

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM



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

**BUILDING AN
INTERNATIONAL
PARTY FOR A
WORLD WITHOUT
BORDERS
SEE PAGE 2**



Reject the Hype:

TROOPS, NOT TECHNOLOGY, KEY TO COMMUNISM'S VICTORY

SEATTLE, WA—The media are heralding Boeing's new laser cannon as a military breakthrough. The company had one successful test after a string of failures over the last decade.

The laser cannon joins a long list of "game-changing" technologies. Each was supposed to make the U.S. military invincible. Remember the multibillion-dollar Star Wars Missile Defense fiasco? The US government started it in 1983 under Reagan. They spent \$30 billion to try to set up an elaborate nuclear defense system, including using lasers, to target and stop the Soviet Union. It was finally scrapped as unfeasible. Once again, reality doesn't live up to the hype.

The bosses' over-reliance on technology stems from their fundamental weakness: over the long haul, they can't rely on working-class troops.

Communists can. That is why we will win.

History's Lessons

The Vietnamese won two wars

against technologically superior forces. They defeated the French and then the U.S. imperialists.

"Then what did we get out of the war?" asked a Boeing machinist.

After some thought our comrade answered, "U.S. soldiers learned to revolt."

The Pentagon concluded that 47% of their troops in 1971 had been involved either in resistance or outright rebellion. The U.S. Army with all its advanced technology was "approaching collapse" and "near-mutinous."¹

In the end, the Vietnamese were defeated by their own political compromises. The goals of national liberation and socialism were their undoing.

The 1917 Russian revolution could not have happened without millions of soldiers turning their guns on the capitalist regime.

Just as significant was the military defense of the new socialist state. Fourteen foreign imperialists invaded; soldiers from fourteen invading armies mutinied.

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Garment Workers:

RED FLAG IS OUR WEAPON

LOS ANGELES—In a recent meeting of the Party collective of garment workers, ex-garment workers and others, we read the *Red Flag* editorial entitled, "Developments in Refugee Crisis...Join ICWP" (Vol. 6 #16) and saw some clips from a video about the struggle of the refugees in Europe. Then we made a communist analysis of this situation.

During the discussion, a comrade said, "The refugee crisis shows many important aspects, for example that the capitalist wars in Syria, throughout Africa, and in the whole Middle East are the root of these problems. These wars are linked to the inter-imperialist rivalry between the US and China and Russia. But the most important aspect is to understand how international workers' solidarity contains the seed of communist ideas and sentiments."

The idea wasn't just to show the horrors of capitalism but to emphasize that the masses are open to communist ideas. We also wanted to show how to use this in our work places and among our political base

to advance the growth of our Party, the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP).

The majority of those present, all Latinos or Latinas, have experienced the horrors of wars, repression, poverty, and the need to emigrate in order to survive. The comments about the plight of the refugees in Europe recalled the plight all have suffered personally crossing the deserts and mountains and seeing many fall on this road of death. The consequences of capitalism are attacks on the whole international working class.

A comrade strongly emphasized the need to become communist leaders, to take a step up from only being friends of ICWP, or semi-active members. He struggled with everyone there to be bolder in taking communist ideas to our work places.

A woman who works in garment said, "We don't have machine guns."

The comrade raised the newspaper *Red Flag* and said, "This is our

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Workers Travel Around the Globe – *Red Flag* Goes With Them

PLEASE HELP US AND WE CAN CHANGE THIS WORLD

October 1 – “My English is not very good, but I can read,” said a far-away comrade. He had recently received the leaflet on the refugee crisis published by the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP). “I like what communism is. I want to know more. I speak Mandarin, Korean and Arabic in addition to the language I grew up with. I can help to spread *Red Flag*’s ideas in those languages.

“Once we had a very big communist party here but they did not fight for communist revolution. I support real communism,” he continued.

He mentioned that one of the biggest massacres in the history of communism took place in the country he’s from. The fake communists (revisionists) supported the nationalist bosses who turned around and killed millions of workers.

“I want to build for communist revolution, real communism. I have many friends and supporters,” this comrade declared. “Please help me and we can change this world.”

This worker told us, “I want you to be my teacher to learn about communism.” We replied that we are learning how to organize for communism from him and comrades like him.

The cause of the refugee crisis is the capitalist bosses’ relentless attack on the working class in their endless fight to maximize profits.

US imperialism’s devastating (and unsuccessful) wars on Iraq and Afghanistan set the process in motion. The savage attacks by Assad and the Islamic State on the Syrian masses have driven nearly twelve million from their homes.

These wars and crises, and more to come, create huge opportunities to mobilize the masses for communism.

Worldwide, over 60 million workers have been set in motion by capitalism’s wars and economic crisis. This is creating huge opportunities to mobilize the masses for communism.

Most truly have nothing to lose but their chains. Together we can change this world.

Please help as others have already done. Step forward to translate and distribute *Red Flag* and the ICWP leaflet on the refugee crisis (icwpredflag.org/RME/refugees.pdf).

A worker living an extremely difficult life in a refugee camp in a remote area of Asia wants to organize for communist revolution. Ten copies of the *Red Flag* will be delivered to his refugee tent.

A long time reader from Nepal thanked RF for sending the leaflet. He said all the so-called com-



munist parties in Nepal are fake. They have betrayed the working class. He is for real communist revolution.

We encouraged him to join ICWP. He made useful suggestions to improve *Red Flag*.

He would like more articles about the crisis and wars in the Middle East. They should explain how nationalists, local governments and imperialists are responsible for the misery of the working class.

He wrote, “We must point out that capitalism causes all these genocides. To survive, it tries to win many people to religious ideas. These ideas prevent them from becoming communists. So we must expose religion from the communist point of view.”

A *Red Flag* reader in Pakistan praised the leaflet for explaining “how communism will resolve the problems of the capitalist system.”

But, he said, we need to know more about the process of how we can get to our goal of smashing the capitalist bosses around the world.

By firmly and resolutely organizing the international working class – especially industrial workers and those with weapons in their hands – we will end the system based on profit and exploitation with communist revolution.

In place of the deadly nationalism of the old communist movements, the ICWP was founded as an international party. We say to our friend in Pakistan and to all readers that the process starts now. It starts with joining the International Communist Workers’ Party and building collectives (cells) wherever we are.

These collectives must read and discuss *Red Flag* and other communist literature. They must

make plans to take communist ideas to the masses. Then write to *Red Flag* – as a comrade in Qatar did last issue – describing your work or asking questions.

This is already starting to happen with workers from Venezuela, Brazil, Colombia, Argentina and Chile. From South Africa, Nigeria, Egypt, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia. The United States, Canada, Mexico, El Salvador and Honduras. Norway, France, Spain, Austria, Ukraine and Serbia. Nepal, Bhutan, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

By ones and twos, fives and tens, we are starting to sow the seeds of a communist world. We are sending a clear message to the capitalist bosses everywhere that their days are numbered. More importantly, we are sending a clear message to workers everywhere that our day is coming.

The specter of communism still haunts our tormentors. They viciously and cynically attempt to stop us with racism, mass terror, anticommunism and the threat of nuclear weapons. But that will only guarantee their inevitable end.

We need your help to hasten that end. Together we can build a communist world without borders where nobody is forced to migrate but everyone is welcome everywhere.

A communist world without money where nobody is threatened with poverty and starvation and everyone has the opportunity to do meaningful work for the common good.

Join the International Communist Workers’ Party now! Speak with the person who gave you this paper or contact us at icwp@anonymousspeech.com.

GARMENT WORKERS

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machine gun.”

This time more comrades took more newspapers to distribute among their friends and co-workers.

In this communist club, all are immigrants. At different levels, all are helping to build a revolution and a communist world. Hundreds of papers are distributed, every edition, among garment workers and hundreds of leaflets about the refugees in Europe have also been distributed.

We invite workers to join our communist study groups, to distribute *Red Flag*, and to help to build our next mass May Day march in 2016.



**MOBILIZE THE
MASSES FOR
COMMUNISM**

International Communist Workers’ Party

www.icwpredflag.org



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MEXICO:**TEACHERS FROM SECTION 22 NEED TO TAKE THE COMMUNIST ROAD**

MEXICO—Thousands of federal police in the “Gendarmeria” are deployed in Oaxaca to stop protests in the schools by teachers and other school workers. The government says that restructuring the State Public Education Institute of Oaxaca (IEEPO) will remove the “privileges and abuses” of Section 22 of the National Union of Education Workers (SNTE). They have frozen Section 22’s bank accounts and the allocation of union dues (which the government continues to deduct from the workers’ paychecks).

These school workers are among the many workers worldwide who are fighting the evils of capitalism in response to the use (not only abuse) of the workers’ labor power. The workers did not stop fighting even after the Soviet and Chinese leaders renounced communism in the last half of the 20th century.

Many of today’s fighters were never influenced by those leaders. Many heard about communism only from the mouths of capitalist propagandists.

However, many thousands around the world have been protesting and giving their lives following leaders who are leftovers of that same movement. This false communism did not disappear. It renounced its name and symbols only to pursue its participation in the bourgeois governments, allying with capitalist politicians throughout Latin America, for example. It has not been for the good of the working class.

The International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP) has never underestimated the consequences of this fake communism. We have confronted it with our limited forces. In large part, the eventual triumph of the working class over the bourgeoisie depends on this. The same is true with respect to the religious leaders who mobilize thousands of workers only to substitute other capitalists who will also use workers’ labor power.

Section 22 removed from its leadership the leaders of the SNTE, administering the union resources and the contract, especially when they

could manage things in part at the state level. They improved the wages of the members. They were even able to get some of their members into the IEEPO bureaucracy. This was supposedly to participate in the management of (capitalist) education. But the government always kept real control in its own hands, naming every Director to whom other leaders were subordinate.

Today the government has excluded those of Section 22. However, in each state of the republic the Institute of Education or Secretariat (the titles vary) is linked to the SNTE. Often it is controlled by it. And the corruption was not stopped with the imprisonment of ex-union President Elba Ester Gordillo; the others only adapted it to their interests.

Unions became part of the capitalist state apparatus in Mexico long ago. The workers need to organize ourselves into a Party to put an end to capitalism, not to participate in the capitalist bureaucracy.

Socialists adapted to the system. The indignation of the workers has been channeled into material improvements, not against the wage slavery

to which we are subjected, whether in the Mixteca area or in the Isthmus. Many teachers remain affiliated with the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) which ruled Mexico for 70 years.

The so-called “independent organizations” (taxi drivers, home-seekers, etc.) are indistinguishable from the style of the rural organization Antorcha. This is a pro-PRI organization which started as “Leninist” (The Party of the Mexican Working Class-PCOM) and which now receives a state subsidy.

The working class needs consciousness “for itself.” that is, the need to constitute ourselves in a Party, according to the *Communist Manifesto* of 1848. It is what the working class of the whole world needs. Join ICWP!

Red Flag comments:

Thank you for showing the dangers of the wrong political line among the working class. We hope to read about the reaction of teachers to these ideas. We also hope that you write about how communist education contrasts with capitalist education, and discuss how communist education and society will function.



September 30--280,000 teachers in Kenya defy a court order to go back to work and continue a five week strike for a pay increase against the government of Uhuru Kenyatta.

SEATTLE TEACHERS STRIKE SHOWS US OPPORTUNITIES AND PITFALLS OF A REFORM STRUGGLE

The recent weeklong strike of Seattle Teachers Association (SEA) meant a lot of things to a lot of different people.

To the school district administration it was a message that education workers were fed up with the dwindling paychecks and erosion of their benefits, and angry about the worsening conditions in their schools.

To the union it was a constant struggle to try to keep rank and file leaders from taking the strike to a higher level, and therefore ruining their pacifist sellout strategy.

To the strikers it was a lesson in how you can fight the good fight, but you can never beat this rotten system with reforms. Only moving the masses forward to communism can change the world.

One of the rank and file leaders has been teaching for awhile, but this was the first time she had been in a strike. She had become known at her school as an organizer and someone who fought for the students and staff. And she is no stranger to our communist politics.

During the strike, the workers were angry with the negotiating team because they seemed to be backing down even though the strike had become stronger and was gaining support daily. They wanted to march to the District headquarters and have a mass picket there.

The union immediately sent in their well-paid

state and national staffers to squelch this idea. Our friend, however, gathered over 200 strikers from 2 schools and they marched 5 miles through the city to hold a very spirited rally at the Stanford Center. The union scrambled to the rally in cars so that they could meet the press and take credit!

In the end, school employees got a salary increase that was 6 years too late, and the district backed down on several issues like decreasing recess and increasing the length of the school day without paying staff. While these things might help workers cope better with life, there is no guarantee that the bosses won’t take them back any way they can. They usually do. They have the power.

The real mistake that we made in this strike was that we missed many chances to win more people to communism. “I didn’t really talk to many about communism,” our friend admitted as we analyzed the strike a week later.

It was not this comrade’s fault. We should have gone to the line and meetings at her school with literature and food, etc. and engaged the people in her base in conversations around the issues, and related them to the articles in the *Red Flag*. It is very hard to do this work by yourself, even for so-called veterans.

She said that some of her friends were also

very critical of capitalism, and some were even for revolution. However, no one seems to bring up the logical question of “What happens after the revolution?” Except the ICWP.

We have a vision of what real communism could be like, based on studying the past. And we apply our vision to all areas of life, especially education. We have had very good reception from teachers and other school staff when we have given them our pamphlet on Communist Education and when we discussed what communism would look like in general.

This comrade teaches history. Although a few students came out to support she admitted, “We could have done a better job reaching out to students (and their parents).” After all, capitalist education attacks students most of all.

We discussed the opportunity we now have to organize discussions (and more) in her classes (and outside) with students using our communist leaflet about the refugee crisis. She took some leaflets.

The strike has ended, but the real opportunity lies in front of us. Our communist vision is exciting. “We’re not going back to capitalism or socialism after the revolution this time,” vowed a retired school worker. We will continue to struggle to learn the lessons of the strike and use them to advance our work.

Pope Francis –Front for Capitalism-Imperialism

CHARITY AND REFORM OR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION?

“The Pope’s visit won’t change anything. It was just words. He praised King and Kennedy. King did his part, Kennedy did his part, but we’re still in the same situation, we’re still here suffering. To make real change we need communism,” said a new Californian comrade.

This is in sharp contrast with the capitalist media orgy that greeted Pope Francis’ visit to the US and Cuba.

The bosses’ press worked overtime selling the Pope’s version of reform and charity as the way forward for a just world. The Pope was welcomed in Congress, the White House, etc. with his calls for immigration reform, climate reform, and an end to the death penalty. These are all pushed and supported by the top US imperialists and the Democratic Party politicians, like Obama and Clinton.

The dominant wing of US imperialism wants immigration reform to better exploit economically and in their wars, the 11 million undocumented workers here, and their 4 million US-born children. They are using the Pope’s message to try to defeat their rival capitalists, mainly Tea Party Republicans.

Pope Francis is being praised for helping to reconcile the US and Cuba. But this has nothing to do with peace. It is part of preparation for war.

It is part of US imperialism’s strategy to get Cuba back into its orbit because of Cuba’s strategic location at the mouth of the Gulf of Mexico. A Cuba with friendly Russian or Chinese military installations, in case of war, could blockade all US exports and imports using these sea lanes.

The Pope’s access to the centers of power of US imperialism points to a deal made between US imperialism and the Church.

“**This system can’t keep going like this forever,**” said a new comrade. That’s what the world’s bosses fear most: that masses of workers will rebel against their rotting capitalist system

and opt for revolution and a communist world with no bosses, borders, or racist exploitation. So the rulers tried to make the Pope’s entreaties to reform capitalism sound new and bold.

As more and more workers see, capitalism can’t be reformed to meet our needs. Despite the Pope’s words about caring for the poor, he will never put the blame for mass poverty, the refugee crisis, and global warming where it belongs: on capitalism-imperialism and its competition for profits. He will never support communist revolution to overthrow the profit system.

Yet communism is the only way to build the world of sharing and collectivity to meet the needs of the masses worldwide. Only the working class mobilized for communism can destroy capitalism and build communism.

No saint, pope or capitalist politician will mobilize for communism. The bosses want to win us to religious idealism and to look to these figures to try to keep us from mobilizing for the communist world we need.

Whether he lives in a small apartment or a luxurious one at the Vatican, the Catholic Church is one of the richest organizations with vast holdings worldwide. The Pope heads his own city built on the exploitation of the workers of the world.

We’re supposed to be grateful to him because he came and ate a meal with the poor. The Catholic Church spent \$220 billion on their huge Cathedral in downtown Los Angeles surrounded by thousands of homeless sleeping on the streets.

The history and present actions of the Catholic



California protests against the canonization of Junipero Serra

Church belie the Pope’s message of caring for the poor, which is geared to win to reformism masses of workers who hate capitalist oppression.

The Church’s bloody history of oppression started when it embraced slavery when made the official church of the Roman Empire. It includes the slaughter and enslavement of indigenous peoples in the Americas. While in the US, the Pope canonized Junipero Serra, torturer and murderer of Native Americans.

Before and during WWII, the Catholic Church refused to criticize Hitler as his war machine murdered 6 million Jews, 28 million Russians and millions more.

As our new comrade shows, masses of workers yearn for a world free of poverty, racism and greed. They can see that the only way to eliminate poverty, deportations, and mass incarceration is with communist revolution.

Millions want to support our class brothers and sisters the world over. Building an international party that unites us against the capitalist oppressors and mobilizes to meet all workers’ needs is the way forward.

TROOPS KEY TO VICTORY from page 1

The imperialists supported reactionary forces collectively called the White Army. They equipped the White Army with the latest technologies, like machine guns.

The new Red Army relied instead on the commitment of communist troops. They developed new military strategies and tactics.

They didn’t have a lot of motorized vehicles. Their cavalry avoided a frontal assault, which had proved disastrous for imperialist divisions during WWI. Instead they circled around hundreds of miles in back of the White Army.

They had to act on their own initiative behind enemy lines, relying on the support of the people.

The White Army didn’t have this support. They collapsed when the Bolsheviks cut off their supply lines.

The Soviets used a more up-to-date version of this strategy in WWII to crush the Nazi 6th Army at Stalingrad.



This is not the history we get from capitalist schools or popular sources. Even “left wing” sources emphasize what the capitalists have done to

us. Workers need the history that shows us what we have done and can do to the capitalists.

When we search history to learn how to defeat the bosses, we focus on how things change when masses are mobilized for communism. We see opportunities.

The bosses’ portrayal of the laser cannon could dishearten us if we don’t take these hard-won historical lessons to heart. The U.S. imperialists brag that the laser can shoot down missiles. They advertise it to show they can beat imperialist competitors. And most importantly, they advertise it to show the futility of workers’ revolution against such a powerful foe.

It’s a different story when they huddle behind the closed doors of their imperialist military think tanks. Stephen Biddle, called the best American defense analyst of his generation, worries.

He knows technology isn’t decisive to win wars. No sane armed force would frontally attack what he calls “a wall of steel,” a frontal attack on a well-armed enemy with mass troop strength. Dispersion of many troops over hundreds of



Soviet Red Army Cavalry 1920

miles and “small unit” initiative are key to winning a war.

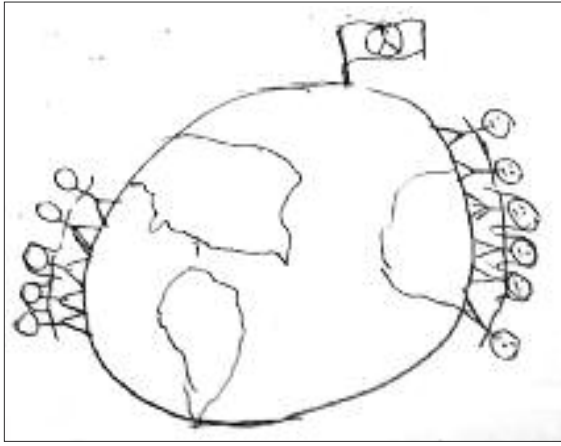
We can win because mobilizing the masses for communism is at the heart of developing mass initiative. We trust the working class to lead every aspect of society including the military aspect. We’ll build an invincible Communist Army of leaders.

When it comes to the bosses’ reliance on technology, the emperor really doesn’t have any clothes.

1 “The Collapse of the Armed Forces” by Colonel Robert D. Heinl, Jr., *Armed Forces Journal*, 1971

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS RESPOND TO REFUGEE CRISIS, ENVISION A COMMUNIST WORLD

LOS ANGELES—Students and teachers from the International Communist Workers' Party have distributed a party leaflet about the European refugee crisis in the garment industry and to transit workers. This is part of a party-wide mobilization to distribute the leaflet internationally and advance the struggle for a communist world.



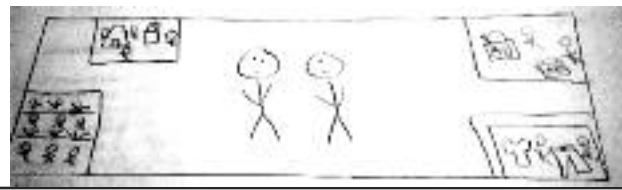
aries and people holding hands with explanations such as “communism brings all together” and “a world where we all work together to be happy.”

Another student drew houses with people in them inside and out with com-



ments like “all will get along and if there are problems all will be involved in solving them... no one will worry about the money...all of the things will be for everyone.”

Another student drew different areas of work in the fields, factories and distribution centers with comments like “everyone will work on different things and everyone will have the opportunity to have what they need.”



At a high school a comrade teacher reproduced the leaflet and prepared a lesson on its contents. He made a list of keywords for each paragraph and groups of students found synonyms and answered questions about the main idea of each paragraph. They then drew a picture representing how communism would change the problem of the refugee crisis. They included a brief explanation of the drawing. A total of about 90 students participated in this activity.

There were many interesting pictures and explanations. Most of them, in the best manner possible, managed to represent communism and to explain it as well.

The drawings included a world without bound-

Then a discussion took place about the question: what you can do with the flyer? Their answers were to put it on social networks, email it to different people, distribute it in neighborhoods, enlarging it and put on poles and walls and distribute it to people coming out of church.

One thing that remains is to follow up on all these ideas about what to do with the flyer. In coming days we will ensure that some of these ideas are carried out.

A student said, “I emigrated from Honduras because the crisis there is very ugly and I think the flyer should get to people there. I’ll put the flyer on Facebook so my friends and family in Honduras can see it.”

A couple of student comrades helped clarify communism when students were asking questions. These comrade students need to see themselves as recruiting other students to show that communism isn’t just a dream, but a plan, and to actually make it happen they need to join ICWP.

Labor Party Elections in Britain Show:

WHEN THE MASSES MOVE, REALITY CHANGES...FAST!

When the masses move, reality changes...fast! A few weeks ago Britain’s Jeremy Corbyn was a left-wing socialist with a 250-to-1 chance of winning the leadership of the Labor Party – one of the two major capitalist Parties in Britain. Today he leads that Party after a landslide victory.

“Suddenly,” a socialist friend from Britain wrote, “there is all sorts of talk about nationalizing the banks and creating a republic... England has never been so alive with prospects of progress since the Miners’ strike (the year long strike against Thatcher in the 1980s that began to look like a civil war).”

“The vote,” we communists argue, “changes nothing!” It can, however, reveal some things. Although the ‘landslide’ victory within the Labor Party was produced by only ½ percent of the electorate at large (that’s millions less than actively supported the miners during their struggle), it has filled the ruling class with alarm.

“Corbyn Wants to Abolish the Army,” one headline read. Corbyn is calling for Britain out of NATO. The *Sunday Times* of London published an article from an active general in the Army. He and his fellow generals would challenge Corbyn on “...pulling out of NATO and any plans to emasculate and shrink the size of the armed forces. The Army wouldn’t stand for it. The general staff would not allow the prime minister to jeopardize the security of this country and ... would use whatever means possible, foul or fair, to prevent that.” The British bosses were forced to reveal that their rule over the working class is based on military force.

Another article quoted an “intelligence chief” clearly stating “None of the intelligence commu-

nity – whether talking about the security services or the counter terrorism police bosses – would give Corbyn, or any of his cabinet, information they don’t want to give.”

“Political power,” the Chinese communists in their revolutionary days argued, “grows out of the barrel of a gun.” This is partly true, even in well-established capitalist countries like Britain. Corbyn, of course, knows this and the general’s message wasn’t aimed at Corbyn. It was aimed at his youthful supporters. It’s aimed at lowering their revolutionary expectations!! It’s a warning shot so to speak.

Corbyn’s role, like that of Bernie Sanders in the US and Tsipras in Greece, is to tie those masses, especially youth, who are furious at capitalism to the bosses’ elections, to divert them from communist revolution.

An article in the elite *Financial Times* explains, “In another age, the 2008 crash might have triggered a revolution. Instead, Mr. Corbyn and his fellow travelers are now capturing the seething popular resentment. They do not have answers... They understand though that something has to give.”

When the masses move, reality changes...fast. In Britain at the moment it is taking the form of a revolt in the Labor Party. In other countries it is taking other forms. No matter what country, no matter what continent, the masses are in motion – triggered by the same on-going crisis of capitalism.

The question for us, readers and distributors of *Red Flag*, is how can we capture ‘the seething popular resentment’ of the masses? We, after all, do have answers. We work, for ex-

ample, with soldiers. As a result we doubt the British soldiers who for over two decades now have been placed against better equipped insurgents in Basra, Iraq, or Helmand Province, Afghanistan, have anything but contempt for their NATO-loving, high-salaried generals. Yet the threats from the nameless general highlight for us all the need for revolutionary military work no matter where we live.

There can be no revolution without a Red Army. We cannot wipe out banks and a stratified society based on private property and mass exploitation without the masses asserting their authority through an armed insurrection. And we couldn’t defend such a revolution without a Red Army. But such an army will be an army of a new type – an army that reflects a communist, not socialist, society. It will be an army with leaders, not generals. It will be an army based in communities and centers of production, not separated off in barracks. It will be an army that leads “the seething popular resentment” against capitalism, its crises and imperialist wars.

Political power flows out of the barrel of a gun, but for successful communist revolution, those holding the guns must have communist ideas. We urge *Red Flag* readers in the UK and world wide to join ICWP, read, write for and distribute *Red Flag* to your friends, and organize ICWP clubs. A lot of people don’t see the possibility of communism, but reality can change...fast. By spreading *Red Flag* and the fight for communism, masses of workers and youth can mobilize to make communism a reality.



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LETTERS

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CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

A World without Money Needs a Mass Communist Party

Our party study group has talked a lot about how communist society could work without money. About three years ago we wrote several *Red Flag* articles about this. It's great to read that Metro workers are talking about this too.

In capitalism, money ("the market") connects people to labor and its products. Most of us work mainly for money. We can only get things we need by paying money for them. Money allows capitalists to steal, enjoy and stockpile the fruits of our labor.

Without money, what will connect us? We agreed that it would have to be a consensus around communist values.

As a high school student said, "Before capitalism came, they used to share and help each other out. Sooner or later we'll come back to our senses. People will do it because we have to do it."

But that's only part of the answer. How will we organize ourselves? How will we decide what's most needed and how to produce it? What's the best use of scarce resources?

"We need to work as collectives to produce and share what we need without money, and we need to link the collectives worldwide in some sort of process," said an older friend.

To convince ourselves and others that we can have a world without money, we need to be clearer about that process.

In a nutshell, the answer is a massive worldwide communist party – the ICWP that we are starting to build today. Members agree to be part of a growing network of collectives. Each collective has specific responsibilities for the work of mobilizing masses for communism. Each collective also shares the general responsibility of helping to develop the political line of the whole party.

The same is true for each individual within a collective. We welcome everyone to join the Party, whatever they are willing or able to contribute to the work. The collective's job is to help them develop as communist leaders of the masses. We ask our members to be open to this struggle.

The Party is what links the collectives worldwide. That's why we dedicate major resources to our international Party work and to *Red Flag*.

The process of mobilizing for communism today will prepare us for the process of building communist society. When we agree to do something, we must follow up using constructive

criticism and self-criticism to overcome any obstacles. We must evaluate our work openly and honestly in order to figure out how to advance.

Many people want to believe that communism will work. We need to develop our vision of a mass party in more detail. We need to make it real by showing what communist values mean in practice today. That's the material basis for believing in a world without money.

--Proud Party Member

Opportunities or Not?

Reading the article in the last issue about Guatemala, I saw that the paragraph that mentioned that we can't see these demonstrations as opportunities was changed.

A sentence was added saying "But when we take our ideas to these demonstrations, the working class can advance the struggle for communism."

I think that this misses the point that the article intended to make. We cannot make a significant impact on these mobilizations (like those in Guatemala against the ex-President) when we don't have a presence from the beginning and in the base of them.

In addition, not all mass mobilizations have interests that benefit the working class. The mobilizations in the Ukraine and Venezuela are proof of this.

I am not against having the articles edited, much less do I ask for rights as the author, but it seems important to me to note this point. Maybe I am wrong, and if so, I would like clarification.

Greetings to all.

--A comrade

Red Flag Responds:

The comment about "opportunities" did not refer to the idea that we will lead this movement for reforms or be part of this leadership, whether from the beginning or when they are at their peak.

Instead, the opportunity is to use communist ideas to analyze these movements and win the masses to join the party and fight for a communist revolution. Depending on the circumstan-



LOS ANGELES, September 26--Today marks the one-year anniversary of the disappearance of 43 normal school students in Ayotzinapa, Mexico. Close to 200 marchers chanted in the streets of Los Angeles, "Here and there the struggle will continue" and "Ayotzinapa lives, the struggle continues". The ICWP was present and helped lead some chants such as "We want a world without borders" and "Down with capitalism." More than 200 *Red Flag* newspapers were distributed to marchers and onlookers. At the end of the march we were able to take the microphone. A comrade said, "We're from the International Communist Workers' Party. We are here in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Ayotzinapa. We mobilize the masses for communism, a world without money, exploitation, racism or borders. We urge you to join this mobilization."

ces, we can win some, few or many.

For example, we don't have members in the mobilizations in Guatemala or among the refugees in Europe. But we have analyzed them. We have used this analysis to present massively the need for a communist world. And with the analysis of the refugees, the responses from many parts of the world have been very positive.

On the other hand, the mobilizations of the fmln or pro-immigrant groups or by the "Occupy" movement in essence are pro-capitalist, like the movements against Maduro in Venezuela. These are not pro-worker. However, we should take advantage of them to discuss them with our base and, when possible, to take our communist politics to them with *Red Flag* and other literature.

We ask other comrades and *Red Flag* readers to comment about this.

MAO'S "ON PRACTICE" from page 8

Lenin, Mao cites "matter," "laws of nature" and (economic) "value" as examples of concepts.

The first, perceptual stage of knowledge is the basis for the second, higher theoretical stage, so that "all knowledge originates in perception of the objective external world through man's physical sense organs." Knowledge from both perceptual and theoretical stages is needed to guide practice, and can be corrected when practice goes wrong.

Mao distinguished between a person's direct experience and his or her indirect experience, information from the experience of other people. Although he wrote that most knowledge comes from indirect experience, Mao insisted that specific kinds of knowledge require personal participation. "If you want to know the structure and

properties of the atom you must make physical and chemical experiments to change the state of the atom. If you want to know the theory and methods of revolution, you must take part in revolution."

Mao discusses several wrong views in the theory of knowledge that have important consequences for the communist movement. One error is to think that knowledge can stop at the first, perceptual stage, and that rational knowledge is not reliable. This anti-theory view is called "empiricism." Empiricism fails to understand that perceptual knowledge is superficial and one-sided, and fails to get to the essence, to the inner laws that govern a thing and reflect its totality.

The second serious error is "rationalism," a view that sees theory as independent of perceptual knowledge. Rational knowledge always depends on perceptual knowledge derived from

practice, and needs to be corrected by failures and partial successes in practice. Thus the internal contradictions of knowledge drive the process of the growth of knowledge.

The whole point of rational knowledge, knowledge of true theories, is to reveal the essence and inner nature of things, which makes consistent success in practice possible. In particular, rational knowledge of communist politics, economics and philosophy is essential to guide our struggle for communism.



Honduras: Mobilize the Masses for Communism--Not Just to Be Indignant

HONDURAS—It all got worse with the looting of \$350 million from the funds of the Honduran Institute of Social Security (IHSS). Part of the stolen money was used for political propaganda for the National Party of Honduras, now in power.

The IHSS is responsible for providing health care to the working class, mainly in maternity, old age and for the dying. The workers contribute by making monthly payments. Because of the theft of IHSS funds, more than 3,200 people died for lack of needed medicines or timely medical attention.

This added to the many problems that confront the Honduran masses every day. The unemployed and under-employed are over 50% of the labor force. There are more than 70 deaths for every 100,000 inhabitants, one of the highest death rates in the world.

More than 40% of the population lives on a dollar a day. The levels of corruption are increasing every day to the detriment of the great majority. A great many youth emigrate to the north. The majority of them are deported.

In response to these and other similar problems, the "Indignados" (Outraged) movement arose, like those in other countries such as "Ser" in Spain and the Indignados in Guatemala.

They have held massive demonstrations throughout the country. University students, unemployed workers, city workers, farmworkers and the impoverished middle class participated. The union leaders once again have abandoned their class. They are incapable of strongly supporting this movement, much less organizing a national strike as a sharp blow to the ruling class bosses.

These mass mobilizations have already surpassed the individual leaders, organizations and political parties. They show that the masses can no longer tolerate the exploitive, discriminatory, corrupt and oppressive capitalist system. They also show that workers are willing to fight for a more just society that favors those who are now oppressed. They

must prepare politically for that.

The working class currently lacks the leadership which could guide and lead a big movement of class struggle that could take advantage of these mass movements. So the movement's direction remains under the leadership of right-wing, conservative people or groups. These do not allow the direct participation of popular leaders who could incite the masses to radical struggle against the capitalist system.

The slogans of the movement do not go beyond the demand for the resignation of the President of the Republic and prison for some officials. In no case do they directly attack the capitalist system as the cause of all the excesses and calamities that the society is suffering.

In the capitalist system, health care and other basic needs of society are not attended to according to the needs of the population. Instead they are adapted to the budget priorities of the country which in no way are interested in the lives of the masses of people.

On the other hand, in the communist system, all health care will be free and timely. For this there will be mass health care: the provision of enough hospitals, doctors and nurses to successfully serve the society. Communism will eliminate or neutralize many illnesses and ultimately will cure many of the diseases that now kill millions of people.

Comrade in Honduras

Red Flag comments:

In these demonstrations there are always opportunities and dangers.

The opportunities: There are many people



angry at the capitalist system. The question is how do we reach them with communist ideas? Is it possible to put out a communist leaflet or distribute the newspaper among the masses? Have study groups or **Red Flag** reading groups? Recruit new members to the Party and collectively carry out plans of struggle? For communist leadership to emerge and take advantage of these movements, we have to build this leadership ourselves, little by little. We need to start with our friends and the base of the Party.

The danger is in doing nothing. On the other hand we know that the unions and the popular mass organizations are fighting to reform capitalism. Even if the unions came to these demonstrations and they achieved their goal, the goal of this movement is to remove the President and put some politicians in jail. Then other similar or worse politicians will be put in office as is the case in Guatemala.

Perhaps it would be good to write another article about communist health care in contrast with capitalist health care. And another about the Indignados, showing who is really behind this movement and how we take advantage of the fact that the masses are in motion to win them to communist ideas.

I hate capitalism, but I have doubts about communism

"I feel really passionate about the fact that I can smell money." These words were spoken by my boss, a sales director for a media company that I work for. Her words stuck with me because they seem to encapsulate the whole ethos of not only my job but America and Corporate/Capitalist society as a whole.

I've been working for this company for almost a year now, specifically the marketing & sales side of the company. Our main objective is pretty simple- to bring in money. Without this, the company doesn't run. Advertising dollars fund the whole operation. How is it done? We basically sell ad space through our websites and to a lesser extent now our print magazine. We sell ad space to companies like Google, Microsoft, Apple, Nike, Adidas and Levi's to name a few.

From what I can tell It doesn't really matter where the money comes from, who my bosses have to lie to, how they have to get it or what effect this has on anyone but their own pockets. This is the culture that has been created and perpetuated. This is the society that we live in. This is a system and a way of thinking and living that is not only tolerated but glorified in

the U.S. At the end of the day it leaves me feeling a bit empty and unfulfilled as I'm sure it does many, many other people with similar lines of work as mine.

Under communism it seems that there would be no need for advertising since there would be no money, thus no need to sell any products. Sometimes I worry/wonder however, probably due to the propaganda that I've been fed here in the U.S., that in a communist society everything would be homogenized. Everyone would wear the same clothes, eat the same food, drive the same cars...etc. but i'm guessing this isn't the case? Would there be room for diversity? Room for style? Unique expression? These are just a few of the questions/concerns I have.

Thanks

--Red Flag Reader

Communist Videos

After a club meeting that we had in the eastern part of the country, we discussed how we can integrate theory and practice. We talked with some comrades with experience from past struggles and another youth from the fields about the problems in their community, and how they are problems of capitalist agricul-

ture.

We recalled the presentation about food production that some comrades from Mexico made at an international meeting of the International Communist Workers' Party. The idea emerged to tape a small documentary showing the problems of his community to show that the cause of those problems is capitalism and at the same time to raise the solution, creating a communist world.

I spoke with the audiovisual collective that I am part of and they were excited about the idea. This is the way I intend to bring them closer to the party and see how we can get them to join.

After making the video we will have a showing for farmworkers. There we will gather the inhabitants of the community and show them the video. After that we plan to have a discussion with all of them.

It would be really great if we could have the presentation of the comrades from Mexico as soon as possible.

Next week we will go with a member of this collective to stay a night to talk with the people in the community.

--A Comrade in El Salvador

Obama and Putin Promise More War

LET'S DESTROY THEIR RACIST SYSTEM AND IMPERIALIST WARS WITH COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

As the crisis in Syria shows and Obama and Putin's UN speeches confirmed, the dog fight among the world's capitalists-imperialists is sharpening. Capitalism-imperialism can only offer the working class more misery, chaos, economic crisis and wider wars, including world war.

These capitalist evils, however, have put millions of our brothers and sisters in motion worldwide. Many question capitalism, which creates the opportunity to win masses of workers, students and soldiers to fight for communism.

Only communism can fulfill the masses' aspirations for a world without wars. There can be no peace for our class under capitalism. It daily wages a genocidal war against our class, murdering tens of thousands through starvation, curable diseases, and racist terror.

Only by destroying capitalism's wage slavery and production for profits can we eliminate the competition for profits that inevitably leads to war. The material basis of capitalism created the ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism and anti-communism to divide us and keep us enslaved.

Obama and Putin promised more war in their speeches: Obama against the Islamic State (ISIS) and the Syrian president Al Assad; Putin against ISIS to support Assad.

Obama has a coalition that includes 62 other countries. Putin's coalition consists of Syria, Iran, Iraq and China. They are all pursuing their own geopolitical interests, not the well-being of Syrian workers or workers anywhere.

The Syrian carnage is mainly a proxy war between the US on the one hand and China and Russia on the other for world supremacy. The US is trying unsuccessfully to hold on to the dominant position it has occupied since 1945.

The Middle East is the main point of contention. It was the corner stone of the US empire for decades. US imperial decline has been accompanied by its loss of influence in this oil-rich region.

The dominant US imperialist wing doesn't want to fight WWII in this region. They prefer to face China in Asia Pacific and Russia in the

Black Sea region and Eastern Europe. Other US rulers who want to regain US worldwide influence by retaking the Middle East want Obama to commit US troops to Syria.

The Russian rulers' main concern is to guarantee that no natural gas – from Iran, Iraq or Qatar – flows to Europe without their consent. If it did, this would break Russia's chokehold on Europe's energy supply, which now limits the Europeans' ability to side with the US on geopolitical issues and to wage war as their allies.

The Chinese imperialists' interest is to have Iran's gas and oil flow to China, especially in the event of war with the US. This energy must by-pass the Strait of Malacca and other Pacific sea lanes controlled by the US Navy. Oil and gas pipelines from Iran, Iraq and Central Asia would securely deliver this energy by land.

ISIS is a much bigger threat to China's Xinjiang province and Russia's underbelly, Central Asian nations, than to the US.

Xinjiang, a vast territory of mainly deserts and mountains, is strategic to China. All the energy pipelines coming from Russia and Central Asia converge here.

Xinjiang has five million restive Uyghurs, a predominantly Muslim ethnic group that seeks independence from China. The East Turkestan Movement, waging armed struggle for Xinjiang independence, was organized with CIA participation in 1997. It is now supported by both Al Qaeda and ISIS.

Besides this threat, China, like Russia, also faces the threat of Islamic militancy in the five

Central Asian former Soviet Republics. It is a huge area with a population of 70 million people, of whom over 80% are Muslim, susceptible to ISIS' influence. Dozens of them have joined the ISIS in Syria and Iraq, along with thousands from Russia.

China's energy pipelines to bypass Malacca must pass through this area. Russia fears instability and chaos in its backyard and the possible reigniting of wars in Chechnya and Dagestan where it waged a long genocidal war against Islamic fundamentalist groups. Thus, Putin calls his intervention in Syria a preemptive strike against terrorism.

Since the failure of the old communist movement has left a vacuum, many put in motion by the imperialists' atrocities have turned to Islamic fundamentalism.

But no religion can meet the aspirations of the oppressed masses of workers. With patience and persistence they can be won to fight for communism.

We call on **Red Flag** readers everywhere to read, help translate, and distribute **Red Flag** in every country in the world, especially where the workers are in motion. Join us!



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

Dialectical Materialism:

MAO'S “ON PRACTICE”

In the last article we described the spread of the Soviet formulation of dialectical materialism in China, which was called the “new philosophy” there. In 1936 and 1937 Mao Zedong (and a study group he led) carefully studied the Soviet textbooks and the work of Chinese communist philosophers, and produced the manuscript *Lecture Notes on Dialectical Materialism*.

The topics and the views advocated in this text are quite similar to the Soviet texts, but also emphasized the specific situation in China. Two essays from this work were widely circulated, “On Practice” and “On Contradiction.” Here we give a brief outline of “On Practice,” but the whole article is worth studying carefully.

Mao wrote that social practice alone is the source of all our knowledge and the criterion of truth. “Social practice” includes a variety of activities, but the three most important are pro-

duction, class struggle, and scientific experiments. The most fundamental of these is material production. In production, people come to understand their relationship to nature and to varying degrees, the social relations among people. Production is “the primary source from which human knowledge develops.” The rise of the working class and large-scale production makes possible a comprehensive, scientific understanding of society, which is Marxism.

Mao wrote that for knowledge of the world, human social practice is the “sole criterion of truth.” This means that when we make plans and base them on what we think is true, the practical result shows whether our thinking was right or not. Success is evidence that our thinking is true or close to the truth. Failure shows that we must revise our ideas and test the new ideas in practice.

Mao divided knowledge into two stages. The

first stage is information about phenomena. Phenomena are what can be perceived by the senses or are easily recognized, superficial information that doesn't show hidden connections between things. Mao's example: what visitors might learn from a tour of the Yan'an liberated area.

The second stage requires the formation of concepts that can be applied to phenomena and explain them. These concepts have to be thought up in the course of trying to understand the phenomena, “arranging and reconstructing” the data of perception.

Concepts are qualitatively different from the phenomena they apply to. They show the true nature and inner connection of the phenomena and allow logical conclusions to be drawn. The result is knowledge of true theories, which Mao calls “logical” or “rational” knowledge. Quoting

See MAO'S “ON PRACTICE” page 6