

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

INDIA: MASSIVE GENERAL STRIKE AGAINST FASCIST MODI GOVERNMENT SHOWS POTENTIAL TO MOBILIZE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

One hundred eighty million strikers shut down India's cities and roads on September 2 in what may have been the world's largest labor action ever. Most impressively, these millions of women and men included Dalit, Hindu and Muslim workers.

It took Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist party over 30 years to build a fascist movement that terrorized Muslims, Dalits, women and labor organizers. Some thought fascism was too strong to fight. They didn't believe that masses would ever rise. The collective mass actions of September 2 destroyed, in just one day, the myth of fascist invulnerability.

The general strike included organized and unorganized industrial and agricultural workers, youth, teachers and others. It demonstrated their rage at the racist and anti-worker policies of Modi's fascist government. Many marched with the red banners of communism. Their chants rang out: "The workers of the world are the same!"

Transport workers paralyzed services. Workers blocked trains and roads with burning tires. Office workers shut down state-run banks and insurance companies. Strikers fought police who tried to stop them from marching on government buildings.

Nurses in New Delhi and elsewhere risked arrest to strike at government hospitals. Masses demonstrated in Chennai, a major hub of the in-

ternational auto industry.

Trade unions backed by "communist" parties organized the general strike. Besides economic demands like pay hikes and pensions, these unions raised political demands. They opposed the Modi government's decision to open up the railways and defense sectors to greater foreign direct investment. So, officially, this was a political strike for reforms.

But masses surged ahead of their so-called leaders. They were more militant. They came out in greater-than-expected numbers. Most important, many were open to the idea of fighting directly for communism.

Some members of the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) joined this massive one day strike. They brought *Red Flag* and other communist literature to the masses. Afterward, our comrades were able to talk about communist society in a mass way with new friends. They saw how the unions chain workers to capitalism by trying to restrict our struggles to reform demands.

"We can't limit our strike to one day! We have the power to change this system. They (the bosses) are powerless without us," said one comrade.

Workers everywhere need to start organizing for political strikes for communism. Imagine the power of 180,000,000 workers mobilized for communism instead of reform!

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COMMUNIST RESPONSE TO RACISM MOTIVATES WORKERS TO ORGANIZE

SEATTLE, USA—Mobilizing the masses directly for communism promises something new: the prospect of actually ending racism.

At our Sunday barbecue, three friends of the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) saw the difference between a communist approach and the futility of trying to rein in capitalism.

Introductory remarks by a young comrade from El Salvador put communism on the agenda. Despite more than a decade of heroic armed struggle, workers in this Central American country never fought directly for communism. Making the fight directly for communism is new and will succeed, he argued.

Then we saw a short video of ICWP activities in India, South Africa, Los Angeles and other places around the world.

One guest was a woman from eastern Africa who brought her kids. She had some questions.

She agreed Modi was a fascist. She knew about the attacks on Dalits and Muslims and was, of course, outraged.

A comrade started to say, "You can't end racism under..."

"Capitalism!" she finished the sentence for him.

But what concerned her most of all was why "communist" societies like the USSR and China

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Huge General Strike in India:

WORKERS NEED MASSIVE ICWP TO MOBILIZE FOR COMMUNISM NOW

180 million men and women went on strike in India on September 2! They dealt a blow to myths about the “passivity” of the masses and the “invincibility” of fascism. They showed clearly the revolutionary potential of the international working class.

It’s our job to arm them with communist ideas and organize them into the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP). They and millions more like them can smash capitalism and build a communist society.

Self-described “communists” lead the unions that called this strike. But their red flags wrapped a package of reform demands. Unions, whoever leads them, tie us to capitalism’s wage slavery.

To defeat fascism we must end capitalism. That’s why millions of workers need to join the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP). **Red Flag** readers who aren’t yet members should consider joining right now and recruiting others.

Dozens have recently joined in South Africa, India, Egypt, Bangladesh, Mozambique, Turkey, US, Mexico and El Salvador. With consistent communist work and patient struggle, dozens can become thousands.

Joining ICWP means struggling as part of a collective to discuss and advance communist ideas by putting them into practice. It means bringing communism to coworkers, students and soldiers by distributing this newspaper **Red Flag** and other party literature.

It means translating and writing for the paper so we can share our ideas and experiences internationally. It means supporting the publication of **Red Flag** and the international work of the party financially and in other ways as you are able.

We are not looking for a few “experienced organizers” or “expert revolutionaries.” We aim to recruit everyone who wants to live in a communist world and is willing to do what they can to make that happen.

Most of our comrades have jobs, families or other responsibilities. Not everyone can make the same contribution – now or in the communist future. Joining ICWP means being open to struggle to contribute more time, money and ideas, according to ability. Without the party and communist revolution, capitalism and its ruthless rulers will continue to inflict horrific injury on our class.

Communism Will Unleash Workers’ Creativity and Power

The international working class produces everything: cars, airplanes, roads and bridges, homes, health care, food and more. Capitalist bosses produce nothing but they alone profit from our labor. We don’t need them.

We need communist society where everything will be produced for need and not profit. Because it is a society based on the need of the international working class, it will also produce new kinds of roads, bridges, homes, health care and food. Most of all, it will produce more communists and communist social relations.

We’ll end all the harmful things that capitalism



“Communist? Give me one,” answered a woman carpenter when we offered her **Red Flag** in the annual Labor Day Parade in Wilmington, California. “What makes you think that communism can work?” asked a merchant seaman.

This parade not only gave us the opportunity to answer workers’ questions, but also to carry out a communist ideological struggle with the participants in the parade. These unionized workers form part of the political base of the trade union leaders and the Democratic Party. We distributed 550 **Red Flags** and 350 leaflets about the mass political strike in India and the need to mobilize the masses for communism around the world. A group of high school students very enthusiastically took our communist paper.

“What do I care about India?” said a veteran. “First we have to fix the situation here with the veterans.” We said that neither the capitalist government of India nor the capitalist US government or any other capitalist government can ever fix things or situations for the Indian or US working class because they are the cause of our exploitation. That’s why we need to build a communist society without borders or exploitation where the workers of the world are in charge of our lives and our destiny. “Give me the paper,” answered the veteran.

produces today. New types of production and distribution centers will replace today’s cities, factories, schools and supermarkets. Communist collective living will create new languages, music, education, art and sports that will promote creativity of everyone without competition.

Communism will unleash new forces that are impossible under capitalism. It will allow us finally to end racism, sexism, borders and all the other ways the bosses divide us. This will require a vigorous and massive struggle to smash racist and sexist ideas and practices remaining from the capitalist past.

Capitalist Crisis and Imperialist War Demand Communist Revolution

We cannot build communist society without a violent revolution.

While 180 million went on strike, Modi’s fascist government was furiously buying weapons from the US, France and Russia. The Indian capitalists he represents want to take advantage of the economic weakness of the US. But they also see China as a competitor that limits India’s growth. The Indian army is threatening a multi-billion-dollar China-Pakistan economic corridor by allying militarily with the US.

The Syrian civil war is bringing US, Russian

and Chinese forces onto the same battle field. US-China tensions are growing over North Korea and the South China Sea, and elsewhere. A major war among imperialists is gathering momentum.

No bosses will give up their profit peacefully. They will use everything, including nuclear weapons, to maintain their power and profits. It is our opportunity, as revolutionaries, to organize inside their armies to turn their profit wars into communist revolution. Their soldiers have no interest in risking their lives to prolong capitalism.

We will build communism on the ashes of capitalism. We will inherit a devastated society and planet. Today’s Syrian ruins will pale in comparison to the destruction of nuclear war. We do not say this to spread despair and hopelessness. Quite the opposite! We have the power to end capitalism once and for all.

The bigger our party, the less devastation the bosses can inflict upon us. Winning masses of workers and soldiers to ICWP must become the order of the day for Party members and all **Red Flag** readers with utmost urgency and determination.

We have nothing to lose but our chains. We have a world to win.



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South Africa:**BLACK & WHITE CAPITALISTS ARE ONE AND THE SAME**

This is a report from five comrades about a discussion we had with students at comrade Bongani's school.

We went to the school to talk with some of the guys who were interested to understand more about ICWP. As we approached the group, they were already discussing the politics here in South Africa. Then we told them who we were and what is ICWP.

It was positive to see their feedback and response. We were very happy to see three guys giving their phone numbers and wanting to come to our meetings.

One comrade asked if we hold meetings and we told them that we meet every weekend. He was keen to come and discuss communism. We told him that we look forward to him coming to the meetings.

We talked with them about what communism is and how it would influence society in the future. Most of them didn't understand the concept of communism. As we explained it,

some of them saw that communism is good. We spent over an hour talking with those comrades. One of Comrade Bongani's classmates made a pledge to join.

As we interacted, one comrade said that white people are oppressing us. He was right, in the sense that white capitalists are oppressing us, but so are black capitalists. That statement triggered a debate about whether only white people are capitalists and not any black people.

Therefore we talked more about the similarities

and differences between white and black capitalists and also their relationship to the working class. Black capitalists here are more accepted by the working class because of the color of their skin. But really they are one and the same as white capitalists. That was a highlight of the discussion.

Another highlight was that they asked how a communist society with no money and no bosses is going to operate. We talked about such things.

We explained that in capitalism, education is based only on what the bosses need at that moment. You go to school to be a worker in order to get money to try to buy what you need.

We told them that in communism people will learn how to produce the things that we need to survive, not only so that they can be workers and get paid. People will work to meet their needs according to their commitment and abilities and receive what they need.

Next we should also go to industrial companies and universities to mobilize more masses for communism.

**Los Angeles Transit:****WIN WORKERS & SOLDIERS TO COMMUNISM:
DON'T VOTE FOR "LESSER EVIL" POLITICIANS**

LOS ANGELES, CA—A few days ago a multiracial group of MTA mechanics discussed several topics. We began talking about the recent monthly magazine of our union, ATU. In the magazine the union President calls on the workers to vote for Hillary Clinton, because according to him, "she is the most qualified and an advocate for working families and for the unions." The opposite of Trump, in his words.

Two of the mechanics present thought that there was not much difference between Hillary and Trump, but that between two evils it was better to vote for the lesser evil (referring to Hillary Clinton) since nothing else could be done. Others

of us said that this wasn't true, that we workers do not have to participate in the electoral circus

where we know full well that no matter who wins, we workers will always lose. That is why is it very important to build the International Communist Workers' Party and develop *Red Flag* networks.

Another worker answered, "I'm not sure if that is possible."

One of the other participants in the meeting answered that it was possible, that in the history of the working class' struggle, the workers have been capable of taking power especially when they have been led and organized by communists.

The previous worker answered, "What can we workers do if they have the weapons? They have the power in their hands. We are not organized, but even if we were, they still have control."

A member of the party explained that we workers have the power to make a communist revolution because we are the ones who produce everything in the society, and because the majority of soldiers are part of our class. With determined,

intense political work, we can win them to our ranks.

One of the workers laughed and called the comrade a "dreamer" because,

he said, winning soldiers was impossible.

Another party member assured him that it was not impossible. During the Vietnam war, thousands of US soldiers rebelled and were willing to fight against the system but since a revolutionary communist organization didn't exist, this struggle became lost in reform. This shows however, that workers, students, farmworkers and soldiers can be won to our ranks. The important thing is that we organize in the factories, the shops, the schools, and the barracks.

Most of the participants agreed. That same day we organized a committee of mechanics readers of *Red Flag*. The next week we met to discuss how we can advance the party in the different shifts, how to advance our ideas among the drivers, and how to contact workers from other divisions. That same day a worker joined the party and is taking a lot of leadership.

All of this is due to the fact that many workers understand that capitalism is in decline, that the sharpening of the worldwide economic crisis will bring war, poverty, and mass murder, and because these evils are part of the capitalist imperialist process and not caused by a few dictators as the traitor union president wants to portray.

We have planned another meeting for this week to discuss why Communism is the only real alternative for the international working class.



**Our pamphlet
Soldiers, Sailors, Marines:
Crucial to a Communist
Workers' Revolution
is available at
icwpredflag.org/MIL/mpe.html**

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Workers shouldn't defend electoral politicians

OUR STRUGGLE MUST BE FOR COMMUNISM

EL SALVADOR—September 15—Recently the El Salvador Office of the District Attorney raided the house of ex-president Mauricio Funes. Funes is accused of having favored with contracts and bids businessmen who donated money to his campaign. At the same time, the district attorney arrested the former attorney general and the millionaire Enrique Rais. All this reflects the conflict between the traditional bourgeoisie and the capitalist allies of the fmln.

The indictment against Funes has caused outrage in part of the population while some demand prison for the ex-President who is now taking refuge in Nicaragua. Others defend him for being a target of the Salvadoran right wing.

Funes was a Social Democratic journalist who was elected President in 2009, representing the fmln (Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front). His election was justified with the argument that he would win the trust of the masses who feared the supposedly revolutionary fmln.

We communists stated then that we can't achieve a change of systems through elections. The only way was and is to fight directly for Communism. The fmln leadership launched attacks against our communist line, arguing that the masses were not ready and that an alliance with the liberal nationalist bourgeoisie was necessary. Time has shown how wrong they were to have confidence in elections.

Corruption is a capitalist practice. ARENA and the fmln have both been part of these corrupt acts. They don't only occur because of the personal ambitions of the electoral politicians but because this is part of the way the capitalist system of exploitation always functions.

Communism and ICWP will put an end to years of liberal and harmful leaders of the working class. Our party will not make alliances with the bourgeoisie for any reason. Our party is growing and is nourished by the masses. We will make



May Day, El Salvador, 2014

decisions collectively and always for the good of the international working class.

Now the fmln tries to convince their membership that it was a strategic error to have allied with these capitalists. The truth is that the leadership of the fmln has become capitalists; they have their own class interests. For example, Merino with his businesses in Nicaragua, Sigfrido as a landlord, and all the profits that ALBA generates are examples of the capitalist economic power they have developed. The most "radical" voices of the fmln ask the fmln leadership to "distance themselves from the capitalists." However, they are part of the new ruling class.

As communists, we do not look for justice from the capitalist courts. This whole show has been prepared by a traditional sector of the Salvadoran bourgeoisie. It is here that the masses must pay special attention. Even though the traditional right wing is behind this, the masses must

not defend at any time these electoral politicians or parties which have betrayed the working class.

The only alternative is to mobilize the masses for Communism. We cannot lose time defending supposed allies of the workers. This would mean weakening our movement. To put an end once and for all to corruption, and liberal and bourgeois leaders, we must organize the International Communist Workers' Party. The distribution of *Red Flag* will help the workers understand who our enemy is and who our real allies are.

The only way to put an end to corruption is to eliminate money immediately after the revolution. In communism we will collectively organize all aspects of life. The collectives in the neighborhoods, districts or cities have to be vigilant that these decisions are always for the benefit of all of humanity and not only for a few.

COMMUNIST RESPONSE TO RACISM from page 1

hadn't eliminated racism.

Russia and China were actually socialist, which maintained the material basis of racism. Socialism retains all the earmarks of capitalist economies. It has money, wages, profits and capitalist social relations of production. Hence, it promotes competition between workers. All the good intentions in the world cannot stop racism from rearing its ugly head in this environment.

In communism, we will produce for our collective needs. Everyone will contribute according to their commitment and ability. Mental and manual labor will no longer be segregated. Workers will no longer compete for jobs. In short, the economic pillars of racism will be destroyed. We will mount the international campaigns needed to smash racism and xenophobia in this kind of environment.

We went into some detail about how we could then change everything—from education to housing, to eliminating cops and prisons—to support anti-racist worker unity.

Our guest had thought socialism would lead to communism. She left with a different idea: that socialism was in contradiction to a communist goal. She liked our guiding principle of mobilizing the masses directly for communism.

She looks forward to our November school when we will discuss how communism will work. She's in touch with 30,000 others on the internet who are already discussing what kind of society they want when workers have power. She wants to report on the ideas that come out of the

ICWP school.

Since we were discussing racism, a Boeing worker wanted to know what Trump supporters are going to do if he loses the U.S. presidential campaign. We discussed that the Trump campaign is an example of how the global crisis of overproduction leads to polarization. The old way of capitalist rule just won't work when workers can't live in the old way.

In this political climate, our priority is to create enthusiasm for communist revolution. The only way to effectively answer Trump-like fascism is with communism. No matter what the struggle, we have to spend as much time as possible developing an appreciation for what communism can accomplish.

A former University of Washington worker drew the correct conclusion from these discussions. She's come to every party event since she proudly held high our party May Day banner throughout the two-hour march. Motivated by anger at the racist killings by cops, she and others

are planning to build a political action group on campus to develop a communist response.

When she asked when the next general ICWP event was, a comrade asked her to help plan it at our next club meeting.

"You can see the potential here," commented this comrade. "Our party needs more members to help make the plans. Those that do the work can make the best decisions. It's the communist way." The worker agreed to join.

These are the victories we seek today: more communists and spreading the communist vision to tens of thousands worldwide. The potential is there; the reality is emerging. Now it's your turn to join the ICWP.



May Day, Seattle, 2016

COMMUNIST MISTAKES ABOUT NATIONALISM, PART II

In Part I, we saw the political line of the Communist International (CI) that communists in colonial countries must ally with capitalists and fight for “bourgeois democracy.” This idea was taken over from the political program that the Bolshevik party had developed long before their revolution of October 1917.

That program was based on the assumption that in countries where capitalism was less developed, the masses could not succeed in a fight for communism or even socialism. Even socialism was claimed to need a large working class and a strong industrial base. Instead of communism, the masses were supposed to put up with capitalism until the working class grew larger and the capitalist economy developed further.

Lenin said that if the capitalists of a country that did not yet have a “bourgeois-democratic” government were willing to fight for one, the workers should ally with them. They should “deal joint ‘blows’ at the enemy, shoulder to shoulder with the revolutionary bourgeois democrats.” While allying with capitalists, the working class was supposed to fight for the leading role in the movement, the so-called “hegemony of the proletariat.” This was supposed to allow turning the fight for bourgeois democracy into a fight for socialism.

The CI applied this line specifically to countries dominated by imperialism. It claimed that workers had at least temporary common interests with “their” capitalists, one of the central ideas of nationalism. Applying this wrong analysis, the CI often made it worse by underestimating the potential political activism of the worker and peasant masses in col-

onized countries like India and China.

In India, for example, there were quite a few industrial workers even before WWI, in textiles, jute mills, coal mining, etc. These workers organized strikes, including a big political strike in 1908 and a series of big strikes in 1920 and 1921. Although the majority of Indians were peasants, about a quarter of the agricultural population were workers by the 1920s. Peasants fought violent battles against landlords and British rule. The revolt in Malabar against landlords and the British army in 1921, for example, led to about 60,000 arrests and 10,000 casualties. A large section of the Indian masses was capable of fighting against capitalism if a communist party led them.

Although the Bolshevik’s nationalistic position on allying with capitalists remained the dominant one, it was often challenged by communist activists. Indian communist M. N. Roy argued against Lenin at the 2nd CI Congress in 1920. He said that the CI should not support the “bourgeois-democratic movement in Eastern countries,” and in India it should “assist exclusively the formation of the communist movement in India” and “concentrate on organizing the broad

masses for the struggle” for their interests.

Comrades from Italy and Iran said that national movements that included capitalists were simply not revolutionary. Serrati of Italy argued that alliances with capitalists undermined working class consciousness. In fact

allying with capitalists always means suppressing or watering down communist politics and promoting nationalism.

The CI continued to support capitalist movements, however, especially in China. When M. M. Borodin was sent to China as a CI representative, his orders said that he was to “act in the interests of the national liberation movement in China and not to concentrate on implanting communism in China.”

Borodin developed a close relationship with Sun Yat-Sen, leader of the nationalist Guomindang (GMD). Borodin supplied CI money, arms and organizational advice to the GMD and urged communists to join it. In April 1927, Chang Kai-shek led the GMD against the communists, massacring communist supporters in Shanghai and other cities. About 300,000 communists and their supporters were murdered over the next year, and the communist movement has nearly wiped out by the GMD attacks.

This enormous defeat should have led to the rejection of worker alliances with capitalists in colonies, but it didn’t. Why not? The Bolsheviks were convinced that their own revolution had succeeded by following the line they wanted to apply in China and India. This was in fact a distorted analysis of their own history. They also bought into the idea that industry must be much better developed in India or China for the dictatorship of the proletariat to succeed there. This was contradicted by the Bolsheviks’ own experience of revolution in relatively backward Russia. The clearest evidence of the impossibility of a nationalist strategy to destroy capitalism-imperialism and establish communism was to come later, however, with the failure of all of the “national liberation” movements of the 1950s, ‘60s and ‘70s. We will discuss these movements later in this series.



PLANNING FOR COMMUNIST EDUCATION

What will communist education be like?

We know on general principles that it will be education for communist society, a society based on mutual aid rather than competition, one in which everyone works for the good of all. We also know that it will combine study and productive labor at every stage (this is even mentioned in the communist manifesto).

This is hardly a plan though. What else, if anything, can we predict/plan?

We may not be able to produce an exact blueprint, but we can show the equivalent of an architect’s sketch.

One skeptical comrade questioned a recent letter in *Red Flag*, which claimed, among other things, that under communism ‘classes’ will integrate students of different ages. “How do we know this?” he asked.

To begin with, there is the experience of communist education in Russia.

When the Bolsheviks took power, they had no firm plans for education. The tsarist schools were useless. They educated only a small fraction of the population, were gender-segregated, religious and militaristic.

So the Bolsheviks had to improvise. They started by selectively adapting some of the better ideas of bourgeois “progressive” educators. Communist schools emphasized group activities over traditional lecturing. These groups, which were age integrated, allowed students to contribute according to their abilities and learn according to their capacities and interests.

The Road to Life: An Epic of Education is a good source. The Gorky colony leader Anton Makarenko chronicles how all-age collectives of

street kids ran everything including study and learning.

Unfortunately, the experiment in communist education was shut down the early 30’s. The government imposed the age-segregated Prussian system as part of the plan to adopt capitalist-style education.

The fight around communist education began anew during the Chinese Cultural Revolution. You can make a case that this struggle sparked the revolt of millions against revisionism in general.

These revolutions provide invaluable historical experience, but the case for age integration does not end here.

There is the opinion and experience of well-intentioned educational critics and reformers even in capitalist societies. Many point out that the Prussian system holds advanced learners back and brands those who need more time as “failures.” Why would we want to do that?

Even today some alternative schools group students of all age levels into small “families.” Everyone must look out for others in their “family:” including tutoring, play social skills, the safety of someone being harassed, etc. Under capitalism this will always remain an insignificant alternate. Only communism can allow collective ideas to flourish.

Furthermore, communists should be skeptical about any kind of social segregation or compartmentalization. Of course, some types of segregation aren’t always a bad idea. Even in communism we will have strict rules about who can be present in an operating room or around dangerous machinery.

But suppose a class is having a session on calculus. If a young student, say an eleven-year old, wants to attend, where’s the harm? Calculus isn’t dangerous. And remember, she’s not being dropped into a bourgeois university calculus course, which treats the subject abstractly and formalistically. It is possible to make calculus accessible to ‘unprepared’ students by using ideas such as area, volume, speed and acceleration – concepts they are familiar with.

Coming up with other suggestions and trying to justify them would be a good task for an ICWP collective, especially one involved in education. We need your help!

Why is it important to predict and plan for communist education? For a start, because we don’t want to be caught unprepared like the Bolsheviks and Chinese. We don’t want to rely on “progressive” capitalist experts, even if we pick and choose from their ideas.

More importantly, we want people to know what they’re fighting for. Workers are (and should be) skeptical of movements that are vague about their final goals.

But it’s not just a matter of overcoming skepticism. We want workers to realize just how good communist education will be. How collective work and study will allow every student to realize their full potential without ever feeling like a “failure.”

Students and teachers will be motivated by the desire to create a better life for our class. This will help bring out enthusiasm for communism, enthusiasm which will lead to the smashing of capitalist education and the building of communist education for all.

LETTERS

LETTERS

LETTERS

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

“This is a communist story”

I am a teacher. I want to share with you the experience that I had in a teacher training class that we had on the weekends. I met a teacher whose training began when he was 11 years old in the refugee camp of Colomoncagua Honduras, during El Salvador's armed conflict in the 1980's. He worked in the shops and in the afternoons he taught reading (they were called popular teachers).

As part of the training in our current class, they gave us the task of writing a story for elementary school students. He shared part of his story and asked me to read it and tell him if I understood the text.

When I stated reading it, I discovered that it was a communist story.

It was something related to the senses. It began with the sense of taste and in his story he said that the food was prepared with joy so that all the people could savor those delicacies. Nobody lacked food; there was enough for everyone... and so his story continued.

I immediately said, “This is a communist story!”

He looked at me and said, “How do you know?”

I answered, “I know communist ideas, being organized in the International Communist Workers' Party—ICWP, and I'm glad that you also have this way of thinking. We are fighting for a communist system in which all of humanity has food and no one dies of hunger.”

In a subsequent conversation he already trusted me and he told me his story of how he became a teacher.

We kept talking and I told him about *Red Flag*. He told me that he hadn't read anything like that. I offered to bring him the newspaper. I told him how workers organized in ICWP use this newspaper as our tool for deepening and spreading communist ideas, about how communism must put an end to the capitalist system through worldwide proletarian revolution. He is interested in reading *Red Flag* which I will deliver to him the next time we get together.

We should take advantage of any space to carry out our Communist work.

--Comrade Teacher in El Salvador

International Political Strike Against Cop Terror in the US

Recently I had some discussions with a colleague regarding the idea of the political strike, in addition to other demands related to the upsurge in the fightback against cop terror in the US at this time.

In our conversation, we agreed that a political strike must have a specific demand and that this strike should be international in scope, if at all possible. We spoke of the 2006 movement in Los Angeles and other cities in support of immigrant rights, and how that date should be considered a political strike, albeit one of the largest of its kind in the US.

The political strike we envision could be generally focused on demanding an end to pig terror, and demanding justice for all the victims of cop terror. This would raise that political demand that, since the US is unable to protect Black people and the oppressed people from cop terror, that the international working class be called upon to do so through the ICWP.

I hope that this proposal will be discussed, debated, and considered as one way to bring a revolutionary political orientation to the upsurge of struggle against police terror.

-a comrade

**Distributing Red Flag to Soldiers**

The last mobilization we had was very good. We ended up running out of 500 *Red Flags*. More questions were asked and answered and the DVD's were played. The masses were so shocked when we were playing *The Unknown War* (WWII) and the epic battles of the Russian front. Good enough that our masses getting the *Red Flag* were all soldiers. As they were busy watching the DVD they couldn't keep quiet. They are hoping to join us at the next political classes or conference.

--South African comrade

Capitalism and Individualism

I had a discussion with my friends from school and classmates about communism. The first thing we talked about was exploitation of workers by the capitalists. One of them said that when he finishes his degree he will join the workforce to work and save enough money and start a business so that he can stop being exploited.

That brought the issue of selfishness to the discussion. Many of them doubt that there can be a place where people work for a collective because they believe that the element of selfishness and corruption will always be there.

As the discussion continued one of them raised the issue of fear of coming out of the comfort zone. Some people do know that they're exploited but they fear that they have many family members who depend on their salaries. So if they fight capitalism they will end up with no jobs and that means no income for them.

Another thing on the menu was the issue of the wrong understanding about communism. Some of them think that in a communist society the government owns everything and allocates everything to the people. The explanation to the wrong understanding about a communist society was that in a communist society there will be no classes, meaning there will be no government because that will create another class.

To summarise the discussion, the main issue was individualism and how will a communist society defeat it. Some people are conditioned about or from it from an early age, so as they grow it becomes a part of their lives.

--Comrade Lwaze in South Africa

Workers are Starved of Reading Material

I've just received some pamphlets on soldiers and *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* from the post. I want to thank you for these documents and express my grati-

tude. Workers really appreciate them. They always ask me for more. I am going to distribute them first thing on Monday at work.

Something I have been observing over a period of time is that workers are starved of reading material. Hence they are easily persuaded by capitalist print and electronic media. So the ease of access and availability of the relevant reading material will go a long way in shaping the correct understanding of working class ideology and practice.

--A comrade in South Africa

Magic Denim and MTA workers: Oppose the Cuts - Smash the Wage System!

Among other roles, the wage system divides workers almost like a wall or border fence. On the front pages of the last *Red Flag* there was an article discussing possible fight backs against planned cuts in the wages of Los Angeles MTA (transit) workers. On the back pages, there was a letter analyzing possible fightbacks against cuts in the wages of LA garment workers.

The last issue of *Red Flag* pointed out MTA workers can have their job assigned to Foothill Transit and Magic Denim garment workers (LA) can have their jobs assigned to workers in Mexico. As we can see this aspect of the wage system only differs slightly from the slave system.

In chattel slavery, the worker could be assigned any job, anywhere, any master (boss) wanted.

In wage slavery any job can be assigned any worker, anywhere, any boss (master) wants. The system creates a huge gap between “high” paid and “low” paid workers. The one supposedly a stable, law abiding, backbone of the system; the other, marginal and suspect. But it is only appearances.

The reality is that both groups are disposable. The wage system only has use for a worker (high paid or low paid) if he or she can make a profit for the boss (master).

Red Flag should unite these two groups. Our paper is pioneering the development of communist propaganda where we take a single issue and demonstrate its connection to the whole capitalist system. Alongside that, we should also develop communist agitation where we take a single issue and build a communist campaign around it calling for meetings, demonstrations, marches or strikes against the wage system. Students could help too.

This is solidarity in action!

--Veteran comrade



LETTERS

LETTERS

LETTERS

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS



Workers in Bangladesh Inspired by General Strike in India

Today's strike of workers in India is very inspiring, though we know the limitations of the trade unions' goals. But I think it will be helpful for mass mobilization for communism.

In Bangladesh also many things are happening. The state rulers are determined to launch the Rampal coal-powered electricity plant in the Khulna district, near the Sundarbans. This mangrove forest, the world's largest, is supposed to be protected.

The Rampal plant is a partnership between India's state-owned National Thermal Power Corporation and the Bangladesh Power Development Board. The contract is beyond illegal. But the fascist government of Dhaka [capital of Bangladesh] is on hardline to do that.

Moreover here university students are demanding their accommodation but the authority is denying them. There is no internal law and order at all. Rape, killing, robbery are increasing day by day. You know the practice of such rulers and their followers' deeds. These are boiling the citizens' anger against the ruling class.

The conditions are very beneficial for the mass mobilization for our party. The so-called Communists here are not doing the true job.

We need dialectical materialism to sum things up. Fake Communists can't find the true way to fight against the capitalists. Only we can build a true communist movement.

Red salute, comrades!

--ICWP member in Bangladesh

Elections in South Africa

On August 3, South Africa held its local municipal elections. The African National Congress (ANC), which has been in power for the last 22 years, lost three major cities: the Nelson Mandela Metro (Port Elizabeth area), Thswane, and Johannesburg. They lost them to the DA (Democratic Alliance).

The ANC's losses provide us with great opportunities to mobilize the masses for communism. The masses in South Africa are tired of the arrogance and empty promises of the ANC and its corruption. As a result they are looking for alternatives.

The shift of power from the ANC to the DA does not mean better things are about to come for the working class. It simply means that they are about to continue as before. The DA was in power in Cape Town before the elections and are still in power. The working class lives in

"You Can't Eat Money!"

As we go to press, the National Guard has been activated in North Dakota and riot gear-clad police have arrested at least twenty protestors at the construction site of the Dakota Access Pipeline.

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and thousands of Native Americans and their supporters have occupied the site, demanding that the construction of an oil pipeline under the Missouri River be stopped.

The Obama administration has called a temporary halt to the process, but the long-term struggle continues.

Under capitalism, the decisions about energy are driven primarily by profit and secondarily by political opportunism. In a communist society we will need to make hard decisions that weigh immediate human need for energy against the long term preservation of the planet. But in communism, the masses led by their party will make these decisions--not the capitalists and their politicians.

horrific conditions there: it is number one in gang violence nationally; it has more shacks. Voting for the DA is not the solution.

The only solution is to join the ICWP in fighting the very system that created these problems: capitalism.

The masses saw that the ANC was not the Party that cares for their needs. Therefore, most people did not vote. People are tired and looking for alternatives and a solution.

This provides us with the opportunity to mobilize these masses to fight for a classless communist society where the needs of the working class are primary. A society that struggles to meet the needs of all our brothers and sisters.

We urge our comrades and class brothers and sisters to join our party, the ICWP and help provide the only solution to the problems created by capitalism. We can do this if the masses in South Africa and around the world make communist ideas their own and spread them to every corner of the world. That is how we can put an end to this horrific capitalist system.

--A South African Comrade

WHAT WE FIGHT FOR: MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

SEE

[icwpredflag.org/MMC/
MMCnewE.html](http://icwpredflag.org/MMC/MMCnewE.html)



CULTURAL REVOLUTION from page 8

Yang said, the masses had to forcefully overthrow the "bourgeois dictatorship and the revisionist system of the revolutionary committee." The existing state must be completely smashed.

He knew that "the revolutionary committee's road of bourgeois reformism is a dead-end." It "would take China the way of the revisionist Soviet Union." If the Cultural Revolution stopped here, "the people will again be returned to the bloody fascist rule of capitalism."

Yang called for the formation of Maoist groups that could become a new revolutionary party. But, as a dedicated Maoist, he clung to mistaken theories like "two-stage revolution."

Yang rejected communism as an immediate goal because "the masses have not yet fully understood that their interest lies in the realization of 'communes' in China." He strongly opposed the "leftist doctrine of one revolution." This was the idea that the revolutionary committee should be overthrown right away and replaced by the commune.

Mao and other CCP leaders had been watching Yang. In November 1967 they launched a campaign against "ultra-leftism" in Hunan. They responded to "Whither China?" with an all-out attack. The CCP called Shengwulian "counter-revolutionary" and "extremely reactionary." Yang and his comrades got long prison terms.

But the CCP also circulated the essay widely to expose its "errors." Hundreds of thousands read and debated it in China. It influenced many communists in other countries. Some eventually helped to found our International Communist Workers' Party.

The next article will describe how the "ultra-left" continued to grow. We will draw important lessons from its great strengths and fatal weaknesses.



Street Rally, Shanghai, January 1967

Capitalists Profit from Deadly Drugs

COMMUNISM WILL UPROOT CAUSES OF ADDICTION

There is an opiate epidemic in the USA. Opioid use has tripled since 2000. One hundred thirty people die daily from opioid overdoses.

Big pharmaceutical corporations (Big Pharma) use their lobbying power to expand their massive production and distribution of these addicting drugs. That's capitalism: maximizing profits by super-exploiting and controlling the masses.

In the USA, drug companies lobbied in 2001 to get the Joint Commission to make pain rating ("the 5th vital sign") a required standard. Since then, most hospitals make doctors assess pain for every patient and prescribe pain medications.

Big Pharma knew and didn't care that opiates are not effective for long-term pain. Nor that these addicting drugs were pouring into communities where alienated (and often jobless) youth and workers could easily get them. The age-adjusted opioid-involved death rate nearly quadrupled by 2014.

US capitalism's "solution" to the opioid epidemic is federal legislation that includes increased access to naloxone, a medication used to save people from an overdose. Guess who will profit? The same pharmaceutical corporations! One manufacturer increased the wholesale price of its naloxone auto-injector to \$4,500 this year (from under \$700 in 2014).

China: Communists Fought Drug Addiction

Back in the 1830's, British imperialists used their military power to force India to grow opium and China to buy it. Their goals were vast profits and a weaker China. By 1880 over 6,500 tons of opium entered China annually. China itself started cultivating opium. In the early 1900's, it was the world's biggest opium producer. Drug addiction grew massively. Criminal gangs linked to Western powers ran the drug trade.

When communists took power in China in 1949, there were 70 million opium addicts. By 1952, there were practically none! The Chinese communists saw the need to change the social conditions that had enabled drug manufactures to flourish profitably.

Before the revolution, the best land was de-

voted to the opium poppy, even when there was a serious shortage of cereal grains. The communists abolished poppy cultivation and opium importation. They relied on the mobilized masses to carry this out.

Families helped addicted relatives to quit. Peasants got help to plough up their opium crops and plant wheat or rice instead. Communists mobilized neighborhoods in a massive educational program. Street committees held study groups to discuss the evils of opium and heroin. Drugs lost their appeal when the masses saw a bright future ahead.

Addicts were considered victims of the enemy rather than criminals. After their recovery, they got training and then jobs. Communities pressured dealers to stop. They accepted those who did and trained them for work. They imprisoned or killed those few who refused.

The anti-opium campaign was part of an overall mobilization to rid the country of many capitalist evils. It was a struggle to destroy the material basis of drug addiction: capitalist exploitation.

The unified, collective action of the masses of workers and peasants temporarily conquered opium addiction in China. They fought for a new society meant to meet the masses' needs in every aspect of life.

But Chinese communists did not lead the way to completely eliminate the wage system and money. Instead of building communism, they implemented socialism (actually, state capitalism).

Drug addiction has returned to China along with market capitalism. Addiction to legal or illegal drugs is mainly a social disease, caused by social conditions. We can only end it by attacking the root of exploitation, alienation and oppression: capitalism and its wage slavery and profit mode of production.

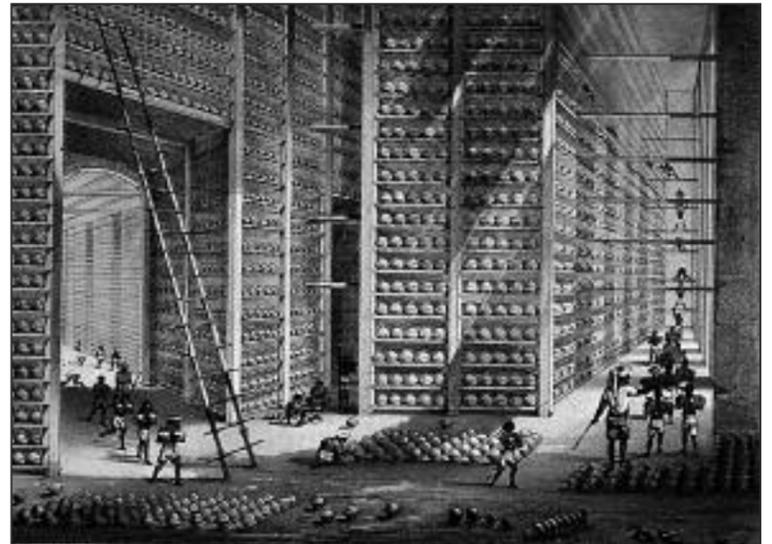
No Drug Addiction in Our Bright Communist Future

The Chinese communist fight to eradicate opium addiction shows the power of the mobilized masses. To eliminate the scourge of drug addiction for good, workers must mobilize the masses worldwide consciously for communism.

Now we know we must fight directly to eliminate wage slavery. Masses will run communist society collectively to meet our needs.

We need to organize study groups of International Communist Workers' Party in every neighborhood, production center and military installation. We must help each other free ourselves from the poisons of capitalism, including drugs, racism, sexism and individualism.

Let's build healthy communist relations in a mass party that will destroy the material basis of drug addiction!



A huge opium production factory in Patna, India, 1850.

The British organized this huge corporate trade supported by the government and navy to successfully attack China's enormous wealth, as the world's leading economy. The Chinese Emperor ruled the drugs illegal, ordering the ports closed to opium. But the British, supported by their government, smuggled it in illegally. This led to two Opium Wars between China and Britain. Britain won, forcing China to open up to opium trade. The trade depleted China of its huge silver reserves, and destroyed China's industrial production as millions of Chinese workers and peasants became opium addicts.

History of the Cultural Revolution in China (Part 5):

ULTRA-LEFTISTS EXPOSE "RED CAPITALIST CLASS"

The last article described the "Wuhan Incident" (summer 1967). It pointed toward the importance of mobilizing for communism inside the military today.

The Wuhan Incident sharpened contradictions between the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and students and workers who were sick and tired of bloody struggles that only overthrew a few leaders.

In November 1966, two high school students ("Yilin-Dixi") had written that "the proletarian dictatorship needs to be ameliorated [fixed], the socialist system needs to be reformed, and the form of the Party and the government need to be amended." They called for creation of "a brand-new state machinery to replace the old one."

Yilin-Dixi thought they were endorsing Mao's call for a Paris Commune structure of government. But they were quickly jailed. In February 1967, Mao renounced the Paris Commune model. He condemned their slogan "thoroughly ameliorate the proletarian dictatorship."

An April article "On New Trends of Thought" argued that power and property were still concentrated in the hands of a few. The main contradiction in Chinese society, it said, was between a

"privileged class" of power holders taking the capitalist road and the mass of laboring people. The Cultural Revolution should redistribute property and power.

To many revolutionaries, the Wuhan Incident showed the need to seize military power. During midsummer 1967, mass organizations raided army depots and barracks. They even attacked trains carrying war materiel to revisionists in Vietnam. CCP leaders tried to stop this by promising to arm the "leftist organizations" though not as heavily as their opponents. Fighting escalated across China nearly to civil war.

Mao then demanded an end to all attacks on the army. All arms should be returned. Rebel groups should vie for a share of power on the "revolutionary committees." Many, disgusted with the infighting, retreated from politics.

By fall 1967, many workers and students became more sharply critical of the CCP. "Ultra-Left" groups began to grow. Their critique of Chinese socialism ("New Trends of Thought" or NT) was more sweeping than any faction within the divided CCP leadership.

NT "ultra-leftists" questioned the roots and goals of the Cultural Revolution. They formed

groups such as the "Communist Group" in Beijing, the "October Revolution Group" in Shandong, the "Oriental Society" in Shanghai and the "August 5 Commune" in Guangzhou. The most significant were the Sheng-wu-lian in Changsha (capital of Hunan province) and the Bei-jue-yang (or Juepai) in Wuhan.

Whither China? (January, 1968)

The most influential "Ultra-Left" document was "Whither China?" by 19-year-old Yang Xiguang. He belonged to Shengwulian, which was active from October 1967 to January 1968.

Yang synthesized ideas from many NT groups. He concluded that "over 90 per cent of our high-ranking officials have formed into a unique class—the red capitalist class."

The CPC's relationship with the masses, Yang said, "has changed from that of leaders and followers to rulers and ruled, to exploiters and exploited, from equal, revolutionary camaraderie to oppressors and oppressed. The class interests, prerogatives, and high income of the red capitalist class are built upon repression and exploitation of the masses of the population."

To create the People's Commune of China, **See CULTURAL REVOLUTION, page 7**