

RED FLAG



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

BRING COMMUNIST REVOLUTION TO MASSES IN REBELLION

WHAT ROLE FOR BOEING WORKERS AS THE MASSES MOVE?

SEATTLE, WA — “If there is one thing I’ve learned from events at the Occupy demonstrations and the Longview longshore workers, it is that the time for partnering with management is over. The time for relying on the bosses’ politicians is over,” said a speaker at the Boeing union meeting.

“The time for uniting with all workers, soldiers and students in the fight of our lives against this exploitive system is now!” he concluded, after describing the positive reactions to the demonstrators’ “Capitalism Is Not Working” signs.

The union leadership was furious. The membership --even some the hacks thought were in their pocket--applauded. That made the misleaders even more furious.

The speaker called for union members to join us at OccupySeattle and at Longview. The best part of the evening was when we followed up with personal invitations.

The resulting discussions caused Boeing *Red Flag* readers for the first time to contemplate what role they should play as the masses started to move. “I don’t know if this Occupy thing will last through the [rainy] winter, but I bet people will be demonstrat-

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WHAT HAPPENS RIGHT AFTER THE REVOLUTION?

LOS ANGELES, CA--“But what are you going to do right after the revolution? Don’t you need a period of time to establish communism?” asked an older participant in Occupy L.A. as we handed him *Red Flag*. “Workers won’t be ready,” he concluded.

We said, “Not if we mobilize the masses for communism now. If we start mobilizing the masses with the understanding that the working class can run society without any private property, privilege, banks, money or wages, the revolutionary process itself will help transform us all. We’ll organize ourselves and society around communist principles, which we need to spread now.”

“Yeah, like from each according to commitment to each according to need,” he added. Then he asked, “Who will enforce this and what will happen with those that don’t want to go along?” “The masses of workers will enforce it through collectives and committees. Those that don’t want to go along will be struggled with constantly. Mass collective struggle will assure that communist relations are defended and expanded,” we answered.

Red Flag sellers participated in
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Obama Sends Troops to Uganda

BIG STEP TOWARDS US-CHINA WAR

October 14—Obama has sent 100 US troops as “military advisors” to Uganda and neighboring countries. The excuse is to remove from the battlefield the leadership of the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA). Since 1993, when US troops were killed in Somalia and their dead bodies exhibited on the street, no US combat troops have been sent to Africa. Obama is reversing this policy. This action pits US bosses’ interests there against China’s, bringing World War III qualitatively closer.

The LRA, a nationalist-fundamentalist insurgency, has waged a 20-year-campaign of terror across Uganda, parts of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Southern Sudan, and the Central African Republic. (See map page 4). Long defeated in Uganda, it survives by raiding villages, killing and mutilating civilians, and kidnapping and enslaving some 66,000 child soldiers and child sex slaves.

Obama based his decision on a 2009 law authorizing US support to Uganda against the LRA.

He was also prodded by Human Rights Watch (HRW) and other advocates of “the responsibility to protect.” This term is the new catch word to justify racist imperialist slaughter. First used to bomb Libya, Obama is using it again to intervene in Uganda. The HRW lobbied for both.

This is also to reward the Uganda ruling class’ loyal service to US imperialism in its so-called War on Terror. In Somalia, the US-backed Transitional Federal Government relies on 20,000 Ugandan troops trained by US mercenary company Bancroft and paid for by the Pentagon. (*NY-Times* 8/11/11). Pentagon-funded “private security firms” in Iraq hire many impoverished Ugandans as mercenaries to replace departing US troops. The US also sends prisoners for rendition to Ugandan prisons.

Obama’s decision will also help the tottering Ugandan dictator Museveni, whose security forces this week violently attacked “Walk to Work” demonstrations, protesting the high cost of food and fuel.

Last but not least, Obama’s move will guarantee better deals for US oil companies to exploit Uganda’s oil fields. Discovered in 2006, this oil lies along the Uganda-DRC border, precisely in the area where the LRA operates. English, French and Chinese oil companies are also vying for this oil.

China-US Rivalry for Africa Sharpens

As capitalism worldwide lurches from bankruptcy to economic crisis, every contradiction among the capitalist-imperialists becomes intensified. Control of resources and markets becomes more crucial and confrontation between them becomes inevitable. Africa is now an important battleground in this struggle which will lead to WWII in the 21st Century.

China’s insatiable thirst for raw materials has led it to Africa, which currently supplies about 30% of China’s oil imports. Chinese-Africa trade has increased ten-fold between 1999 and 2006. China will soon be the continent’s top source of

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IN A WORLD IN REBELLION: FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM

Seattle, WA, 10/8 “What’s the plan?” an OccupySeattle protestor kept asking at a recent International Communist Workers Party (ICWP) meeting. Time was too short to lay out a complete plan. Nonetheless, the idea of bringing *Red Flag*’s communist ideas to potential revolutionary soldiers at nearby Ft. Lewis sparked his imagination.

Like many “occupiers,” this young underemployed latino worker was “new to all this.” Throughout the night he weighed the possibility of communism against the various reforms liberals and union misleaders offered. The more we discussed how communism would work, the more serious he became about “spreading the word.”

He saw how rank-and-file soldiers and industrial workers would be key to revolution. He promised to ask his fellow occupiers to join him not only at the fort, but to support the Longview longshore workers as well.

This struggle between mobilizing masses to reform capitalism, to form a more perfect “democracy” or to smash the bosses’ rule with communist revolution has taken center stage around the world. A new dawn awaits if we are ready to seize the day.

It seems only yesterday that Egypt erupted, setting US imperialism’s plans on its head. At the time, cynics said the millions on the move were the result of some grand imperialist conspiracy.

Of course, that wasn’t true. Masses fought with the knowledge they had.

Cynics said this was a “third world” phenomenon. It could never spread to the industrial powers. Then Europe erupted and continues to do so to this day as Greek workers seize government offices to block the bosses’ austerity attacks.

Then these same skeptics cried it was a Continental thing. It would never cross the English Channel. Then the rebellions broke out in every major British city!

“Not in the US, too much passivity,” they cried. Oops!

The bosses fear the revolutionary potential of masses on the move. That’s why they sent their agents in the union movement to the Occupy sites like Westlake Park in Seattle (where demonstrators are camped out). They want to hogtie any revolutionary sympathies with reform demands.

Our International Communist Workers’ Party, on the other hand, relies on the revolutionary potential of the masses. It is precisely in this climate that our Party will grow.

A communist vision can’t spring spontaneously from masses in revolt. That requires a communist party willing to fight for that vision over a long period.

It requires comrades to bring this vision not only to their job sites and union meetings, but to move their fellow workers to struggle with occupiers like the young women who carried a sign declaring, “Capitalism Isn’t Working.”

On a much larger scale, the rebellions around the world were destined to fail to the extent they were chained to democracy and reforming capitalism. Hence, more died in Egypt this past weekend as the military reasserts capitalist rule.

Despite the brave fight of the Greek masses, austerity proceeds. Nothing short of mobilizing the masses for communism will do!

Workers’ Power or Anarchist Illusions

Contrast the power of this communist outlook with the jumble of pacifist anarchism that permeates the Occupy movement.

Communism will feature a highly organized working class led by the party. State power will be a huge weapon to mobi-

lize the masses for communism.

The bosses’ government conceals the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie. Smashing it is a priority. But that is not enough.

The bosses will use every dirty, murderous, violent trick in their arsenal attempting to destroy a new revolutionary society. Organization and discipline will be necessary to violently fight the class enemy, suppress anti-social behavior and spread collective communist relations. This plan stands in contrast to the anarchists’ view.

We’ll build a new, different kind of state to serve our class. For example, we’ll build a standing army, an educational system, and a production system of a new type.

Soldiers will not be permanently barracked away from the masses. Military leadership will no longer be associated with rank.

Every teacher will be a worker and every worker will be a teacher. Students will not be isolated from workers in classrooms and everyone will learn throughout their lives. We’ll learn not for individual advancement and pay, but for our collective good.

We’ll produce what we need, not to increase some boss’ profit. The chasm between mental and manual labor will be eradicated. Inequality will be wiped from human experience.

The Party’s job will be to mobilize workers to both produce useful goods and build communist relations. These non-exploitive relations will be based on the motto “From each according to commitment, to each according to needs.”

Join us in building the organization we need to mobilize the masses for communism — now and in the future. Now there’s a plan!



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ing next spring because the crisis is not going away for workers,” predicted another operator back in the shop.

The first person asked at the meeting to come with us and help distribute the paper and our pamphlet “*Mobilize the Masses for Communism*” was a steward. He was particularly incensed at the union leaders’ reaction. Unfortunately, he had to work overtime, but vowed to help us on another occasion.

“They’re always trying to keep the union discussions way too narrow,” he said.

We talked about the anti-communism of the leadership and how they want to limit our thinking to economic demands. The only politics they want us to contemplate is Democratic Party politics.

The last thing they want is for us to build for a strike next September against the bosses’ system. The logic of such a strike could bring us closer to a broader solution, communist revolution.

Now the job is to dig in. We must spend more time away from the job struggling with these friends to help our Party fight for a communist vision among the masses--now, next fall and continuously thereafter.

“I love that newspaper. Yes, give me one,” said a participant as she marched with over 400 teachers and supporters from Occupy L.A. to the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) under the banner of “Occupy LAUSD”. 126 participants took *Red Flag*. “Tax the rich, and banks, money for schools not for war”, “money for jobs not for war” were the main chants in the protest. One sign read “Nationalize the banks under workers’ control”. “We’ve got to get rid of the banks with communist revolution, we have to learn from our historical mistakes,” we said to the participant with the sign. “We have to talk more about that,” she responded. She and some of her friends took *Red Flag*.



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Are Cops Part of the 99%?

COMMUNIST MOBILIZATION WILL DESTROY RACIST CAPITALISM

Are police “part of the 99%” or are they “the racist attack dogs for the 1%”? Should we obey the law or defy it? These ongoing struggles in Occupy LA have created opportunities to explain how racism is rooted in capitalism and how communism will end it.

Some occupiers sparked a sharp debate by warning against trusting the cops while some leaders insisted on working with them and not “upsetting” them. When some demonstrators organized a silent march, others chanted militantly and were told to stop being disruptive. Some of them organized a committee against police brutality.

Then some leaders attacked this committee and tried to intimidate it. Someone even printed Facebook pictures of the anti-cop demonstrators, circulating them publicly and calling them “provocateurs.”

ICWP members and others confronted this racist attack. We insisted that the cops are enemies of the working class and we have to oppose them, not cooperate with them. We opposed attempts to intimidate or silence anti-cop protesters.

We’re making friends with some of the anti-cop occupiers who are now also angry at the attempted intimidation. Many are reading *Red Flag*. We’re showing that the enemy isn’t only the cops, but the whole capitalist system.

Black and latin@ occupiers most often mistrust, hate, and defy the cops. So do many other workers and youth who’ve seen the cops beat strikers, protect scabs, or terrorize people in the streets. Those with the most experience with this racist system, prepared with a communist understanding of it, give crucial leadership to all who

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marches and other activities, distributing over 500 copies of the latest *Red Flag* and about 35 copies of Mobilize the Masses for Communism (MMC). We’ve had good discussions and met some very angry and interested people, attacked by the capitalist crisis.

A white woman’s sign read, “Life does not support greed.” We told her we liked her sign and that the logic of her position is that the capitalist system is incompatible with healthy life for the workers of the world. She gladly took *Red Flag* and MMC.

A young black man agreed that communism sounded good. We invited him to go with us to distribute *Red Flag* to workers. He was interested and took an extra paper as well as MMC. He agreed it would be bad if the liberal imperialists led this movement into the Democratic Party to push for millionaires and workers to pay more taxes to fund WWII. He gave us his information to get together.

A young latino construction worker had a big



are exploited by capitalism, to see that we need a communist revolution to get rid of it.

Has racism always existed? Is it “human nature?” No!

Some say that since races don’t exist (except for the human race) we shouldn’t talk about racism. This is dangerously wrong. Race is a myth created and built by capitalism, which relies on racism to stay in power.

Racism is the cutting edge of the sharpening attacks on all workers. Racist income disparity grows while all workers’ wages fall. As unemployment soars for all workers, it’s double for black and latino youth and workers, who are also most likely to be attacked and imprisoned by the cops and courts.

Sixty percent of US prisoners are black and latin@, even though they only represent 29% of the population. More African American men are in prison today than were enslaved in the 1800’s.

To build the unity we need to destroy capitalism, we all have to confront racism wherever it appears, including inside the Occupy movement. The common interest of workers, soldiers and the youth worldwide is to unite against racism and its material basis: the capitalist wage slavery system.

This system needs to divide our class so the “1%” who live off our labor power can pit us against each other, and pay some of us less. Most important, racism divides us, impeding our unity to overthrow them. They also push racism against workers in other countries to get us to support their imperialist slaughters.

By mobilizing the masses to destroy the capitalist wage system, money and production for the market, we’ll destroy racism.

sign on which he had pasted the foreclosure notice on his home. He said that his union local has 5000 members, of whom 2000 are out of work. Furious at capitalism, he was glad to get our literature.

A young comrade had a long discussion with a 40-something occupier about socialism and communism. He was impressed that the older man was genuinely interested in what he had to say, trying to understand how socialism was state capitalism and why communism would really liberate our class.

A college student said, “The digital revolution has opened tremendous possibilities for this generation just like the industrial revolution did. We have an opportunity to fight for real democratic changes like never before. “We have to look at economic systems. Capitalism has no use for humanity,” we said.

“But don’t you think that Occupy LA is a good start? We’ve created this space where such conversations can take place,” he responded. “Yes, but even if thousands upon thousands come to Occupy LA, we need a revolution for communism. If we leave out the working class and soldiers, we will fail to make any real change,” we argued.

“Are you aware that we have some unions participating?” asked the young man. Self critically, we did not answer that all union leaders are agents of the bosses and unionism is a capitalist ideology to keep the working class as perpetual wage slaves. Instead we responded, “It would be better if

Without wages, there won’t be wage differentials. There won’t be unemployment because everyone can help produce and distribute what our class needs. The most committed anti-racist fighters for communism, who best serve the working class and encourage others to lead, will be the leaders. Eliminating imperialist wars, we’ll see all workers globally as comrades building a world free of exploitation and borders.

The International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP) wrote in *Mobilize the Masses for Communism (2011)*:

“Successful mobilization for communism, now and in the future, requires smashing the capitalists’ vicious racist schemes to divide the working class. We must build deep ties among workers whom the bosses want to keep separated, and we must take advantage of the militant leadership developed among our most oppressed class sisters and brothers.

“We’ll educate children from the time they can reason that there is one race—the human race. And we won’t tolerate open racism whether in word or deed.”

Fighting racism is a critical part of guaranteeing —now and in the future— that everyone helps develop and implement the political plans for our class. Everyone will work both manually and mentally to help organize a healthy, collective society that develops each one’s potential for the common good.

This process starts now as youth and workers come forward to teach and learn how to mobilize masses against racist capitalism and for communism. Join us!



we take revolutionary ideas to the Longshore workers in struggle and to transit workers also fighting huge attacks.”

Then the student said, “You know I’ve gotten your newspaper on my campus before.” “Do you like it?” we asked. “Yea, it’s pretty good,” he responded. “Well maybe you can write for it,” we said to him. As he was leaving he said “I’ll consider writing something.”

Many occupiers wanted *Red Flag*. Many are unemployed and underemployed youth who have formidable skills, but under this system they are barely surviving. Under communism our talents and skills will be nourished, needed and used to meet workers’ needs—and none of us will be homeless or near homeless!

We’re inviting occupiers we’ve met to a dinner discussion about communism and to help spread *Red Flag* to industrial workers and soldiers. There’s great potential to win our friends to fight for communism in these activities.

Greece:**CRISIS OF CAPITALISM SHARPENS,
NEED FOR COMMUNIST PRESS GROWS**

We have three sources of news: The mainstream ‘corporate’ media; an ‘independent’ media; and a fledgling communist one, like *Red Flag*.

Since the corporate and independent media currently dominate the news outlets, the world picture most of us get is distorted. Take, for example, the war the Greek masses are waging against capitalist ‘austerity.’

**Greek Masses Wage Militant Struggle
Against Capital**

For over two years they have resisted the combined demands of trans-Atlantic capital (major US and European Banks). They have refused to accept mass unemployment, impoverishment and the shortened life spans these measures produce. State schools have no books, universities have no money and hospital shelves are already short of vital medicines.

Yet, in the last two years they have organized thirteen general strikes (including one 48-hour strike) and are planning another one for October 19th. The last massive one (Oct. 6th) was accompanied by worker’s occupation of three government ministries: finance, transport and education. The occupation of the Finance Ministry prevented the economists flown in by the likes of the IMF from government’s books!

In addition to the strikes some 370 university faculties were occupied as well as 750 high schools. On top of that, public and private sector workers have organized mass assemblies at their

work sites where they have decided things like refusing to pay the new taxes – money the government wants to use to service the loans to the French, German and US Banks. schools. On top of that, public and private sector workers have organized mass assemblies at their work sites where they have decided things like refusing to pay the new taxes – money the government wants to use to service the loans to the French, German and US Banks.

Yes, we have things to learn and inspiration to get from the struggle in Greece. A pre-revolutionary situation is in the making. On the one hand, the ruling class can hardly rule in the old way while, on the other, the working class can no longer live in it. The situation only lacks a party capable of leading such a revolution. Of course, that is a very big “only.”

The Revolution Will Not be Funded

While there is much to write about, no one expects the corporate media to have anything useful to say. But the independent media is a puzzle. Why hasn’t it embraced this struggle?

The answer lies in that old saying: Who pays the piper, calls the tune. The fact is a variety of foundations (like the Ford Foundation with its long standing ties to the CIA) fund left-leaning NGOs and the independent media like “Democracy Now.” They have one strategic goal in mind – to build a parallel left - a non-revolutionary left that is safe for capitalism.

While the movement in Greece is not led by

communist forces it is a massive and sustained act of defiance against the dictates of the market and the laws of capitalism. A system that puts the needs of timely payments to Goldman Sachs or Deutsche Bank above the need to stock hospital shelves with vital medicines doesn’t deserve to exist. And with each general strike the Greek masses reaffirm that sentiment.

It is hard to build ‘a safe parallel left’ while reporting on such a movement, so the independent media marginalizes it.

This leaves us with the urgent task of building the communist press. *Red Flag* fights directly for communism. It is produced by the commitment and support of workers, soldiers and students in half a dozen countries. The task of the hour is to spread it around the world. We need your help to do this--and you need *Red Flag*.



ATHENS, GREECE, Oct. 18. Striking Greek workers surround Parliament to prevent legislators they had elected from going in to vote for the interests of the banks.

Alabama: Immigrant Workers Strike Against Racist Law**NEED FIGHT TO ELIMINATE BORDERS**

Oct. 12-ALABAMA- Thousands of latino immigrant workers struck for one day against the racist immigration law passed by the state legislature and approved by a judge. At least 6 poultry plants were closed or had reduced operations. Many construction sights were closed. Hundreds of children stayed out of school and many small businesses were closed for the day in support of the workers’ strike.

This was a political strike to protest a racist law that calls on the police to stop suspected undocumented workers, arrest and hand them over to ICE for deportation. The law, among other things, requires school officials to ask for students’ immigration status.

The US bosses knowingly super-exploit this sector of the working class. They criminalize and terrorize these workers to divide them from the rest of the US working class and to intensify their exploitation. However, by their actions, these

workers – like millions of workers and youth worldwide – showed that the working class will not be intimidated and is ready to take on the bosses and their terror.

This action, a heavy blow to Alabama’s economy, also showed awesome power of the industrial working class, the life blood of the bosses’ racist profit system.

These workers like all workers need communist ideas to fight to destroy capitalism and not be fooled by the liberal imperialists’ politicians.

The US bosses are fighting about how best to exploit and use the over 12 million undocumented workers and their 4 million citizen children. The top imperialists want comprehensive immigration reform to force them onto a long, controlled ‘path to citizenship.’ They hope this would guarantee them two things: a loyal low paid workforce for their war and other industries; and patriotic soldiers for their widening imperi-

alist wars.

The other bosses, with a large base in the Republican and Tea Parties, have their economic interests mainly domestically. They don’t want their profits to go to pay for foreign wars. They oppose any immigration reform and just want to terrorize and super-exploit these workers.

Unfortunately, many undocumented workers and their supporters see the Comprehensive Immigration Reform and DREAM ACT bills as being in their interests. But with a communist outlook, their hatred of the system can be mobilized to build unity with black and white native-born workers, soldiers and students to build a revolutionary communist movement to destroy all the bosses, their borders, laws, and wage slavery.

It is the responsibility of ICWP members and *Red Flag* readers to guarantee that communism becomes the beacon for these and all workers.

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foreign investment and its largest trading partner – ahead of France and the UK. In 2008 China invested \$6 billion in mining projects and infrastructure development in the eastern region of the Congo, bordering Uganda.

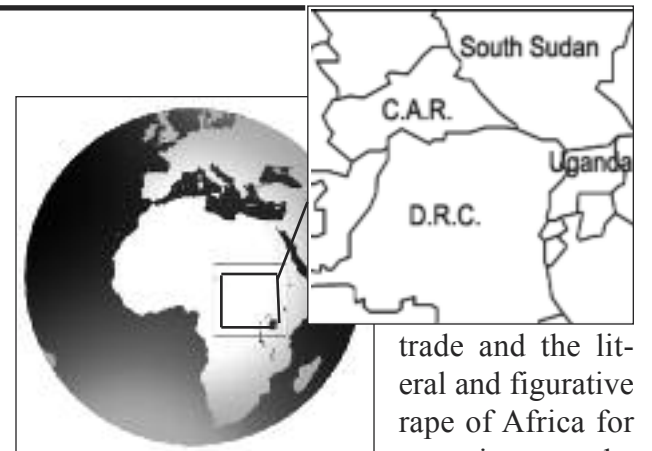
A report titled “China’s New Security Strategy in Africa” betrays the Pentagon’s fear of China’s Peoples Liberation Army (PLA) eventually sending China’s troops to Africa to protect Chinese interests. Anticipating this danger, the US in 2006-2008 organized the US Africa Command (AFRICOM). Besides funding proxy wars in Sudan and Somalia between the US and China, the US’ first actual operation was bombing Libya, but without sending boots on the ground. Sending troops to Uganda is a significant escalation.

China responded to AFRICOM by deploying

three warships into the Gulf of Aden. This not only showcases China’s blue-water navy’s growing capabilities, but demonstrates China’s growing willingness to secure its economic interests in Africa. *China Military*, a PLA newspaper, is now openly arguing that China needs to drop its “low-profile” policy and increase its military might to defend its strategic interests worldwide. China’s ability to withdraw its 36,000 citizens from Libya in 48 hours speaks mountains about its ability to deploy its military in Africa as well.

**“Responsibility to Protect”—The New Face
of Imperialism**

No one, especially in Africa, should be fooled by the imperialists’ humanitarian drivel about the “responsibility to protect” or by HRW’s disgusting use of African workers and children in its propaganda video “Dear Obama.” The system responsible for the deaths of millions in the slave



trade and the literal and figurative rape of Africa for centuries up to the

present has not changed its stripes overnight. African workers and their allies, far from begging Obama to rescue them, will, when armed with Communist ideas, fight for a future free from exploitation, where the continent’s abundant resources will serve the international working class.

STOP WALL STREET'S WARS WITH WORKERS' COMMUNIST POWER

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 7 – Hundreds marched through downtown LA for “Jobs Not War!” on the tenth anniversary of the US war in Afghanistan. Similar demonstrations were held in England and elsewhere.

As the march passed Occupy LA, the chant became “Stop Wall Street’s Wars!” Many youths and other workers joined in. “We were downtown to take care of business,” said a Latina worker carrying a baby, “and we decided to walk with you.”

Dozens took *Red Flag* and gave money for it. “I’ve seen this paper before, and I agree with most of it,” a marcher told a comrade. “But I’m concerned that younger people maybe can’t relate to it.” The comrade replied that she was heading over to Occupy LA and would find out. The paper got a great reception there too.



Throughout the longest US war, most of the liberal peace movement has been silent about this so-called “good war.”

Protests focused instead on the “bad war” in Iraq. The liberal anti-war movement is closely tied to the Democrats, who united with the Republicans around the strategic importance of Afghanistan to US imperialism. Afghanistan is key to the energy resources of central Asia, and borders US imperialism’s two main rivals, Iran and China.

After ten years and half a trillion dollars, US imperialism is still scrambling in the region. Bin Laden is dead, but Pakistan is no longer a reliable ally. Central Asian energy flows to China from Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, while the US-backed TAPI project is stalled in negotiations. Once again Afghanistan is proving “a graveyard for empires.”

The Working Class Is Key ...To Everything

Linking the anti-war movement to the fight for jobs recognizes two things: First, imperialist war attacks workers inside as well as outside the imperialist country. Second, no revolutionary movement can succeed without workers’ mass participation.

However, the slogan “Money for jobs, not for war” conceals the fact that it’s workers with jobs who create the value that capitalism transforms into money. Plus, the main section of the US capitalist class plans to put people to work mainly preparing for even wider imperialist wars.

In contrast, communism will organize everyone to work for the needs of the masses without the intervention of “money.” No longer will we stand on streets outside the halls of power, yelling or singing in a vain attempt to make those inside respond. Instead workers will directly exercise power, making all decisions collectively in our own interest – meaning global cooperation, not global war.

The LA march and rally ended with fourteen

people intentionally getting arrested in an act of “civil disobedience.”

Many more people need to get used to breaking the bosses laws!

But such symbolic protest – staged with the cooperation of a special LAPD unit – doesn’t prepare us for the necessity of violently destroying capitalism. Civil disobedience has the appearance of confronting the system, but its essence is submission to authority.

Communism encourages us to struggle rather than to submit, now and always. Our goal is not a static “peace” but a dynamic and creative conflict in which the masses are mobilized to move society forward.

“Civil disobedience” diverts attention from the role of the masses. It builds a wall between activists who believe that “the police are our friends” and the masses who know the police as a brutal repressive occupying army in their neighborhoods and workplaces.

Mass unemployment, endless wars, and growing inequality worldwide are leading many to question the very nature of this capitalist system in crisis. Rival capitalist factions (within or among nations) increasingly need to set the masses into motion for their own selfish purposes. Our task in this critical period is to clarify and make real in action the communist principles that alone can guide us forward.



Communist Philosophy:

UNIVERSAL, PARTICULAR AND INDIVIDUAL, PART II

Conceptualism

In the last issue we introduced the concept of a “universal,” something which is responsible for the common features of individual things or processes. Examples of universals include human, atom, worker, female, etc. We also discussed some wrong views about universals, like nominalism. Nominalism says that particular things or events have nothing in common except that we use the same words to describe them.

Nominalist Thinking

Nominalism is a fairly common mistaken way of thinking. Suppose someone works several jobs and is treated badly by the boss in each one. A nominalist thinker would say that it is a coincidence that these three different individual bosses are vicious, and not look for the common explanation. That explanation is that most bosses treat most workers badly most of the time because they are enforcing capitalist exploitation of workers’ labor. A nominalist mistake is also made by people who see that the U. S. government is fighting two wars to control oil and gas (and just finished fighting in a third one) but don’t see that there is such a thing as imperialist war.

According to nominalist philosophers, the world is just an unstructured bundle of individuals, and words (“signifiers”) only refer to other words, not to something in the world. Only theories that discuss very narrow topics (“micro-narratives”) can be constructed, they say, and Marxism, which describes the whole world of social relations, is impossible.

Nominalism’s cousin is “conceptualism.” Conceptualism says that there is nothing outside thought that corresponds to concepts. This makes it impossible to explain why we work out particular ways of describing what individuals have in common and reject others. Good concepts are ones that describe accurately and also help explain. If we defined “human” as “a two-legged animal with soft earlobes and no feathers,” it would pick out human beings accurately, but is still a crazy concept. It doesn’t describe the things that actually make us human like the ability to work, plan, cooperate, and fight oppression, etc.

Using bogus racist concepts, like defining “intelligence” as what IQ tests measure, gives wrong results but makes them look scientific. Conceptualists excuse this scam by claiming that scientific concepts are merely “hypothetical constructs” which don’t have to correspond to anything real. But corresponding with reality is just what knowledge must do to guide practical activity.

Platonism

Nominalism and conceptualism leave no room for universals, but Platonism makes an opposite mistake. Derived from the ancient Greek philosopher Plato, Platonism imagines that there is a separate ideal realm of universals, which most people can barely perceive. Each universal is supposed to be a perfect example, and things in the real world are considered to be just defective im-

itations of them.

Platonists treat universals as if they had a kind of spiritual power. After World War I, the French government built a huge building on the battlefield at Verdun to hold the bones of 150,000 soldiers who died there in a single battle. Stained glass windows on the building portray this imperialist slaughter as a battle of Justice and Humanity (the French side) against Ignorance and Brutality (the German side). But rival capitalist powers fought this war, not universals!

Platonism is common in religion, too. The Bible describes God as “the Word” that “became flesh and lived among us” as Jesus. “The Word” (“logos”) here means “explanation” or “reason,” so God is being described as a universal.

Marx and Engels gave an example of how Platonism holds people back from struggling for communism. A Platonist sees the real humanity as something perfect, but the humanity he actually finds is “a crowd of run down, overworked, sick, hungry, poor people.” The Platonist tries to ignore this and focuses on his idealized higher reality, and “thus falls directly back into idealism, while the communist materialist sees the necessity and at the same time the conditions for re-designing both production and social structure” (Marx and Engels, *The German Ideology*).

In the next issue, we will summarize the dialectical materialist view of universals, which rejects the idealism of nominalism, conceptualism, and Platonism.

Chile: Workers and Students Strike Against Capitalist Education

COMMUNISM WILL SMASH BARRIERS BETWEEN EDUCATION & WORK



Public or Private--Capitalist Education Serves the Bosses

Schools under capitalism were born to prepare workers' children to go to work. In England, the law said that every factory had to hire a teacher and that child laborers had to spend some time studying. Nevertheless, education was given in "homeopathic doses" and the inspectors found out that many "teachers" themselves didn't even know how to read.

When industry grew, more instruction was required of young workers, so public schools were founded. These schools began to indoctrinate the students, forming them to serve the interests of the propertied class and teaching them to aspire to become capitalists.

Given the disastrous situation in which the public schools find themselves today, the most cynical politicians, now called "neo-liberals," have called for the privatization of the schools in differing degrees, either totally, with high fees, or with a system of scholarships "for those who really study." The "democratic" politicians call for "public education" against privatization. In England, France and Mexico, students have gone on strike against tuition hikes. Now in Chile there is a student strike supported by the workers.

However, public education has not solved the problems of the working class. The best it does is to incorporate some young people into the productive apparatus according to the needs of capital, allowing them to ascend the "social ladder." The majority only complete elementary education and the ones who graduate can't find jobs in the fields they have studied. Our needs as a working class will not be resolved by "public schools," nor even by the simple extension of scientific learning.

Distributing *Red Flag*, we have called on students to support the young people in Chile, not for "public education," but by organizing and joining ICWP. Every day it's more evident that the system of wage labor is the problem and that our emancipation is the order of the day. Join us now!

Comrade Teacher from Mexico

CHILE, October 19—Tens of thousands of Chilean workers took to the streets in a two-day work stoppage this week to support student demands for free education. A student movement against for-profit education has shut down high schools and universities all over Chile for most of the school year.

The student movement, led by so-called leftists who have become media darlings, is protesting a system in which families must cover 75% of the costs of university education. They are calling for an increase in taxes on the rich and nationalization of the copper industry to pay for free higher education.

Mass protests have been met by water cannons, tear gas and arrests, the criminalization of demonstrations and increased penalties on students who occupy schools. A two-day strike of union workers in August led to negotiations between government officials and student leaders, which broke down on October 5.

Student leaders have traveled to Europe to testify before UNESCO, calling university education a human right and hoping to increase foreign pressure on the Chilean government. Although the students call for "ensuring quality public education, free, democratic, pluralistic and multicultural," the truth is that in the capitalist system, schools are set up to meet the needs of the rulers. The students' demands to end the capitalist structure of the educational system do not extend to a critique of the essential function of capitalist education, justifying class society and preparing students to accommodate to it.

These demonstrations, coming as they do as workers and youth around the world are protesting the effects of the world-wide crisis of capitalism, present both a danger and an opportunity. Increasingly angry students, faced with fascist repression by the government, are open to a revolutionary solution.

Student and trade union leaders are using the anger and sacrifice of the masses as a bargaining chip in negotiations, rather than as an opportunity to build a revolutionary movement.

We call on the students and workers of Chile to mobilize the masses for communism. Only when we make a communist revolution and take state power will the working class have the opportunity to build educational institutions that meet the needs of our class.

The following excerpts from our key document, Mobilize the Masses for Communism are an introduction to our thinking about communist education.

"Communism is our goal from the beginning, and as soon as we take power anywhere we will mobilize the masses to build communism.

...[W]e will immediately abolish money, commodity production (producing goods for a market) and the wage system (in which workers are forced to sell their labor power or starve)... Workers will be motivated not by the prospect of individual gain, but by the possibility of living in a communist society, in which social relationships of cooperation, collectivity and share-and-share alike are primary. These relations will provide material experience that can develop into a framework for all other decisions.

We will organize production so that everyone has their basic needs (food, shelter, health care) met. We won't be producing luxuries until the workers of the world have the necessities. ... No longer will some starve while others eat their fill.

The basic principle will be that everyone works, according to their ability and commitment: young and old, men and women, soldiers and workers. ... Breaking down the division between manual and mental labor, and between the "experts" and the rest of us is ... part of eliminating the material basis for the capitalist idea that some people are more important than others and deserve a bigger say or an easier life.

This mass mobilization for production requires breaking down the barrier between education and work. Under capitalism, fulltime expert teachers do teaching. Under communism everyone will share their experience and knowledge with young and old. Everyone will learn both the skills and the underlying theory of work.

Farmworkers and agronomists, machinists and engineers will not only learn from each other, they will actually be the same person. Every student will be a worker and every worker, no matter how experienced, will be a student, their entire lives."

**COMPLETE DOCUMENT
AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE:
www.icwpredflag.org**

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fundamentalist leaders and government officials instigate hate-crimes against them.

A Cairo-based blogger recently suggested that "Egypt is suffering from institutionalised racism against Copts." The "racialization" of Coptic Christians in Egypt is similar to the way Jews and Hindus have been called "races" in the past, and Muslims are becoming a "race" in the US today. Meanwhile, reactionary Coptic leaders use this situation to build hatred against all Muslims and support for the Israeli government and its US backers.

Communism needs to destroy racism and all divisions within the working class.

It's not enough to intone piously that "we're all human beings" or that "we should respect difference." Defeating racism requires sharp but patient long-term ideological struggle among the masses. It requires the mobilization of the masses in militant (sometimes violent) class struggle against the racist bosses and their agents. That's true now and it will be true in communist society for a long time to come.

Communist rule doesn't mean passing laws against racism—capitalism does that! It means using all our new forms of social organization

(including mass education, culture and military force) to mobilize increasing numbers in direct anti-racist action. Nor will we allow our brothers and sisters to be persecuted for their beliefs, as long as those beliefs don't lead them to attack communist society.

As communist consciousness and solidarity unite us globally into One Red Party Under One *Red Flag*, "nations" and "races" will eventually disappear along with the capitalist bosses who created them. As for religion, it too will disappear as secular communist society increasingly fulfills our needs for connection and comfort, for meaning and purpose in our lives.

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What's Missing?

Several days ago I had a visit from a friend who I hadn't seen in about four months. The friend used to get *Red Flag*, but didn't seem to be interested in reading it. He asked me why some of our other friends had distanced themselves from the Party.

I told him, in the first place, that we have to read *Red Flag*, historical books by Marx, Engels, Lenin, etc., and the news to understand the structure of the capitalist system and have a solid basis to be able to discuss communist ideas with friends or fellow workers.

He agreed, but then said that he had thought that I wasn't in the Party any more, because it had been a while since I had given him *Red Flag* or sought him out to invite him to meetings or to talk about the Party.

I answered that I had gotten tired of having him and others say they would come to meetings, and then using any excuse to cancel at the last minute.

I said that I often went to parties to socialize with friends, and it did not matter if it was at night or far away, people came and that I continue to hope our other friends who claimed to be conscious would be capable of going from ideas to practical things.

I told him that we can say a lot, but in practice we have limited our potential. He listened, and later raised his main concerns. He commented that he considered that what the Party proposes is almost a utopia. He says that it sounds good but very few people are interested, that he talks with his friends and they say he's crazy.

I told him that it's not as crazy as seeing poverty, the face of old people and those who go to a hospital and can't pay for their medicine, seeing children in the streets working. I asked, "Isn't it crazy to see this and not do anything?" I said that the conditions in which we live will lead us sooner or later to take decisions like the students and workers in Chile, in Greece, in Libya, etc.

Then he asked, "What's missing? What's missing to make people take an interest in the Party and take that big step?" Then I asked, "What is missing for you to say that you join the Party? What is missing for you to take this big step?"

He remained quiet. Finally he took *Red Flag* and we agreed to see each other regularly. I've had similar conversations with other compañeros. I'm learning to be patient. I haven't left. I'm still here.

--Red Young Woman from Mexico

Communist Ideas Cross Borders

My daughter Claudia started high school four years ago. In the last two years, she's gotten to know her history teacher, thus starting a nice friendship apart from learning history better and more truthfully.

The teacher started talking with her about the family. One day the school had an Open House so that the parents and teachers could meet each other and talk about how the students were doing in their classes. It was here that the teacher met me. While talking and talking we saw that there were some interesting stories in my family that caught the teacher's attention. For example, the story of the life of my father, Claudia's grandfather, in El Salvador.

The teacher seemed very interested in knowing more about my father, and how things had been in the past, and in his development as a worker and some other things. He started sending some *Red*

Flag newspapers to me, sending them with Claudia from school. Once when my family had the opportunity to travel to El Salvador to visit my parents, the teacher gave us some newspapers he had for my father.

We were glad to take them to my dad, and he liked them a lot, that's when the friendship began between my father and the teacher.

Without noticing it, they were becoming long distance friends, and every time we went to El Salvador we took the newspapers. For his part, my father sent books with stories about socialism and other things to the teacher, and that's how they've kept up a long distance friendship, without knowing each other personally but being very friendly, always asking about each other.

The teacher has friends there in El Salvador and one of them offered to visit my parents in their house. The humorous story is that they came to the house and it took almost a half an hour of talking until my parents realized on whose behalf the visitors came. "Ohhhh, of course, my granddaughter's teacher"...they very gladly received them and also received more copies of *Red Flag* from them. This visit made my father very happy and they are absolutely delighted to receive them again whenever they want to come to the house.

It's a pleasure to have friends like you with new ideals and different ways of thinking. Go forward with *Red Flag*!

A *Red Flag* Mom

Communist Road Will Turn Many Corners

A young comrade's letter to *Red Flag* last issue said that "revolution is just around the corner." If you take the long view of history, this is probably true. Five or ten or even twenty-five years is a blink of the eye in the history of the class struggle. But it can be a long time in your life or mine! We need to take advantage of the many opportunities that exist now, and the ones that are rapidly developing, to mobilize for communist revolution and

beyond. But we also need to plan on making this a lifetime of struggle. We invite our enthusiastic young comrade to think about joining the military or going into industry. Workers in these sectors are key to our communist revolutionary strategy.

--*Red Flag* Response

Red Flag Brings Worker to ICWP

We've been consistently distributing *Red Flag* hand-to-hand. We gave it to a unionized worker. He told us that he's read the last issues in spite of having too much work and having to read it at night before going to sleep. He said that he likes to be in the union because it's a way we workers can raise our voices against the bosses. He does it because there are people who are afraid or don't know how to rebel against the bosses.

He told us that he was pleased that organizations like ours exist because the working class needs to liberate itself. We told him that we need to rebel through an international communist party, like ICWP, and that unionism only perpetuates the workers' slavery. He told us that he was interested in our points of view, that he would continue reading *Red Flag* and that as soon as possible we'll meet over coffee to talk more comfortably. We'll make every effort so that in a short time this worker joins the ranks of ICWP.

--University Students

University Students Interested in Communism

We distribute *Red Flag* outside a university lunchroom. At the beginning we found out that there was a surveillance camera and we tried to start the sale outside its reach. Five minutes later, a security guard who had observed us from far away came over and in a threatening way with his radio, he made us leave. We asked him why we couldn't sell there and he said, "That's the rule. Its prohibited."

We thought for a minute that we had to leave but we moved about 100 yards where he couldn't see us and there we continued with our work. The students took the paper with open arms. Several gave us money. A cook and another worker came by separately and asked for *Red Flag*, donating money for it.

A student asked us, "Who makes this newspaper?" My comrade answered, "Communist workers internationally." He nodded his head and began to read the paper, very interested. Almost as we were leaving, we met a friend from the same community that we're from. She gave us her address and said we should come visit her. She gladly accepted two copies of *Red Flag*.

Even though apparently the situation was difficult, we were able to distribute 235 RF. In reality, inspired by the recent articles in *Red Flag* about capitalist laws, it gave us courage not to respect the bosses' rules and laws. Even under more complicated situations, we must organize communist revolutions around the world.

---Latin American Comrade

More About Rules and Laws

I'd like to comment on the letter from a California Comrade in the last issue that discusses principles and laws. I think that the writer's approach of discussing a concrete situation is a good one. I agree that having a long list of rules in the classroom is the wrong approach, at least for older students. The comrade's method of respecting and inspiring students is certainly better than piling on rules.

There is a problem, however, with making an analogy here between communist society and a well-run classroom to draw conclusions about whether rules or laws are needed. That debate isn't about whether there should be lots of rules or only a few under communism, but whether there should be any at all. The classroom example shows that some basic rules are necessary for a school to work well. Students should be required to come to school on time, and for safety's sake, they shouldn't be allowed to skateboard in the cafeteria. A different problem with the analogy is that students don't usually make their own rules, but in communist society the working class would do this.

The comrade wrote that it is a communist principle that we share equally, whether we have scarcity or abundance. Assuming that most people will agree with this principle—as they should—decisions still need to be made about what it means concretely. If we have a period of critical shortage of food, for example, we will need to have a collective decision about how much each person or family will get. This probably should not be an equal amount for everyone, but might allow more for children than for old people or more for people who do hard physical labor. In any case, the principle isn't enough and a specific rule has to be adopted.

The comrade also wrote that those who disregard the principle of equal sharing "will be dealt with by the working class." It seems to me that if you are talking about "principles" that are enforced by the working class, then you then really mean rules.

--Southern California Comrade



Anti-Racist Protests Rock Egypt:

COMMUNISM WILL END RACIST & RELIGIOUS DIVISIONS AMONG THE MASSES

Egyptian workers and youth are again rising up against the military dictatorship that effectively constitutes the main section of the Egyptian capitalist ruling class. The cutting edge of this uprising is anti-racism.

The crisis started with the burning of a Coptic Christian church on September 30 in southern Aswan, instigated by a local government official. Thousands of Christians marched on the Egyptian state TV building to protest the lame government response to this hate crime. Army tanks attacked the march, driving directly into the crowd, crushing and killing dozens. When troops



opened fire, protesters fought back.

More Copts and a significant group of Muslims, some of them Leftists, joined the demonstration. They chanted “Christians and Muslims, Hand in Hand” and “Down with the Field Mar-

shall!” Since then, anti-government demonstrations have mushroomed.

This is an important and inspiring development. Christian groups that formerly called on the police for protection against Muslims are now targeting the government itself. Christian-Muslim unity – when combined with the power of the working class – can shake Egyptian capitalism to its very foundations.

The Egyptian masses need to overthrow not one dictator, nor even a circle of dictators, but the dictatorship of capital: the capitalist system itself. They need to organize and mobilize themselves to rule. Like all of us in “the 99%,” the revolution they need is for communism.

Strike Wave of Postal Workers, Bus Drivers, Teachers and More

The backdrop to this confrontation is a massive strike wave that has swept Egypt since the end of Ramadan. In September, 22,000 Mahalla textile workers threatened an open-ended strike mainly around economic demands. The bosses averted this with small concessions, but later that week, postal workers shut down half the post offices in Egypt. They crippled a major profit-center of the Egyptian government.

Since then, striking bus drivers conducted an 18-day strike, sometimes continuing to drive but letting passengers ride free. Teachers struck for the first time in sixty years. Irrigation and sanitation workers flooded Cairo from all corners of Egypt for a mass demonstration. Air traffic con-

trollers, university professors, and doctors have joined the strike wave.

The masses are angry that Egyptian rulers refused to grant even the modest pay raises that they promised after the “Cairo Spring” uprisings. They are disgusted by the corruption at all levels of government.

The Egyptian rulers are not stupid. The global capitalist crisis limits their ability to grant concessions. The large cotton industry faces increasing competition from India and China. Political instability has hit the tourism sector hard.

According to the Mideast investment bank Beltone Financial (10/11/11), Egyptian capitalism faces “a lack of investments needed to boost weakened economic growth rates, increased unemployment, a widening fiscal deficit and currency pressures.” These challenges are “exacerbated by pressures emanating from a faltering global economic recovery.”

Capitalism is corrupt at its very core. It is absolutely incapable of meeting our needs.

Capitalism needs racism to keep the masses divided and the bosses in power.

Egyptian rulers use religious divisions to divert workers’ anger away from the military dictatorship and against other workers. Members of the Coptic Christian minority (10% of the population) face many restrictions on employment as well as on the practice of their religion. Islamic

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WORKERS VS. BOSSES: FIGHT TO THE FINISH

If we say, dialectically, that the world is made of contradictions, it’s because in each thing or process, universally, there are two opposing sides. Day and night are opposites, cold and heat, poverty and wealth, exploited and exploiters, capitalism and communism, etc.

The contradiction between two opposites is only resolved when the struggle between them is sharpened and one side destroys the other.

Under capitalism, the contradiction is between workers and bosses. This contradiction pits the exploited workers against the exploiting bosses, converting them into opposites.

Although opposites, however, one can’t exist without the other. This is what is known dialectically as the unity and struggle of opposites. The workers can’t exist without the bosses and the bosses can’t exist without the workers, under capitalism.

As long as capitalism exists, this will always be the case, which could give the impression that this contradiction doesn’t have a solution. The bosses, on their side, always try to avoid the resolution of this contradiction since it means getting rid of them and their exploitation for good, destroying their capitalist system.

But, what about strikes?

Workers’ strikes are also contradictions: workers against a section of the capitalist bosses. A strike, even if it’s defeated by the bosses, can serve to advance and deepen our class’ revolutionary communist understanding.

If the workers of a particular sector organize and carry out a strike to demand better working conditions, they will be sharpening the contradiction between workers and capital.

But, if in the development of the strike, differences arise over how some workers see the strike politically; depending on what those differences

are, this could show a lack of political consciousness on the part of those who take the negative side, because it would strengthen the bosses’ power.

The leaders of unionized workers defend capitalism to the hilt. That’s why they refuse to give the workers political education: the theory and practice of the significance of the class struggle. Thus they disarm the workers politically, hindering them from fighting for their true interests.

An example: In 2006, the community leaders in Los Angeles, CA. called on workers to participate in a march and a one day strike on May 1st for the rights of undocumented workers.

Archbishop George Mahony and the lawyer Luis Carrillo, starting two weeks before the planned march and strike, advised the workers that it would be better to go to work on that day so they wouldn’t get fired.

Archbishop Mahony had a lot of influence with the workers, as did the lawyer Carrillo. But these people aren’t workers, nor leaders of the working class. They are part of the bourgeoisie, supporters of the capitalist system, the main opposite of the working class.

Mahony represents the church, but the church has never represented the working class. Nevertheless, many workers believe that the church really cares about their interests. This means not knowing how to distinguish our friends from our enemies.

Liquor and Religion

Another example was during the strike of farm workers in California from 1965 to 1970. The company, Christian Brothers, promised the leaders of the strike that they would negotiate and sign a labor contract. But they said that the union should first try to get labor contracts with other companies. Once it was successful, then the com-

pany promised to sign with no problem.

The leaders were confident that the company would fulfill its promise. After five years of striking, when more than thirty agricultural companies had signed labor contracts with the union, Christian Brothers was asked to negotiate the promised contract. But, since in money questions sentiments don’t count, the company completely refused to negotiate a contract. It was necessary to declare a strike and a boycott of their products to force them to sign a labor contract.

The Christian Brothers Company is owned by religious people very committed to the business of producing wines and liquors through the exploitation of workers. That’s how all the capitalists are—no matter what their beliefs, nationality or “race.”

Political strikes against capitalism: springboard for revolution?

A strike is not a workers’ revolution for political power and the overthrow of capitalism. Generally, workers’ strikes only concentrate on fighting for certain reforms or concessions from the bosses. However, communists can organize political strikes against capitalism.

These strikes shouldn’t be underestimated, because they could well be the “spark that lights the prairie fire,” if we consider how useful big strikes or a general strike could be if linked to the struggle for political power.

Clearly we would take the strikers to other factories, schools and barracks to organize mass mobilizations in the streets so that these could serve as a springboard to spur on the workers’ revolution for communism and defeat capitalism.

This is the only way to put an end to the contradiction between the workers and the capitalists, between the exploited and the exploiters. Join ICWP to speed up this process.