fix it!

He said he agreed with the part in ICWP literature that said as long as money and profit control the system of education it cannot succeed for our students or the teachers

Clearly, these workers want to know "What can we do about it?" I tell them I believe that we need to mobilize millions of workers to establish a true communist world, where the working class has power... not the banks, or corporations. Only then will we be able to deliver a free and useful education to all workers and their families. As they



stop and think for a few seconds, you can almost hear the door to opportunity open.

Of course, some think that we are dreamers. But we must see ourselves as planners. After war and revolution, we cannot go backwards to capitalism like the old communist movement did. Every day we hear from people all over the world who want to get active. Every day we learn about some incredible struggle going on, even in our own back yard! We have answers, lets get out there and circulate!

--Red Retiree in Seattle

**Flash:** A settlement has been announced. The strike is over, but the fight against racist capitalist education continues. More next issue.



### There is no time to waste.

We must recruit friends and co-workers to help circulate the global refugee crisis leaflet. Our communist answer to the crisis must get a wider audience not only because of what is happening today, but also because of what the capitalists have in store in the near future. I am doing my part.

Capitalist Germany will not solve the problems of Syrian refugees. In the current crisis, poor Syrians and other war victims who can't afford to flee are left behind. At the best, they will spend the next 20 years in refugee camps in dire conditions. (Flash: Germany just closed its borders.)

Conditions are dreadful in Gaza. The E.E.C. regularly demands an improvement for the Palestinians there, without effect. Same with the Romas ('gypsies') (with a Special High Commission in the E.E.C. and unused funds) who are relentlessly persecuted in every country of Europe. They have to live literally on garbage dumps and recently a French mayor refused to bury a Rom baby in the local cemetery. And what about the migrants in Calais? More barbed wire fences.

Merkel took advantage of the situation to solve a looming German problem, lack of workers. Capitalism will use the skills of some refugees and discard the rest. For example, 6000 Syrian doctors work in French hospitals while NGOs struggle with insufficient resources to help displaced Syrian people. With their

wars, sanctions, and health cuts (Greece) capitalism has caused the death of untold many children all over the world. Workers have nothing to expect from them.

The recent events have a very positive side. They show that - contrary to what the ruling class kept saying before they jumped on the Merkel bandwagon - most workers are not racist, anti-immigrant, or ready to join the fascist parties of Europe. On the contrary, all over Europe, people showed extraordinary compassion, solidarity and resourcefulness. Workers don't need the bosses to solve their problems. Let's build on this tremendous display of solidarity to fight for communism, which will truly strive to eradicate all this misery.

Workers have no nation.

--A Comrade

### Mexican Social Security Institute: Revolution Not Reform

This is a small paragraph taken from a letter written by a *Red Flag* reader in the health sector to the head of his union.

"We hereby send a cordial greeting and at the same time solicit your support and guidance in resolving the conflict and labor harassment that has arisen on the part of the managers, clinic supervisors, and mainly by the doctors in charge of emergency services on the morning, evening and night shifts and the shifts accumulated at the hospital in general."

Continuing with the list of demands, he mentions their complaints and suggestions, and ends with the following: "We ask for your valuable intervention to satisfactorily solve the above mentioned conflict which has turned into threats by the clinical supervisors mentioned above, whom we have addressed properly, with respect, and commitment to our assigned work area."

My friend, a reader of this paper, gave it to me and asked my opinion about what it said. I responded that no doubt as workers we need



to express our disagreements. However we must not fall into the capitalist illusion of reforms. Let's not forget that reforms improve capitalism; revolution destroys it. The only thing that we workers need is to destroy the capitalist bosses and their whole governing system through building only one party, the International Communist Workers' Party.

Working conditions will not improve under capitalism. And even if it appears that we have very "militant" union leaders, we cannot forget that they only serve the bosses' interests, not the workers' interests. They make us think that they are with the workers but beneath the surface, they sell the workers out. They are not our friends.

In spite of the fact that they are our class brothers and sisters, the union leaders are won to defend the bosses' interests. Many workers do not believe in unions and are isolated from the struggle and others who think that they should fight for improvements at work join the union.

Workers of the world, let's not fall into the bosses' trap. As Communists we should never send a list of demands to the bosses or union leaders or be friendly with them. The bosses do not hesitate to kill us and to exploit our labor power. In Communist society, we will all work for everyone. "To each according to need, from each according to commitment" will be our slogan. Join the struggle for revolution not reform.

--Young Comrade from Mexico





### Communism – Real and Imaginary

Some 22 years before the Chinese communists seized state power Mao argued, “A revolution is not a dinner party, or writing an essay, or painting a picture . . . A revolution is an insurrection, an act of violence by which one class overthrows another.”

The problem with the article “Confront Opportunities” (*Red Flag* v. 6 #15) is that it undermines historical materialism and the brutal nature of class rule.

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

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

This paints a picture that communism is going to fall from the sky. It understates the fact that repeated crises of over production will lead to world war.

Sharpening contradictions among imperialists are already causing proxy wars. Institutions like the World Bank and IMF (created by dropping nuclear bombs to serve US imperialism), the role of the US dollar as a reserve currency etc., are becoming obstacles to rising Chinese capital. Many such contradictions can only be resolved by world war.

On the other hand, we have 7 billion opportunities! From the mines of Marikana and Potosi, to Ferguson and Ayotzinapa, the message is the same. The expansion of capitalism in last 50 years has created the biggest working class in history. So no matter when we seize power, it will inspire workers around the world to fight for communism.

Seizing state power will be a bloody affair and certainly defending it will be even more bloody. We will be fighting among ruined and

ravaged cities, nuclear devastation. It will not be the way the editorial describes “less work, work slower, have extra time, abundance”. Quite the opposite.

First and foremost, communism is the negation of capitalism. Our revolution will unleash new forces of production. The shift from working for private profits to working for the good of community will liberate us in ways it’s hard for us to detail. But first we will have to defeat capitalism.

Our fundamental task at this time is to prepare the masses for violent communist revolution. If we understand and struggle against the obstacles, we will be able to take advantage of the overwhelming opportunities to smash capitalism once and for all. As Marx put it, “The pre-history of human societies ends with this formation (communism).”

--Comrades

### Reasons for Revolutionary Optimism

The article “Confront Opportunities” (*Red Flag* v. 6 #15) correctly states that communist revolutionaries have good reason to be optimistic. I think it’s unfortunate, therefore, that its conclusion seems so pessimistic.

The article says that the opportunities to advance communism that surround us “really are overwhelming us.” It gives examples of how our Party work has fallen short. But it gives no examples where we have started to take advantage of opportunities, even in a limited way.

On the plus side, the box was helpful. It showed how to move conversations from “what’s wrong with capitalism” to “what’s right with communism.” But the box still didn’t illustrate how we can do what the article said we should.

Fortunately, other articles and letters do provide examples. The South Africa comrades made the connection between the Potosi miners’ struggle and the experiences of miners there. We can see how that will help them build the Party.

erated area in Yan’an China in 1936-37, he produced a summary of dialectical materialism from which two important essays were extracted, “On Practice,” and “On Contradiction.” Our next two columns will discuss these important essays.

We shouldn’t be pessimistic or feel overwhelmed. We have already begun to make limited efforts to “open up new arenas of struggle.” We don’t all agree on what tactics are consistent with our political line of mobilizing the masses for communism, so there’s a lot to discuss.

Let’s talk and write more about the work we’re doing. That way we’ll learn how to do it better and differently and more.

--Comrade reader

### A Communist World

Having worked, and lived in a capitalist racist society, I saw and learned that we the people must fight for a Communist society. The killing of people by the police is only another way of this capitalist society showing their fear.

Yes, fear. They are afraid that we will all get together--that they will have a mass that they can’t control. Division is one way of keeping the people apart. “Oh yes, let them believe they are different.” This must be stopped. We are all human.

What are they afraid of? Are they afraid of the people and the struggle they bring to the table when they are united for freedom? Are they afraid of a world of communism? Of everyone heading in the same direction with the same cause - a team, all team players? Yes.

Dr. Martin Luther King’s speech, I believe, was talking about a communist society/world, the people united as one, moving and supporting each other for the same cause. That cause is Communism.

When I read the *Red Flag* articles about lead found in the environment in El Salvador, the so-called suicide of Sandy Bland in Texas, and when I read about Vester Flanagan shooting two reporters in Virginia and then his suicide—it just serves to show us the results of people being abused and the bosses saying “we found no evidence of wrong-doing” by their murderous cops or system.

Flanagan was a newscaster who was fired two years ago. He felt he had been discriminated against because he was a gay black man. The news station said “we had to get rid of him” and the rest of the media repeated it. This, after he was dead, when he could no longer give his side of the story. In incident after incident, they assassinate people’s character after they assassinate the person.

There must be a revolution for a communist world for our world will change. Let’s keep supporting The *Red Flag* Army towards a Revolution.

--New California comrade

### From DIALECTICS, page 8

mentioned here, Mao Zedong was by far the most influential communist philosopher in China. Taking over the new philosophy, he acknowledged that he learned a lot from the others mentioned here. From intensive collective study in the lib-

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# THE SEED OF AYOTZINAPA MUST BLOOM IN COMMUNISM

MEXICO—This month is the one-year anniversary of the disappearance of 43 normal school students of Ayotzinapa, Guerrero. Worldwide protests have accused the capitalist state of this atrocity and the disappearance and murder of tens of thousands more.

Recently, the Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts has exposed the government's version, which claimed that the students were incinerated. Independent investigators declared that "there is no evidence supporting the hypothesis generated based on testimonies that 43 corpses were burned in the municipal garbage dump of Cocula on September 27, 2014."

The document states that the government omitted, altered, destroyed and concealed proof. It tortured, invented culprits, did not seek video-graphic proof of the facts and rejected the investigation of a fifth bus taken by the students. Neither did they investigate military personnel or federal or state police.

It is now known that the students were attacked in nine locations for almost three hours, under "a direction and coordination" that required complex systems of communication, infrastructure, and coordination. The survivors attribute this aggression to the army.

Official investigations say that the company owning the buses taken by the students transports drugs to the US.



IT WAS THE STATE

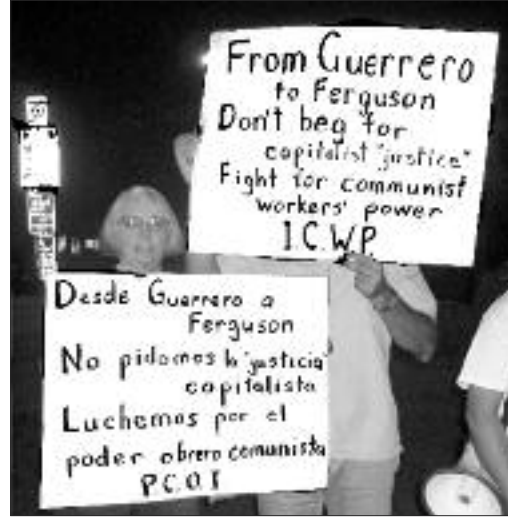
This includes the route from Guerrero Mexico to Chicago, Illinois. They say that the fifth bus taken by the students belonged to one of the lines involved in drug trafficking.

The government wants to convince us that they and the drug traffickers are different, but they are the same. The reality is that the region of Ayotzinapa and the Normal school have been characterized as initiating guerilla movements. Also, this area has many natural resources that the bosses want to control.

Under capitalism, the working class finds itself in an inhumane, desperate situation. And workers in areas like the rural Normal schools are organizing and questioning this system in decline.

The bosses have an endless fear of us. It's a war to the death: it's either them or us. They do not hesitate to kill us daily and they subject us to living in fear and with a sense of distrust. Fundamentally they want to teach a lesson to those who organize against them in order to maintain control.

But the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) is preparing the final blow, a



communist revolution. We are not fighting for reforms, for wage increases or reducing the hours of work. Instead, we are organizing worldwide and with the whole working class to sweep away all the garbage that is choking us in every corner of the planet.

To hell with these attempts by the bosses and their government puppets to intimidate us! Our anger is growing and our organization as the working

class demands a different way. We do not want to walk on the wrong paths. Our class brothers and sisters who have preceded us have shown us the advances and errors of the past. The direct fight for communism is the solution.

In Mexico, as in other parts of the world, we workers are organizing for that. Our advances are modest, but our steps are firm. We need to redouble our efforts.

We invite you to join ICWP. You can organize your friends in the factory, the army, in schools, the fields, in churches and even unemployed workers. Don't think that what you can do is too little. The effort of each one adds up to the real strength of the working class. We are the majority; they are a handful. You can write for this newspaper, organize readers' groups with your friends and relatives, and distribute the paper. Whatever you can do is valuable!

## THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNIST DIALECTICS IN CHINA

**Note:** This column resumes the *Red Flag* series on the history of communist dialectics.

For at least three decades after the founding of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in 1921, the main source of communist philosophy was the Soviet Union. Some early Chinese access to Russian dialectical materialism came from the few Chinese leftists who could read Russian, but the larger source was Soviet material published by Japanese communists. Translations from Japanese and writings by Chinese students who had studied in Japan were key sources for several decades.

An important early writer on communist philosophy was Qu Quibai. He studied Russian and worked as a reporter in Russia, where he became a communist. In 1923 he taught Marxist philosophy at the newly founded Shanghai University, and became a member of the central committee of the CPC. Beginning in 1924 Qu published several influential books that explained key concepts of communist philosophy.

One of Qu's main interests in communist theory was the role of conscious political action within the framework of the inevitability of the victory of communism. Initially Qu's knowledge of Soviet philosophy was more an obstacle than a help on this issue, since he tried to use the anti-dialectical "mechanist" viewpoint that all changes are caused from the outside. This wrong view was still influential in Russia until the late 1920s (See *Red Flag*, 10/02/14), but was defeated in the early 1930s in the philosophical debates in Russia (See *Red Flag*, 11/13/14).

The Soviet debates deepened and clarified dialectical materialism and produced several

widely used textbooks. The improved Soviet philosophy was often called the "new philosophy" in China. Qu accepted this new philosophy, including its idea that it is the internal contradictions in things, not external factors, which are the main cause of development. Qu Quibai was executed by the nationalist Guomindang in 1935.

Another major figure of the new philosophy in China was Li Da, who translated a number of Japanese-language Marxist philosophy textbooks by Russian, German and Japanese writers. Later he was co-translator of one of the Soviet textbooks on the new philosophy. An early member of the CPC, he left the party in 1923 and did not rejoin until 1949. His translations and his own writing had a wide influence, however.

Li's most important work was called *Elements of Sociology*. Published in 1935, it contained a long section on Marxist philosophy. This work developed the most important themes of dialectics and materialism, including dialectical contradictions driving change, qualitative versus quantitative change, and that knowledge is a dialectical process that proceeds from human practice and returns to guide practice.

Although theoretically rigorous, Li Da's works were not aimed at the mass audience that the communist

movement needs to reach.

Popularization and defense of dialectical materialism were the main aims of the philosophical work of Ai Siqi, a generation younger than Li and Qu. Ai was

educated in Japan and learned Marxism and the Russian language there. He was co-translator of an important Soviet textbook. He edited a magazine that explained the new philosophy and wrote several very influential books on communist philosophy including *Philosophy for the Masses* (1936) and *Philosophy and Life* (1937).

Ai worked hard to make communist philosophy available to the masses, using popular culture. He used the film comedian Charlie Chaplin, immensely popular in China, to illustrate various ideas from dialectical materialism. In one of his magazine columns, Ai described the difference between perception and theory this way: The first stage of knowledge is perceptual knowledge, the kind we get by seeing, feeling and smelling. Perceptual knowledge is essential but it must be expanded and corrected by reasoning. Their mustaches make Charlie Chaplin and Hitler look similar superficially, but more careful examination can tell them apart. Reasoning and theoretical knowledge is often necessary to overcome the superficial similarities in perception.

Despite the contributions of the philosophers See **DIALECTICS**, page 7



Ai Siqi

