



# RED FLAG

**MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM**

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



## South Africa:

### **BUILDING ICWP AMONG MASSES IN MOTION**

SOUTH AFRICA, October 14—Revolutionary greetings, comrades!!! Mobilizing the masses for communism becomes key if we look at all the protests that have taken place, and will continue to take place, in the length and breadth of this country.

All the protest marches have been organized to mobilize the masses for the reform of capitalism. Capitalism cannot be reformed to meet the needs of the masses. It must be destroyed by a communist revolution.

Recently we've seen students taking to the streets in violent protests for the removal of colonial statues in their universities. They see these statues as symbols that perpetuate colonial and racist domination. Authorities in these institutions responded swiftly by removing the statues, but colonialism and racism still reign supreme.

Statistics have been thrown around recording the highest incidence of violent protest marches by communities against the lack of service delivery. Workers, not to be out done, took their fight against the bosses to the streets.

On October 6, the trade union federation, COSATU, took workers to the streets in protest against practices which increasingly make jobs less secure: labour brokers, casualisation, e-tolling, retrenching, job losses, etc. As we go to press, the independent National Union of Met-

alworkers of South Africa (NUMSA) and allied organisations in the United Front, have called yet another march against corruption in both private and public sectors, in the state institutions, et cetera.

In the meantime, striking workers in the coal mines have rejected the revised new offer tabled by the employers and vowed to continue with the strike action until all their demands are met. This is taking place in Mpumalanga, in the coal mines operated by capitalist bosses Exxaro, Glencore, and Anglo Coalmines.

**ICWP has brought communist ideas and our newspaper *Red Flag* to some of these reformist actions.**

As the ICWP Dialectical Materialism video says, reform struggle is like playing soccer with a golf ball or playing golf with a soccer ball. No amount of pressure can make the capitalist bosses change. Instead, they will come back with venomous power as we have seen in China and Russia,

**Masses in motion**, all the protest action we have seen and will continue to see, show that there exist opportunities for us to build a working class party for the masses. It also creates opportunities for us to expose the reformist line that all these governments and parties use to deceive the working class. Our party, ICWP, with the correct

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## El Salvador:

### **WE DON'T WANT CRUMBS, BUT THE WHOLE LOAF AND THE BAKERY TOO!**

The boss of this garment factory tries to be friendly and appear to be a nice person. In the mornings he greets us. Today he said that they are trying to get the bank to loan them money to be able to pay the yearly bonus. A supervisor applauded and celebrated the boss' great "effort."

"Every year is the same, at the end of September, the bosses try to make us feel desperate so we'll quit, so they don't have to pay our annual bonus or compensation," said a worker leader while we ate lunch near the industrial zone where ICWP has a presence. This "bonus" is an extra month's pay that workers rely on to get through the year.

The bosses in this free-trade zone have again intensified the exploitation that workers suffer. As a measure of greater harassment they have ordered workers to be at work 5 minutes earlier than usual and leave work 10 minutes later, without any compensation. Those who get to work a few minutes later than the new schedule are prohibited from working for the day, taking away their wage for that day and for the seventh day.

Added to this is constant pressure from the supervisors. Like every year, these measures are meant to make a number of workers quit so that the bosses won't have to pay bonuses or severance pay, and then they hire new workers the next year.

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# OVERPRODUCTION: CAPITALIST SOCIETY ON TRIAL

The entire South African steel industry may be destroyed. Two hundred thousand jobs are at stake. (*Mail and Guardian*, 8/27)

Destroyed by what? A war? It would take a pretty big war to destroy a whole industry.

A natural disaster? It would take a pretty big earthquake to destroy a whole industry.

Instead, the SA steel industry is threatened by one of the most destructive forces on earth: capitalist overproduction.

Overproduction (or overcapacity) occurs when the bosses' factories can produce more goods than they can sell. The less competitive factories—like South African steel mills—face bankruptcy. And steel production isn't threatened only in South Africa. According to *El País* (9/30) 45,000 jobs in the Mexican steel industry are in danger.

Lots of steel would not be a problem if we produced for our needs. We could build lots of buses and planes, housing, farm equipment and so on.

Under communism, led by the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP), this will happen.

But not under capitalism. Under capitalism, overproduction is bad news for workers.

Under capitalism, the market "demands" only what people can pay for, not what they need. Too many bosses chase a shrinking market. This means factory closures, layoffs, unemployment, homelessness and hunger. Government revenue collapses and the bosses impose harsh austerity measures.

As one industry cuts back, it demands less material from its suppliers. They in turn cut back and layoff. The cutbacks in steel production mean a smaller market for iron ore and more miners laid off. It's a death spiral.

Increased competition forces the bosses to speed up those still working. The pressure to wage war to destroy the competition intensifies. (See article page 3.) Sexism and racist terror intensify. Immigrants are singled out for especially harsh attacks.

The South African government, for example, recently arrested masses of immigrant workers. A few weeks later, the same government approved a mass strike for jobs. State-sponsored xenophobia and state-approved strikes: all to keep workers from putting capitalist society on trial.

## World's Workers React Swiftly

The bosses lie that the hardship is only tempo-

rary. Workers have heard this before. They don't believe it. The fight-backs are swift and global.

Recently 80,000 people demonstrated against austerity in Manchester, UK. Days later 150,000 demonstrated in Brussels. French and Dutch-speaking united. They faced off against water cannons using any weapons they could find.

In Paris, hundreds of workers stormed an Air France board of directors meeting that was called to lay off 2,900. The bosses escaped the meeting with their fancy clothes in tatters.

In the US, Chrysler-Fiat workers rejected a union-supported contract for the first time in decades.

And earlier this year Bolivian miners rebelled and took over the town of Potosí for nearly a month.

## Communism: Abundance – Eventually Overproduction Crisis – Never

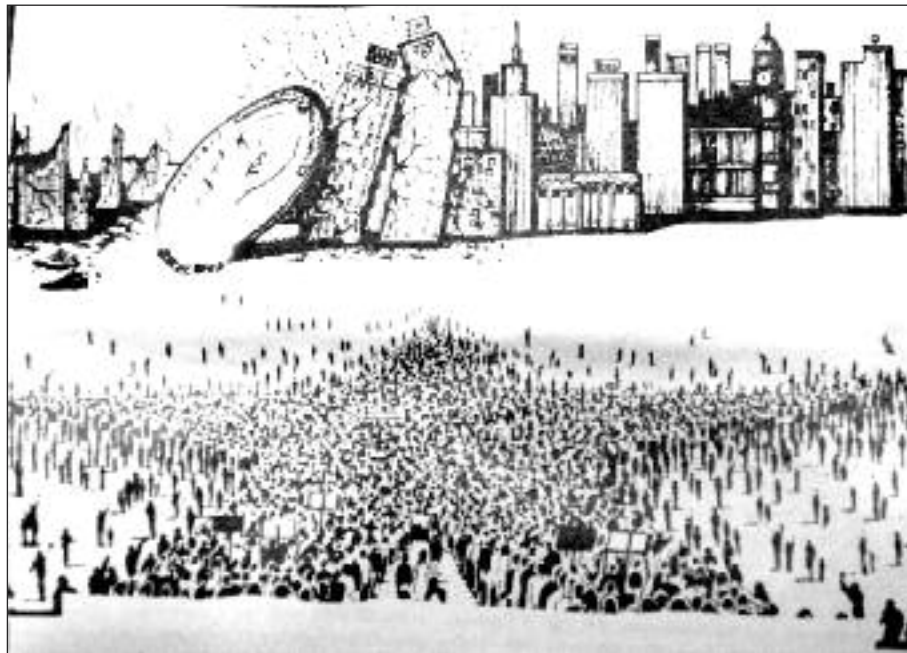
Communism probably won't be able to produce abundance immediately. Like the Bolsheviks (Russian communists) before us, we will have to fight a bitter war against bosses trying to crush us. By mobilizing the masses (as the Bolsheviks did) but this time for communism (which they didn't) we will beat off the attacks.

At some point, we will be able to produce an abundance of goods like steel. Under communism, this will be good news. It gives us new choices.

We could keep producing steel and stockpile it for future use. The bosses hate doing this because for them it is capital lying idle. But communism will abolish money and all forms of finance. No more capital means no harm in stockpiles.

We could cut back on steel production, freeing up labor for other tasks like making buses or building homes. There will always be work for all, meaning no question of unemployment. No homelessness or hunger because we'll take care of everyone's needs regardless of their work situation.

We could lighten the workload of those still producing steel: fewer hours, a more relaxed pace, more time for safety, at less cost to the en-



vironment. All workers will have more time to build communist social relations worldwide.

## Opportunity for ICWP to Grow

There are signs in almost every sector that overproduction is squeezing the world economy. One is the drop in commodity prices. Another is global trade stagnation, the result of bosses trying to undercut each other for a larger share of the shrinking market.

Another is lack of growth and high unemployment, even in "advanced" countries like France. U. S. manufacturing is contracting. Every BRICS economy (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) is slowing down or plunging into depression.

Will this crisis "put bourgeois society on trial" as *The Communist Manifesto* predicted? Yes, but to win a conviction ICWP needs more recruits.

No crisis on its own will finish capitalism. Only the masses mobilized for communist revolution can do this.

In recent weeks, friends in 18 countries have circulated our literature. We need you, too, to join us, circulate *Red Flag* and the global refugee leaflet, recruit your friends, family, and co-workers.

Mass rebellion and widespread circulation of our literature open up opportunities. To realize this new potential we must spend more time off the job with our fellow workers. Together, we'll end capitalism and its crises. We'll build the communist world we need and want.

*It is enough to mention the commercial crises that, by their periodical return put the existence of the entire bourgeois society on trial, each time more threateningly. In these crises, a great part, not only of the existing products, but also of the previously created productive forces, are periodically destroyed. In these crises, there breaks out an epidemic that, in all earlier epochs, would have seemed an absurdity – the epidemic of over-production. Society suddenly finds itself put back into a state of momentary barbarism; it appears as if a famine, a universal war of devastation, had cut off the supply of every means of subsistence; industry and commerce seem to be destroyed; and why? Because there is too much civilization, too much means of subsistence, too much industry, too much commerce.*

*The Communist Manifesto, 1848*



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**International Communist Workers' Party**  
www.icwpredflag.org



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## USE ALL MTA BOSSES' ATTACKS TO ENVISION AND FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM

LOS ANGELES--“I got suspended for two days without pay for being late,” commented an MTA operator to a *Red Flag* distributor.

“How long have you been working for the company?” inquired our comrade.

“12 years,” she answered and spoke about her reasons for being late.

Our comrade was sympathetic but unfortunately did not use this incident to try to show how a communist society would deal with the questions of punctuality and discipline.

This article is an attempt to try to correct this error. Its purpose is also to show the need for communists to use every attack against the working class – no matter how little – to expose capitalism for the vicious murdering system it is, and to put forward our vision of a communist world run by the working class.

**Like everything in a class society punctuality and discipline bear a class stamp.** Under capitalism, punctuality's main purpose is to guarantee the timely and uninterrupted flow of the bosses' profits. Discipline is to force workers to toe the bosses' line, terrorize them into passivity, and discourage them from organizing or rebelling against their capitalist slave masters.

**Why do MTA workers need to be punctual?** An MTA operator once correctly commented to a *Red Flag* distributor, “My job is to take workers from their home to the plantation and back! We are all just wage slaves.”

MTA operators transport some 1.2 million riders daily. Some of them are youth taken to school to be trained and disciplined to be punctual and obedient future wage slaves and patriotic soldiers to fight and die for capitalism. The majority, however, are wage slaves going to factories or workplaces to produce profits for their capitalist masters.

Tens of thousands of them toil for low wages as janitors, garment, hotel or fast food workers. They produce tens of billions of dollars in profits a year for their slave masters.

MTA is their only means of transportation. This is why MTA workers must be punctual and those buses must keep on rolling. MTA's and those wage slaves must be punctual or they will be admonished, suspended or fired for being late.

In communism, workers will be punctual based on their commitment and dedication to the working class. However, we would not plan situations where the absence or tardiness of one or even several workers would deprive someone of their vital needs or endanger their lives.

In situations where workers' presence and labor is crucially needed no matter by how few or how many, punctuality will not be the respon-

sibility of only one worker but of as many collectives as needed.

This will guarantee that no matter how many workers can't be there on time there will always be enough workers to take care of whatever is needed – regardless of how many workers, resources and time it takes.

Communist social and production relations will create human beings whose main concern will be how best to serve the needs of other human beings, individually and collectively. Only then can the Christian concept of “Love thy neighbor as thyself” be fully implemented.

**Communist discipline is based on love of the working class.** Capitalist discipline is based on the bosses' love of money and their need to maximize profits. They rely on bribes and terror to discipline their wage slaves.

“If an MTA operator is late three more times in a period of 6 months after the first suspension, he or she can be terminated,” commented another veteran MTA operator.

One of the capitalists' main weapons to terrorize us into obedience is to deny us the means of survival for us and our families. Communism will never do that!

Our collectivity and cooperation will guarantee that no one's tardiness or absence will impact someone's vital needs negatively. There will always be someone available to take their place.

No one will be fired in a communist society. We will struggle comradely and collectively with all workers to strengthen their commitment and love for our class. If for some reason someone is incompatible with a specific work, there will always be other creative useful work for them.

Only communism can do this. All *Red Flag* readers and distributors need to join ICWP to make this communist humane world a reality!

## CAPITALIST CRISES CREATE CAPITALIST WARS

Politics and economics are always fused. In the era of empire, capitalist crises of overproduction create capitalist wars. In fact, you can measure the depth of the crisis by the scale of the wars it produces. It's not a straight line, but generally, crises since the 1970s have been followed by weaker recoveries and greater tensions in the world. And so the crisis of the 1970s produced a recovery with more expansive regional wars in the 1980s.

The Iran – Iraq war saw the biggest tank battle since World War II. The Malvinas – Falkland's war saw the biggest naval invasion since World War II.

The slump of the 1980s produced even more massive wars of the 1990s. First the US Persian Gulf War, and then the war in Africa, where five million people in the Congo were slaughtered over which power could gain the property rights to the minerals and raw materials of the land.

Now, as the crisis of 2008 looks like the beginning of the world's third major Depression, we see regional wars turn into sub-continental wars. From Turkey to Yemen a whole subcontinent is consumed by war.

It's not that capitalism has no answers. It's that each answer proves more deadly than the previous one.

It's not that the masses have no solution. It's that we, the readers of *Red Flag* and members and friends of ICWP, must seize the hour. In March, 1917, the Bolsheviks, the revolutionary Russian party, had only a few thousand members. By the summer of that year they had a quarter of a million, and by November they had taken power.

Let them start their wars. We will finish them! It's more urgent than ever in this situation to mobilize the masses for communism.



## Turn the Factories into Red Fortresses

### SOUTH AFRICA from page 1

revolutionary line of mobilizing the masses for communism, and with the correct revolutionary theory of spreading communist ideas, will grip the masses. When revolutionary theory is gripped by the masses, it becomes a conquering force to overcome the bosses' system of capitalism with all their states, money, tyrants, and empires.

Join ICWP in fighting to bring about revolutionary change, in mobilizing the masses for communism amongst the industrial workers, soldiers, students, women and youth!!!

### EL SALVADOR from page 1

The cynicism of the bourgeois pigs has no limit. For the whole year they steal the fruits of our labor power. For the whole year the workers' modules that produce more than a thousand pieces daily work to the limit for this disgusting class. In the end they want us to appreciate and celebrate the “sacrifice” that they make to give us a few crumbs.

The working class is not at fault for the bosses' badly-managed finances. The bosses' attacks should fill us with class hatred, with fury. They

should motivate us to struggle, not for a few crumbs at the end of the year, but for a communist revolution that will lead to a decent life for all workers.

The struggle continues within the ranks of the working class. The specter of communism runs through the modules of these factories. The need to join ICWP and continue to build the workers' communist organization massively is becoming more urgent each day. We must fight for a society in which those of us who produce organize the way we will do that, for the benefit of all of humanity.

## FIGHTING RACISM BY FINDING NEW WAYS TO DISTRIBUTE *RED FLAG*

SPAIN— A world without borders, without money, without refugees or deportees!

That was the theme of a meeting here of members of the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP). The workers of the world are being bombarded by the whole capitalist propaganda machine. The television reports that refugees are being held on the borders of Serbia, Turkey and other countries adjoining the European Union. At the same time, they mention that many (if not all) refugees are in bad shape.

Next, the news says that European governments are afraid that this "wave of refugees" will bring with it terrorists of ISIS or ISIL (the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, recently known as the "Islamic State" or IS). Therefore, they explain, they don't open their borders to accommodate these workers in Europe.

We know full well that the imperialists are lying. Their interests are focused on getting a geopolitical position in Syria for a future world war, and appropriating the resources of the Middle East. But this information is being manipulated to create more racism and fear among the

workers.

On social-media networks we have begun to notice opinions of workers in Spain who say things like, "It's not that we don't like refugees, it's that there are many people in our country without jobs because of the economic crisis. That's why aid shouldn't be for refugees but for those from our home."

Others say, "We don't want terrorists." In the street we hear people say, "In two weeks I want to see the Germans with more than 500,000 refugees in their country. They won't even be able to support themselves."

We focused the discussion on these phrases because, as communists, we have to keep in mind that the imperialists have weapons to keep their hegemony. One of them is dividing their workers and being able to continue reaping their super profits based on this racism.

Racism in Europe is gaining a little more strength and prominence because of these actions. Images and videos have shown the far-right alderman Robert Menard in the French province of Béziers, who is supported by the National Front of Le Pen. He is carrying out an election campaign where he goes to Syrian workers' houses and tells them, "You are not welcome in this city."

It is outrageous to see how the European imperialists close their borders. They close them when it is the working class that is in trouble, trouble that the bosses themselves are causing.

The ICWP is now more than ever working to continue spreading communist ideas, coming up with new ideas about how to distribute *Red Flag*. We know we now must redou-



SPAIN: No Human Being is Illegal!

### Syria: Is US-Russia Proxy War Brewing?

## ORGANIZE FOR COMMUNISM INSIDE MILITARIES EVERYWHERE!

EL SALVADOR, October 7 —A week ago the Russian Federation began bombing attacks against anti-Assad and radical Islamic groups in Syria. This is part of Moscow's commitment to maintain and reinforce its presence in the Middle East. At the same time they are demonstrating their military capacity in response to the constant military exercises by the US-NATO in the south and east of Europe.

Russia is protecting its oil interests in Syria and the military base in the military zone of Latakia on the Mediterranean Sea.

On the other hand, the US, Saudi Arabia, and NATO are bombing sites in Syria to weaken the government of Bashar al Assad, unconditional ally of the Russian bosses. They are blaming this conflict on the Islamic State, which gets support from Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Jordan.

That is, none of the bosses are interested in the well-being of the Syrian population. Instead they are interested in controlling the transport of oil from the region and in the control of this strategic area in possible future conflicts.

This war has already resulted in more than 230,000 deaths. Those who die are always the workers and their sons and daughters. Meanwhile the capitalists fantasize about new markets and a new geopolitical landscape.

The soldiers, like the men and women workers, are exploited and forced, to enlist in the Army to survive and to receive some degree of schooling, as often happens in the US.

We must stop this bloodshed! Its causes are

essentially economic conflicts and conflicts for power by the bourgeoisies. They also end up making tremendous profits for the companies dedicated to the production and innovation of military weapons. Communist Revolution therefore is becoming an urgent and permanent necessity to stop the horror without end of capitalism.

This work starts in our communist clubs with the discussion and analysis of the national and international situation. At the same time we decipher the hidden reasons behind these conflicts and behind the propaganda of the big mass media which serves capitalism.

This means writing for *Red Flag* so that more workers of the world understand the situation of their comrades around the globe. They must feel identified with and protected by an international communist movement to continue their struggles in the military bases, factories, universities, etc.

The Second World War left over 80 million dead. The war in Afghanistan in the 1980's mainly between the Soviet Union and the Taliban left approximately 100,000 dead. The US financed the Taliban to stop Soviet influence there. Over 400,000 more have died since 2001 as a direct or indirect result of the US war and occupation of Afghanistan.

Now the current conflict in Syria and the war in the Ukraine are killing hundreds of thousands. This shows that imperialist wars serve to destroy and/or create "new world orders." This means a new imperial bourgeoisie which controls exploitation and a great variety of markets.

## CORRECTING AN ERROR

In the last issue of *Red Flag*, there was an article about the war in Syria, "Obama and Putin Promise More War—Let's Destroy their Racist System and Imperialist Wars With Communist Revolution." Unfortunately, the article said that Central Asia "is a huge area with a population of over 70 million people of whom over 80% are Muslim, susceptible to ISIS' influence."

**This was a mistake.** What we meant to say was that these Muslims are or could be targeted by ISIS for recruitment. ISIS and other capitalist-imperialist agents want to take advantage of their anger and hatred of racist capitalism-imperialism to recruit them to unwittingly fight for a rival set of exploiting bosses.

These Muslim workers are our class brothers and sisters and we have full confidence that many of them can and will join the fight for a communist world. We oppose the anti-Muslim racism being pushed by all the bosses and their media and did not mean to lend any credence to the imperialists' campaign of racist lies.

ble our efforts to expose the whole capitalist machinery and tell the whole world that the capitalist system only cares about profits regardless of how many workers die.

The working class does not need a world full of refugees or imperialist wars. The working class needs a communist world where the working class itself holds the reins of power.

Wherever the working class is, there will always be a cell working to destroy capitalism! We are the working class! We are ICWP! LONG LIVE COMMUNISM!



We must fight as communists so that the capitalists' regional wars and world wars open the doors to the beginning of a communist revolution led by the International Communist Workers' Party.

Our Red Army must be built even in places where there is relative calm. More comrades and their relatives need to go into the army. We must intensify the political work in the factories by inserting into the ranks of the movement people who are conscious of the conditions of the capitalist system and determined to change it for a better society. This will end capitalist exploitation and wage slavery.

Let's remember that during periods of "peace" the bosses prepare their nations for war. Therefore the communist movement must not rest in our task of mobilizing to turn the weapons on the bosses and fighting directly for communism.

Racism in China: Part I**COMMUNISM WILL END SUPER-OPPRESSION OF “ETHNIC MINORITIES”**

Capitalism everywhere relies on racism for super-profits and to weaken the working class. China is no exception. Only another revolution – **this one for real communism!** – can end racism there.

The Europeans who divided the world population into “races” considered all Asian people as one “race.” But Asia has thousands of distinct indigenous groups.

In China, 55 officially-recognized minority “nationalities” include about 9% of the population. A few – notably the Manchu – are as well off as the Han majority. Most, however, face super-exploitation and super-oppression much like black workers in the US.

The largest groups include 9 million Uyghur and 10 million Hui, mainly Muslims in Northwest China, and 9 million Miao and 17 million Zhuang, mainly in South and Southwest China.

Here we’ll take a closer look at the Miao people. Economically they are among China’s poorest but they have a rich history of class struggle.

**Miao: Rebellious and Super-Exploited**

“Miao” peoples lived without classes or exploitation for centuries until after the 3rd century CE. Vestiges of their communal villages remained at the time of the 1949 revolution.

Guizhou province, home of many Miao, was annexed by the Ming Dynasty in the 14th century. Mass Miao rebellions exploded in the 14th, 15th, 18th and 19th centuries. Han and Manchu rulers responded with brutal repression.

After the 1911 revolution, Sun Yat-sen proposed that China “follow the example of the United States of America” to unite China into “a single cultural and political whole” by encouraging assimilation and discouraging indigenous culture. As if the USA, in this era of lynching and eugenics, were a model of anti-racism!

No wonder, then, that the Guizhou masses welcomed the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) during the Long March (1934–1935). Many joined or supported the Red Army.

**Chinese Communism and the “National Question”**

The 1949 revolution improved the lives of the Miao masses through land reform and collectivization. The CCP struggled to reduce the gaps between historically super-exploited ethnic minority and Han workers.

But their political line, like the Soviets, centered on “national minorities” instead of racism as a class question.

The officially-recognized “ethnic groups”

were categories constructed by government authorities. This was similar to the way Western capitalism invented “races.” The term “Miao,” for example, included half a dozen distinct cultural groups labeled with the Chinese word for “weeds.”

Official ethnic groups were organized into “autonomous” areas. However, most areas were actually multi-ethnic. The Miaos lived harmoniously with Zhuang, Li, Han and other people.

National policy also included “affirmative action” programs that gave some rural ethnic minority youth opportunities to move to urban areas. As with black people in the US, this made little difference for the masses.

In 1964, after the Sino-Soviet split and with the US escalating its war on Vietnam, critical Chinese industry and power generation was moved inland. Guizhou became the industrial “Third Front.” Its economy developed rapidly – along socialist (actually capitalist) lines.

Socialism kept a wage-based money economy instead of organizing distribution based on need. As in the west, the wage system guaranteed that those historically disadvantaged by racism would remain worse off. The wage system is the material basis of racism today. Only communism can end it.

In the 1960s, Guizhou played a big part in the Cultural Revolution. It became a prime destination for city cadres “going to the countryside.” Indigenous cultural practices were discouraged, but most Miaos welcomed “modernization.”

Today, Miao workers are the poorest and most intensely exploited among China’s ethnic groups. (See box)

**Guizhou remains a center of militant class struggle and communist potential.**

2008: Tens of thousands torched government buildings and cars, protesting a police cover-up of a schoolgirl’s death (probably at the hands of an official’s son).

2010: Over a thousand high school students trashed the school cafeteria after officials announced another price increase for meals.

2014: Ten thousand took off work and school to protest a county government’s expropriation of large tracts of land. They, too, fought the cops.

2015: Thousands of students at two high schools rebelled after hundreds were hospitalized for food poisoning.



Chinese “barefoot doctor” with ethnic minority patients

**Racist Super-Exploitation and Super-Oppression: The Miao in China**

In 2000-2005 only 32% of Miao people lived in the better-off urban areas, compared with 44% of the Han.

Miaos in urban areas earned 76% of what Han workers earned. In rural areas, they only earned 66% of the average Han wages, and Miaos worked longer hours at lower wages to get even that.

About 25% were illiterate, compared with 10% of Han.

Over 10% live below the official poverty line. They are less likely to have access to a telephone and much more likely to live in clay or straw dwellings.

About 25% of villages in minority areas have no health clinic, compared with 7% of villages that are not in minority areas.

Figures for the Zhuang people are similar.

In contrast to racist capitalism, real communism provides for everybody “according to need.” Mobilizing the masses for communism will mean a systematic struggle against long-established racist practices and ideas. That struggle starts now.

**These reform struggles, no matter how militant, can’t end racist abuse. But when these workers and youth mobilize for communism they will give leadership to billions in China and around the world.**

If you know people who read Mandarin, please show them a short summary of the ICWP manifesto “Mobilize the Masses for Communism” at [icwpredflag.org/Chin.html](http://icwpredflag.org/Chin.html).

*Part II of this series will look at anti-black racism in China and say more about how communism will end racism everywhere.*



October 14—Thousands of young Palestinian women and men are rebelling against the racist Israeli government troops and settlers. These butchers have killed dozens of Palestinians since October 3, many of them children. Thousands more have been injured. Israeli soldiers report receiving permission to open live fire on any “suspicious” Palestinian.



Palestinian workers and youth are organizing themselves locally to fight back against constant Israeli settler attacks. They refuse to accept the prison-like conditions in the small enclaves left to them.

According to one observer, many are not sure what to target first: “the larger occupation, the individual miseries they endure from the settlers

and army, or the Palestinian leaders.” They need to target capitalism and mobilize for communism!

**Red Flag** readers must get ICWP literature (in Arabic) into the hands of Palestinian youth and workers. We must get it (in Hebrew) into the hands of Israeli soldiers and youth too.

## IF YOU DON'T LIKE RACIST MARKET-DRIVEN SCIENCE, MOBILIZE FOR COMMUNISM

LOS ANGELES – A community college here has chosen *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, by Rebecca Skloot, for its “one college, one book” program. This is turning into an opportunity to talk with students about communism as well as racism.

The book is about a 31-year-old black worker who died of cancer in Baltimore in 1951. Cancer cells were removed from her body, without anyone’s permission. They turned out to reproduce like crazy in a laboratory.

This is very unusual. So her “immortal” cells have been used ever since in medical research and pharmaceutical production. Drug companies have literally made billions off Henrietta’s cells.

Meanwhile the black workers in her family have had a bitter struggle against racist super-exploitation. They got nothing from the hospital or the drug companies. Most have had very little access to health care.

Some teachers are assigning the book to classes. Others are organizing discussions and showing films related to racism and health care.

As part of this program, a teacher volunteered to lead a discussion about the “Epilogue.” Four students and two other faculty members attended.

In this chapter, the author talks about two interrelated questions about medical research today: consent and money. Who owns the rights to tissues removed from a person for medical rea-

sons (while alive) or for an autopsy?

In the US the right-wing Christian activists have dishonestly tried to make an issue of what Planned Parenthood does with aborted fetuses. But the capitalists’ legal system has strongly affirmed that your tissues aren’t yours once they are removed. Anybody can sell them and use them to make money.

In the discussion, this made everyone mad. But almost everyone agreed that they would be happy to have their tissues used to help people if nobody was going to get rich off it.

Then discussion turned to a comment by the author: “Like it or not, we live in a market-driven society, and science is part of that market.”

“Is this true?” asked the facilitator. “And if it’s true, do you like it or not?”

Everyone quickly agreed that it was true.

“If you’re a capitalist, you like it,” declared a student from Israel. “And if you’re a communist, you don’t.”

That really opened up the discussion.

Students felt that many workers were tired of capitalism even if they weren’t communists. A student from Guatemala was proud that people there had stood up and marched and gotten the president ousted.

“But look who took his place,” someone said. “They are as bad or worse.” (See article page 8.)

A student from El Salvador vigorously agreed. She talked about seeing a former guerilla leader

at a recent graduation ceremony there with an escort of a dozen soldiers. It had made her angry to see this arrogant display of privilege.

“Imagine if the masses in Guatemala had stood up and fought to put themselves in power instead of another batch of capitalist politicians,” said a teacher.

The Guatemalan student got very excited. “I never thought of that,” she said.

The facilitator asked the group to imagine what science would be like in a communist society instead of a market society. That turned out to be hard. The students and most of the teachers did not know enough about either science or communism to form strong opinions.

The Salvadoran student thought that we would use more “natural” or “traditional” remedies instead of the ones developed by pharmaceutical companies today. The Israeli student said that everyone would be able to benefit from science.

Both comments are true but a lot more could be said. When this discussion is repeated next month, it would be good to be better-prepared for this question.

Too soon, the hour was over. People had to go. But not before all the students and one of the teachers got copies of *Red Flag*.

“I didn’t know what to expect, but this was a great discussion,” one student concluded. Efforts are being made to keep it going.

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#### Mexico: Teachers’ History Holds Communist Lessons for Today

My parents were rural teachers from 1948 until their deaths. They were part of the generation that “hispanicized” 90% of the Mixteca indigenous population in Puebla, Guerrero, and Oaxaca. They were trained in the Teacher Training Institute as they began as teachers after finishing the sixth grade.

The National Union of Education Workers (SNTE) which includes support staff like secretaries, custodians, cooks, teachers of skilled trades, etc, was formed in 1923, with the participation of communists inspired by the Russian revolution. (The Mexican Communist Party was formed in 1919.) However, they did not achieve the development of a line of dividing the working class from the bourgeoisie. Instead they sought to improve the conditions of exploitation (use of labor power). In one way or another, the line of class collaboration triumphed.

Teachers like my parents were effective instruments for the development of capitalism. They opened schools and filled gaps with unpaid labor or “community work.” They built the “national identity” (with the bosses) in the schools, honoring the national anthem and the national flag every Monday.

During World War II the communists let down their guard supposedly in order not to hurt the Allies’ war efforts. After the war, they tried to “re-conquer” the unions, which the government

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had coopted. The rulers decided that the unions were the result of its effort and interest in the population and that workers, farmworkers, and the “public sector” were integral parts of the government. Whoever didn’t believe this was a “traitor to the country” and was repressed. The teachers repeated this governmental ideology, like the majority today in the SNTE.

The communists believed that they could develop communist fractions in the unions or alternative (“red” or “independent”) unions as a tactic to build a Party and make a revolution. They did not understand that the union, from being an instrument of defense, had become part of the capitalist state. The overthrow of the state would be necessary before the ruling class would allow unions to “serve the workers.”

In 1958 a major strike broke out in the schools. It ended up being repressed, first by pro-government goon squads and finally directly by the government. Hundreds of teachers were fired. They burned their professional “titles” in the main Plaza in Mexico City, in front of the government palace. However communist convictions were hidden due to security and timidity. This same year a railroad strike broke out which ended with the leaders being jailed.

The working class has not stopped fighting.



In the middle of the 1960’s, the split between the Soviet Union and China occurred. Communists around the world understood the importance of the Soviet leaders’ renouncing Communism and as a consequence tried to form new Communist Parties.

### CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS



Unfortunately they followed the nationalist and reformist examples of the old movement, now under Chinese and Cuban influence.

The valiant promoters of the National Coordinating Council of Education Workers (CNTE) came from this trend. Many have been murdered. However, they promoted trade unionism (material improvements within capitalism), not the elimination of wage labor and participating in the Oaxaca State Institute for Public Education (IEEPO).

“They did not do everything well nor did they do away with dishonesty.” (Hdz Luis Navarro in *La Jornada*.)

We in ICWP call and work for the immediate elimination of wage labor, the abolition of the commodity system in which goods are produced to buy and sell. Production must be to directly meet the needs of the population without buying and selling. Therefore workers will produce without the mediation of money, the mystification of the commodity (that which is bought and sold).

We workers, freely associated, will eliminate the borders set up by the capitalists. We will make racial and sexual prejudice a crime. We invite all the education workers to take this road by joining our Party!

--A Comrade in Mexico

Read our pamphlet:

**Communist Education  
for a Classless Society**

Available in English and

Spanish on our website

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

## LETTERS

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## CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

**Future Soldier Spreads Communist Pamphlet**

I am currently in high school and I have been in JROTC (a military training class) for a year. I have read the International Communist Workers' Party military pamphlet and I think that people in the military need to read it, a lot of them, so they can see the problems that have been really going on and what we can do about them.

The poem "General, your tank is a powerful vehicle" affected me and it makes so much sense. Nothing works on its own. It helped me realize that the things we use in the military have to be handled and operated by someone. We have brains and knowing who and what we're fighting for is important.

In the section "The bosses have their wars of necessity- we have ours!" it is saying that we the working class, produce all the products

and materials and the bosses produce nothing at all. We deserve to control what we produce. We need to fight for this.

Communists both now and then have changed the way people in the military think about communism. Being in the military has opened their eyes and they have seen what the communists have really seen.

There are communists not only in the United States. Communist are all over the world. People don't like how their government works and all the bad decisions that they have made. Everyone in the world has their own opinion about things but they all want to see a big change.

People in El Salvador have suffered. They needed to survive the attacks of invasions and attacks by their own army. They had it difficult. They had limited supplies. However, they were able to overcome and beat the enemy, with the

help and support of many of the soldiers themselves.

Communists join the military to start their organizing and their protests. They want to be ready. I think all military personnel need to think about communism. Sometimes they just hear about communism and say no because people talk about it and they make it sound bad.

I plan to give the military pamphlet to at least ten of my friends in JROTC. The way I am going to distribute the pamphlet is by asking them what they think about communism and what do they really think is going on with the governments. I want to hear what they think.

--Future Soldier

The pamphlet referred to is available at [icwpredflag.org/MIL/mpe.html](http://icwpredflag.org/MIL/mpe.html)

**How Will Communism Solve Anti-Social Behavior?**

The shootings at Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, Oregon hit especially close to home. My family lives in the Pacific Northwest, and I have one family member who attends a community college and another who teaches at one.

When our family gets together, I always try to raise current issues. I discuss with them not only why I have been a communist for decades, but also what a vision of a classless society might be. What are the possibilities we are fighting for?

It is wonderful to imagine a world in which the united working-class figures out how to address day-to-day and long-term struggles in the best interests of our class.

Many of my liberal friends believe that the answer to situations such as Roseburg is gun control. Possibly they believe this is the best we can do under capitalism: contain the damage; be sure the "shooter" does as little harm as possible.

And they are right in the sense that these events cannot be stopped, perhaps not even tamed, under the society in which we currently live.

But the real cause of these horrible murders was not the guns, but the social isolation, fear, anger, and helplessness felt by the shooter. How might this change under communism?

First, there wouldn't be people who are isolated as this man was. No one would need to feel alone. As people live and work and play and study together, they would learn about each other and learn to appreciate each other.

We would know our neighbors and coworkers in a way that is very difficult under capitalism, which praises individualism and competition, even though many of us try. We would be working side-by-side in a cooperative way, preparing meals with friends, sharing childcare and household chores.

The slogan "mind your own business" is not

a communist slogan. We will all look out for each other in a positive way, not in the sense of gossip.

Even under capitalism, if your child or best friend or a close colleague is in trouble, you would step in to try to help. This is what people do. But under capitalism we are taught that we do this only for the people closest to us.

In a communist society, we would understand that what benefits other members of our class also benefits us; what hurts them, hurts us. If a person is angry or depressed, we will collectively figure out a plan to help.

Because we are materialists and we use science as a tool to understand the world, we will be able to uncover the real causes of people's problems. No one would have to tackle their problems alone. And hopefully no one would conclude that killing others or themselves is the solution to their pain.

Perhaps you have another idea how this issue might be addressed under communism. Please discuss this with your friends and family and coworkers and write to **Red Flag** with some possible solutions to antisocial behavior once capitalism is not the dominant culture.

—Pacific Northwest Comrade

**Volkswagen:****Wage Slavery is the Real Scandal**

Workers who build Volkswagens, from Brazil to South Africa, from Spain to Mexico, from China to the US, and in nearly every country in Europe are wage slaves—tied to their jobs by the necessity to pay the bills. So the revelation that Volkswagen has been caught programming its software to evade pollution tests is not just more news of capitalist corruption.

It's an example of the way inter-imperialist rivalry increases the insecurity of the working class. Will VW go under? Will plants close down? Will our fellow workers be out on the



streets?

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has exposed this deception, and threatens to fine Volkswagen up to \$18 billion. This is not about protecting the environment, but about attacking a key rival of the US capitalist-imperialist blood suckers. Both US and German bosses are the enemies of the working class. Attacking VW serves the interests of US car manufacturers, which is no surprise. The EPA is an arm of the US state, which protects the interests of the US capitalist class.

Capitalist competition requires that every capitalist do all it can to increase its advantage over its foes. Cheating on pollution tests is one way to do this. However, the main competitive edge that capitalism uses—requires in fact—is racism. This is perfectly legal, of course. No government agency will fine VW for paying South African workers less than German workers and using the threat of moving jobs to South Africa to push German workers' wages down.

We have **Red Flag** readers in many of the countries where Volkswagen has factories. It would be good to hear how this crisis affects them. We should also write about cars in general, including how they inevitably pollute the planet. How will we clean up the planet when we have state power? How will we organize transportation in a communist society? I would love to read what others think about these topics.

—Former VW owner

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## INDIA: FASCIST ATTACKS ON MUSLIMS SHOW NEED TO BUILD ICWP

On September 30, a mob of Hindu fascists organized by India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) smashed the home of a poor Muslim family. The fascists ransacked the house and mercilessly beat a 50-year-old man and his son on suspicion that they had beef in the house. (Cows are sacred to Hindus.)

The family's income was supplemented by the mother's income as a seamstress. The attackers took her sewing machine and used it to smash the head of her husband, killing him, and critically injuring their son.

This incident has nothing to do with religion or eating beef, although it is described as a religious conflict between Hindus and Muslims. It has everything to do with capitalism. To make profit from wage slavery, capitalism needs to divide the working class based on religion, "race," gender, etc.

**ICWP has reached out to over 200 readers in India, who are readers of *Red Flag*, with our ideas of communist revolution.** We have the potential to spread our paper to thousands more and build the foundation of a mass revolutionary International Communist Workers' Party.

The ruling BJP party has its roots in fanatic pro-Hitler ideologues. The current government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi took power in

parliamentary elections in 2014. They had carried out major pogroms in 1992 and 2002 where thousands of mostly poor Muslims were systematically massacred by the BJP's paramilitary organization. Tens of thousands of Muslims were forced from their homes and into horrific refugee camps. Modi called the Muslims "child-producing factories" and compared a dead Muslim to a dog run over by a car.

The reaction to the ghastly murder of a poor worker has created mass anger in India. Hundreds of thousands of Hindu and Muslim workers and professionals have expressed disgust for the fascist forces led by the Modi government. The Modi government has assassinated several leading anti-religious leaders. The lynching and murders have only created impatient masses looking for an alternative.

However, neither the Congress party nor the so-called progressive nationalists can end the rule of the fascist BJP. Communism and only communism using mass revolutionary violence can smash the religious fanatics and their cynical at-



Mass anger in India over lynching of Mohammed Ahkmaq

tempt to prolong the life of wage slavery.

In subsequent articles, we will discuss how colonial rulers, notably the British, created the myth of religious antagonism between Hindus and Muslims, very much like how race and racism were created to justify the slave trade and divide the working class. The growth of BJP in India today is an example of how imperialists use the colonial past in their fight to redivide the world in the current period of worldwide capitalist crisis.

### Guatemala: Genocide and Corruption

## THE MASSES MUST MOBILIZE OURSELVES FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

The greatest crime of the ex-President of Guatemala, General Otto Perez Molina, is not the incident of corruption called "La Linea" (The Line). It is the racist genocide against the country's indigenous population. This crime was committed in defense of capitalism and US imperialism.

He acted under the mandate of ex-President Rios Montt (now in prison), the big Guatemalan bosses and the former US Presidents Ronald Reagan and George Bush.

The atrocities committed by the Kaibiles troops of General "Tito" (as he was known in the 1980's) included the rape of girls, strangulation of children, massive torture and murders. These would not have been possible without the direct help of the US government through the CIA.

Perez Molina was one of those responsible for the war of extermination of entire indigenous peoples in the area of Quiché, whose population was accused of supporting the guerilla movement. This was part of the deadly war that the US bosses carried out against Russian and Cuban influence in Central America.

Hundreds of thousands were killed in the whole area, accused of being communists. Unfortunately those groups did not fight for communism, but for national liberation: capitalism with more participation of the local bosses.

From the beginning of his presidency, Perez Molina and a group of bosses around him angered Washington when they wanted to create a movement, together with Brazil and Mexico, to legalize drugs, which the US opposed. Also, Perez Molina wanted closer commercial relations with Hugo Chavez, with whom he had been friends since the end of the 1980's, when they attended a military school together in Guatemala City.

The US government used the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG), an arm of the United Nations, to punish him. But not for his racist crimes against the indigenous population! They punished him for opposing the interests and policies of the US

about drugs, and for wanting to ally with the movement led by Hugo Chavez and Brazil's bosses.

In Guatemala, as in many countries, there is massive discontent against capitalism. Many people are open to communist ideas. Therefore the US bosses, through the CICIG, created a nationalist mass movement, misleading millions of workers and indigenous people into thinking that it was fighting for "justice" against corruption.

But the reality is different. General Perez Molina, like General Noriega in Panama, was the darling of the CIA/USA. That's why they were both rewarded with presidencies. But when the US bosses no longer need or want them, they go to the gallows to calm the discontent of the masses. In the past they used them to massacre the masses and avoid the influence of Russia and Cuba. Now they want politicians who will again prevent the influence of Russia and China.

The working class must not follow this kind of bosses' leadership. The CICIG, the CIA, and the new presidential aspirants in Guatemala all represent capitalism. Hunger, unemployment, repression and murders will continue there.

The working class must build the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) in Guatemala to prepare for the communist revolution that will end this capitalist system, the bosses and their murderous generals. We call on all Guatemalan readers and others who have contact with workers and students in Guatemala to send them *Red Flag* and put them in touch with our communist ideas.

In communism there will be no genocide, because there won't be money or bosses. Starting today we are building bonds of brotherhood and sisterhood as only one class of workers worldwide. Let's fight for a world without "races," racism, or borders that divide us.

Nor will there be corruption because we will all have access to the same material things, but most important is that the masses armed with communist ideas will be capable of preventing any deviation. There will be a constant ideolog-

ical struggle to keep communist ideas front and center. Join our struggle.

### Guatemala: From the Frying Pan into the Fire?

The capitalist electoral process is a dead end for the working class. It serves mainly to create the illusion that workers have a say in this system. But really, the only thing that it gives us is the "freedom" to choose the next capitalist henchman who will rule us.

The case of Guatemala shows this. It also shows that organizations like the United Nations CICIG and the US are not interested in fighting corruption, but only in insuring the imperialist interests of the US and Western capitalists.

The record of the two presidential candidates Jimmy Morales and Sandra Torres, who meet in a run-off on October 25, irrefutably proves this:

Jimmy Morales, from the Front of National Convergence (FCN), ranked first in the first round of voting. He is closely linked to Edgar Justino Ovalle, a general during the genocide in the decade of the 1980's. He led many operations including 77 massacres in the Department of Quiché.

His party FCN is supported by the retired general Luis Quilo Ayuso, former president of the Association of Veterans and Soldiers of Guatemala, an ultra-right group of retired soldiers.

Sandra Torres, of the National Unity of Hope party, is the ex-wife of former President Alvaro Colon accused by the CICIG of illegally financing political parties. They divorced in 2011 so that Sandra Torres could run as a candidate for the presidency.

Torres' sister Gloria Torres and two of her daughters were accused of embezzling public funds in three cities. Gloria Torres is also linked to Juan Ortiz, alias "Juan Chamale" known in Guatemala as the "King of Heroin."