

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM



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



CAPITALISM FAILED SANDY VICTIMS, SAY JERSEY WORKERS; WANT COMMUNIST ANSWERS

MTA WORKERS FIGHT RACISM

LOS ANGELES, October 24-- "Our union brothers and sisters will not tolerate to have our civil rights stepped on, nor will we lay back and take further humiliation. Gary Spivack must go!" states a grievance letter drafted by MTA drivers at Division 8.

Gary Spivack, a transportation manager, is another "ferocious" racist dog that MTA bosses use to impose their reign of terror. Spivack has a long history of racist harassment, intimidation, suspension and firing of mainly black and latino workers.

He arbitrarily makes up his own rules, threatening disciplinary action or firing, if drivers don't obey them. His latest rule instructs drivers "not to allow disabled and handicapped persons with walkers to board MTA buses. They take up too much space, and the owners refuse to fold them."

Spivack's latest blatant racist actions sparked this outcry and organizing drive.

Darrin L. White, a black driver,

was involved in a bus accident. Last week the Division 8 Accident Review Board ruled unanimously that the accident was unavoidable and Darrin should not be charged with it.

The Board members are certified by the city and state. They examine the evidence and question the driver involved in the accident.

After notifying Darrin of the outcome, the Board sent the case to Spivack for final approval. Spivack overturned the Board's decision in spite of having no new evidence to justify his racist actions. Spivack's action becomes even more blatantly racist and fascist considering that he never operated a bus.

Spivack's and MTA bosses' actions are dictated by capitalism's needs.

Like all capitalists, MTA's bosses aim to maximize workers' productivity at the least possible cost. They are phasing out Tier One (higher paid drivers with more benefits) and phasing in Tier Three (part-timers with less pay and benefits).

See MTA, page 4

NEW JERSEY, November 5,-- Sandy is the second major hurricane to hit the U.S. northeast in two years. The region's infrastructure is very old, so huge numbers of people have had to live for more than a week without clean water, electrical power or heat, living in near freezing temperatures.

Academics and environmentalists want to upgrade the failing infrastructure to mitigate this problem but government leaders like Bloomberg, Christie and Cuomo say it costs too much money to do the upgrades suggested, like putting all power cables underground instead of on utility poles. They will not put in money to fix the infrastructure, because they need that dough for wars and corporate bailouts. Experts have estimated that with the money the U.S. has spent on the Iraqi and Afghanistan wars, the northeast could have completely upgraded the power and telecom grids that were destroyed by Hurricane Sandy and a good deal of the flood control projects.

Feds are sending generators for businesses and special services, not homes. For example, up to the day of the NY Marathon, Bloomberg had reserved dozens of large portable generators for the NY Marathon, but none for the residents

in Queens and the Bronx.

Very wealthy neighborhoods were hit, but those people can afford the high premiums of flood insurance and rebuild. Many working class neighborhoods were flooded and/or destroyed by trees falling from high winds. Many people do not have insurance because they cannot afford the exorbitant cost.

Areas like Staten Island had floods that caused many deaths and casualties. One family had both a father and son drown in the basement of their home. A woman trying to get out of her car to escape fast-approaching high water, was hit by a powerful wave that knocked her over, while she was carrying her two little boys in her arms. The water swept the boys away and they drowned.

Far Rockaway is a poor community of mostly black and latino/a workers. Many people who live in some parts of Far Rockaway did not have much of anything before storm, now they have even less. Many thousands of people have had to seek refuge from the cold, lack of water and lack of power in New Jersey high end shopping malls, some of which are the homes to Bulgari, Fendi and Tiffany. Working class families sitting on floors huddled together who had to throw out all of

See SANDY VICTIMS, page 2

**FOUR
MORE YEARS OF
RACIST
CAPITALIST
ATTACKS
PAGE 2**

**BOEING,
GARMENT
WORKERS
DISCUSS
FACTORIES OF
THE FUTURE
PAGES 3, 5**

**MEXICO:
DESTROY
FASCIST LABOR
REFORM WITH
COMMUNIST
REVOLUTION
PAGE 4**

**IMPERIALIST
VULTURES FIGHT
OVER
VENEZUELA OIL
PAGE 14**

FOUR MORE YEARS TO MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

NOVEMBER 7--So Obama's got four more years. Many are breathing a sigh of relief, believing that Obama's reelection will protect them from the doomsday scenario: a Romney-led Federal government that would launch attacks on workers in the US and around the world.

But workers in the US and worldwide have been under attack under Obama, and things will get worse. The bosses' global capitalist crisis is deepening and more wars loom. This will require intensified racism and fascism to implement deeper cuts in wages and benefits.

The bosses have declared war on the working class. This puts us in a life and death struggle against them.

Seventy-seven percent of latino voters voted for Obama. Many say they support his recent temporary halt on deportation of undocumented youth and oppose Romney's anti-immigrant statements. An exit poll found that 68% of all voters support offering legal status to undocumented workers. Obama will use this "mandate" to try to pass Comprehensive Immigration Reform and the Dream Act, which the Pentagon supports. These bills will push hundreds of thousands of immigrant youth into the military. They will put millions of immigrant workers on a 12-year path

to citizenship which, because they could be deported if unemployed for 60 days, ties them to slave-labor jobs.

As we see from South Africa to Honduras, masses of workers are in motion against the same attacks workers face in the US. There will be growing rebelliousness among US immigrant and citizen workers, soldiers and students as well, as workers suffer the inevitable racist attacks of capitalism in crisis.

Democrats: Not a Lesser Evil, But a Bigger Danger

When there's a Republican in the White House, it's easier to see through the lies. Romney was funded by secret donations to right-wing super PACs. Obama was funded by rich donors as well, but also by millions of dollars in small donations. More working people are fooled by the Democrats. The readers of *Red Flag* must give leadership to our co-workers, students and soldiers to show that capitalist politicians are our enemies, and that we need to mobilize to get rid of them and the capitalist system they serve, with communist revolution.

The Romney boogey man argument blinds many to Obama's record. Obama broke his promise to close the prison and torture center at Guantanamo. He continued the war in Iraq four more years, and escalated the war in Afghanistan. He vastly increased drone attacks on men, women and children in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia and Yemen. One out of every 50 people killed in drone attacks has been a suspected "terrorist." The rest have been civilians.

Obama also increased attacks on US workers in the last 4 years. Corporate profits have been gone up, but household income dropped

5%. Poverty increased. Home equity has dropped by \$5-7 trillion, despite Obama's empty promises to reduce household debt, raise the minimum wage, and protect workers. He bailed out the banks, but not workers who lost their homes. Relief from foreclosures was an illusion. He saved the auto industry profits by slashing workers' wages by 50%. He has deported as many immigrants in four years as Bush did in eight. He's planning cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, social security, and pensions.

Many gave Obama a free pass, saying that he's hemmed in by the system. But he's not just a puppet; he's a capitalist politician defending capitalism in crisis which is sharpening its attacks on the working class.

Coming Attacks, Opportunity to Build ICWP

As US imperialism declines and prepares to defend its empire on the backs of workers worldwide, huge cuts in government budgets loom. Tim Fernholz in *Quartz* says that if Congress takes no action to restore funding cuts, the US "fiscal cliff" will be the equivalent of austerity measures worth 5.1% of the GDP, as drastic as the cuts in Greece. Whatever the exact outcome, workers' jobs, wages, education, and benefits are under growing attack. Obama and his fellow Democrats will gladly carry out these attacks for the "greater good" of US imperialism.

Red Flag is developing a base among workers, students and soldiers for communism. We are confident that in the coming period of growing crisis, more workers will see that we can and must depend on our class, not on Obama or any other capitalist politician, and mobilize for a communist system. Communism won't have political campaigns/popularity contests to choose leaders. Leaders will be those who have gained the confidence of masses of workers by mobilizing their fellow workers, students and soldiers to take leadership in meeting the needs of working people around the world.



CAPITALISM FAILED SANDY VICTIMS, from page 1

their food and very possibly won't have money to buy more food until the next pay check or unemployment check, sitting in the shadows of stores for the rich and powerful.

There are also long lines for gas and water in NY and NJ. People have waited in lines at gas stations for hours, sometimes 6 to 8 hours in the cold and rain only to be turned away when the gas runs out.

Area hospitals are full of seniors and sick people who have no electric power. Several hospitals have had to evacuate because of flooding and no power. In one large hospital, despite the adversity, workers are helping workers. An elderly woman in an emergency room told a hospital technician that she does not have a flashlight. The technician leaves the hospital and goes out to a local pharmacy that is open and buys her a flashlight, despite the danger of downed power lines everywhere.

Large numbers of utility repair trucks were sent to the George Washington Bridge to get power going, but many are telling them to turn

around because no people live on the bridge and to turn around and go into back into the communities that need power and lights.

Throughout this disaster, and despite the danger and adversity, working class people have helped each other make it through this ordeal in many ways like sharing their homes if they have lights, hot water, heat or food.

A New Jersey comrade wrote these observations with the help of her family and friends on the first day she had off after continuous emergency 10-hour hospital shifts. She apologized for not writing sooner and with more explicit politics, but everyone was tired and super busy helping out their family, neighbors and friends.

"People are trying to

take care of their families, but what about their neighbors?" she wondered. "Individualism just doesn't work. It just causes chaos." She added, "Articles should have more about how we can do so much better under communism. That's what Red Flag is known for."

SEE MORE ABOUT SANDY, PAGE 3



Hurricane Sandy forced evaluation of hospitals



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BOEING WORKERS TALK ABOUT THE FACTORY OF THE FUTURE

SEATTLE, WA--Last issue we asked, "What would Boeing look like if the factories belonged to the working class?" When Anglo American wildcatting miners in South Africa seized the mine's heavy equipment, including giant trucks and bulldozers, they brought this question front and center.

Boeing makes aircraft, but, as we said last time, if you asked the CEO how you get a plane off the ground you're not likely to get a scientific answer. He'd probably say something like, "First, you get a loan from the banks, then you set up a sales team. You hire bean counters to get the best price on building, machinery and raw materials and especially the cheapest labor." That's because he's focused on what the communist Marx called the "exchange value" of the airplane.

Capitalism is a commodity system. In this sys-

tem, all of society revolves around producing commodities for sale. Every commodity, from planes to labor, embodies two sides: its use value and its exchange value. Every commodity must be of some use and, most importantly for the bosses; it must be able to be sold at a profit.

When we mobilize for communism we aim to destroy the commodity system. What we produce will no longer have an exchange value. We will produce only for use. For example, no longer will tens of millions starve because they can't buy food.

In a system that produced for use, aircraft factories could become centers for learning, particularly scientific learning. From the very first days in orientation, every worker would learn the science behind flight.

Millions of young people would participate in

the factories to learn the science behind the various manufacturing processes. If we wanted to learn more about the metals and composites used in the planes, we could invite the South African miners to share their knowledge. And don't forget: these students would learn from work.

The bosses organize production for maximum "efficiency," i.e. maxi-

mum profit. Part of this efficiency drive is to separate manual from mental labor. Their pseudo-scientific production method reduces each production job to the most unskilled task possible.

We, on the other hand, want the working class to control production. To do that, we will spend time collectively learning the science behind the machinery used in production as well as the airplanes themselves. Masses will know not only what the machines and products do, but also why they do it. The working class would collectively design the machines and products of the future.

Capitalism alienates workers from their work. "The only reason I go to the job is to get a paycheck," is the mass sentiment. "I come to work to learn and teach" would at least be part of our motivation under communism.

Producing Communists

Focusing on the science behind production will teach millions to focus on the use value of products. This, in turn, could reinforce the value of communism to millions.

Capitalism is based on smoke and mirrors: there is no work if you can't sell your products. Work is drudgery. Only a few understand science. Learning takes place in the university.

Communism clears the fog: in no small part, by destroying "exchange value." Everyday at work, millions will see clearly how value is really produced and how communism is valuable. Millions will help decide what to produce, based on what society needs. The production process will help produce millions of communist leaders as well as thousands of planes.

Next issue: Bringing the South African rebellions to the Boeing plants. We can mobilize for communism now!



South African Miners: the struggle continues

HURRICANE RELIEF: RELY ON MOBILIZED MASSES

Brownies and cookies! That's how we Boeing workers got to the heart of the matter when discussing Hurricane Sandy relief. You just never know!

My friend had just heard a story on NPR about two small businesses in the New York area. One made brownies, the other cookies. They lost their electricity and were flooded. The brownie boss lost a big investment because he had just baked a huge order, all now spoiled, for an upcoming sports event.

"Under communism, we would have made sure all those brownies and cookies were distributed before the storm hit," I said. "Why waste all that food?"

"You can't do that," said my friend. "The [businessmen] had to pay for the ingredients and their workers. In fact, the only one who was doing all right was a battery and generator distributor. He was making record profits."

The New Jersey/ New York area has a lot of battery and generator manufacturers. The State Attorneys General are investigating hundreds for price gouging, no doubt battery and generator distributors and manufacturers among them. Those poor workers sitting in the shopping malls will tell you not to hold your breath.

We'll manufacture batteries and generators (and most probably brownies and cookies also) under communism as well, but not for sale. The working class will run those factories for the use to society those products have.

Every factory has an inventory of finished or near-finished products. In the days before the storm, workers would come to the factory to make sure this inventory got distributed to where it was needed. There would be no profit and loss bookkeeping then or ever.

So how would these workers know where to bring the goods? We have supermarkets and banks now that employ hundreds of thousands in useless jobs such as cashiers and guards. In communism, those workers could spend their time usefully, like distributing food to those who can't get to the stores on their own. They would know where the needs are.

Workers playing this role are not without precedent. Putilov Arms workers drove the military vehicles and arms they made out to the front lines in support of the Russian communist revolution. They instructed the Red Guards how to use them on the spot.

There would be no need for hospital workers to risk their lives to buy a flashlight for an elderly woman as our comrades reported (see article page 2). Indeed, nobody would need to "buy" anything.

Many workers tried to help after the storm. For example, the *New York Times* reported that a woman waited in line for over an hour with a generous supply of diapers for victims. She was finally told to go back home; the system couldn't use help like this. Hundreds, if not thousands, of volunteers were turned away. The opposite of mobilizing the masses!

Today, we fight to save every life and to alleviate as much suffering as possible. But there is no way around it: capitalism is a killer. Mobilizing the masses for communism will make it possible to deal with the consequences of climate change without endangering

peoples' homes and lives. As much as possible we'll prepare in advance to guarantee everyone's safety. This tragedy is the result of capitalism.

The masses will come up with a multitude of ways to help. There is nothing the working class can't do when freed from the yoke of this bosses' system.



Hurricane Sandy tore through Haiti and other Caribbean islands, killing over 70 people before smashing into the northeastern United States. In Haiti, half a million workers are still homeless nearly three years after a devastating earthquake. Now Sandy has worsened the food crisis there, and a cholera outbreak looms. In the city of Leogâne, shown here, workers protested on October 31, in still-flooded streets.

Mexico: Workers Mobilize Against Fascist Labor Law:

NEED TO MOBILIZE FOR COMMUNISM

As US bosses “pivot to Asia-Pacific” to try to contain but eventually prepare to face China militarily, they must first “pivot away from China.”

This means they must bring their manufacturing back from China to North America, particularly to the US and Mexico. This will decrease the US bosses’ dependency on cheap Chinese manufactured goods while reducing their deficit with China and rebuilding their military industrial base on the cheap.

This is already happening. Responding to rising labor costs in China, 46% of US manufacturers in China say they are considering moving back; 27% said they were in the process of doing so. Their incentive: a 50% or more drop in US industrial wages.

NAFTA has turned Mexico into a US imperialist paradise of super-exploitation

While US corporations and Mexican bosses producing for the US market have raked in billions in super-profits, the Mexican working class has been ground deeper into poverty.

The number of Mexican workers living below the poverty line of \$1.25 a day has more than doubled to 51 million since the enactment of the North American Free Trade Agreement. The minimum wage has declined by over 23%.

A decade ago, the average wage in Mexican industry was 238% higher than in China, prompting many US maquilas in Mexico to move to

China. Today, Mexico’s minimum wage of \$0.60 an hour is less than China’s. That’s why Mexico’s share of the US market increased from 11% to 14% and China’s decreased from 30% to 26%.

Mexican capitalists-US imperialists can always outdo themselves

The US-backed Mexican rulers are getting ready to pass a new labor reform law that will intensify and generalize this super-exploitation. Workers will no longer be paid by the day. Gone will be guarantees of a minimum day of 8 hours. Workers will be paid by the hour, depending on their bosses’ needs.

The law legalizes subcontracting or outsourcing and part-time work. This is to give the bosses a “flexible” workforce, setting up teachers, government workers and those in higher-paid state run industries like PEMEX for drastic cuts in wages, benefits and working conditions, while abolishing seniority.

Labor reform critical for US bosses’ preparations for world war

The political alliances in the Mexican legislature almost guarantee the privatization of PEMEX, a US bosses’ dream since the industry was nationalized in 1938. This is crucial to guaranteeing ample Mexican oil supplies directly to the US war machine when needed for global war.

Thus, this attack is mainly to impose on Mexico’s industrial workforce - especially in indus-

tries like steel, auto and aerospace – the slave-like conditions and wages that war production on the cheap requires: conditions that the Chinese bosses enjoy in China.

An advantage US bosses are striving to eliminate.

Mexico’s industrial base with its 7 million workers is critical for US bosses’ war production. Over 335,000 workers are employed in auto manufacturing and parts in Mexico, compared to 155,000 in Canada. Also, over 260 aerospace companies operate in Mexico, employing 31,000 workers. They plan to add 80,000 more jobs by 2020.

For these high-technology jobs, Mexico has produced and is producing highly qualified technical workers. Per capita, it produces three times more engineers than the US: 114,000 electronic engineers a year.

The average wage in the auto industry is \$4 to \$5 an hour, while in auto parts it is \$3. In aerospace it is about \$6 an hour. With these wages, for every dollar Mexico exports now, US companies make \$0.37 cents. The US bosses and their Mexican capitalist allies’ goal is to increase this rate of exploitation while preparing for war.

Only communism can put an end to capitalism’s insatiable thirst for profits that sacrifices our lives

Production for the profits inevitably dehumanizes the working class, pitting workers against workers in the work places and the battlefields. We need the opposite: the international unity of the working class to destroy capitalism-imperialism.

Mexican workers, teachers and students are massively mobilizing against this labor reform. As the bosses tighten their fascist iron grip around our necks, mass anger will rise and revolution will be in the air. We must make sure it is only for communism and nothing less.

Spreading *Red Flag* and our manifesto *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* in the factories, barracks and schools, and recruiting to ICWP will guarantee this.



MTA from page 1

That is why drivers are being terminated and the union “contract is being stepped on and manipulated” at will. “Our UTU officers,” says the letter, “are intimidated for fear of losing their jobs.” We say they are outright traitors doing the MTA’s and US bosses’ bidding! They - like Obama, Romney and all politicians – are committed to keeping US imperialism “second to none.”

This means more money and resources to massively kill workers abroad, while imposing slave working conditions and wages, as well as cuts in benefits and social services on workers here and abroad (see article above).

Our slogan: Capitalism has got to go!

Capitalism – where profits are more valuable than human lives - could never give us the kind of transportation system transit workers and society need. Only communism can!

In a communist society there will only be mass transportation that will meet everyone’s needs. This would take millions of cars off the roads – a major source of stress, pollution and accidents.

“Urban” planning will closely integrate living, agricultural, manufacturing, schooling and cultural centers to minimize unnecessary travel.

The masses will collectively plan and administer the transportation system. Driving will not

be the sole responsibility of one group of workers. Millions will be trained as drivers and mechanics.

In a communist society no one will be stressed out for lack of the things we need to have a dignified life. Communist production and social relationships will enable us to treat one another, as well as the natural environment, with respect and appreciation.

Only communism can end racism!

Capitalism worldwide created racism to divide and rule over all of us, while super-exploiting a sector of our class to rake in super-profits. US capitalism, built on the racist extermination of 5-10 million Native Americans and the enslavement of millions of Africans, depends on brutal racism against workers here and worldwide.

African-Americans have led mass anti-racist uprisings that have shaken US capitalism to its foundations, forcing the bosses to make some cosmetic changes. The racist beast, however, was left intact.

Since centuries of heroic anti-racist struggles have not ended racism, many think it can never be eliminated. They have been taught to think it is part of “human nature,” not created by the bosses to serve their class interests.

Communists know differently. Nothing is innate to human nature except the instinct of survival. All social ideas flow from the material basis of society. Communism will destroy the material basis of capitalism – money, commodity production and wage slavery – that gave rise to the racist ideas and institutions that capitalists profit from.

Help distribute and support *Red Flag* to spread this understanding to the masses. Join ICWP to hasten the end of capitalism and its racism.



Communism is Our Heritage and Future – Part VI

PEASANT REVOLTS AND RADICAL CHALLENGES TO FEUDALISM IN ASIA

Feudalism arose at different times in opposition to slave society on several continents. Feudal society differed from slavery mainly in that wealthy landowners didn't legally "own" laborers, although often slavery remained in a secondary role.

Feudalism was not the romantic system sometimes portrayed in literature or video games about knights and ladies. Feudal serfs lived in misery. They were forced to work several days a week on their masters' lands and render other duties. They paid crushing taxes to church and state.

In China, feudalism reigned for over one thousand years. Major peasant revolts occurred every century or so from 209 BCE to 1122 CE. The later rebellions were often entwined with cults that predicted or called for radical transformation of religion and society. Sometimes the rulers tolerated these cults. At other times they openly feared that a popular religious leader could mobilize peasant revolts around political goals.

Chinese historians since the 1970s have studied these movements closely. They found it difficult, often, to distinguish genuine radical leadership from the personal ambitions of warlords. It's also hard to identify the political goals of peasant rebels, since the written records were made by and for the feudal rulers.



The Battle of Azukizaka was the climactic clash between Ieyasu and the Ikki.

Japan: Masses Fight Samurai Rulers

A recent book by Fuminobu Murakami, *The Strong and the Weak in Japanese Literature* (2010), identified egalitarian themes in the *Tale of Genji* (10th century) and *The Tale of the Heike* (13–14th centuries).

Murakami linked egalitarianism to sympathy for the weak and to nationalism: "born together in opposition to absolute monarchy and feudal society Together, these notions supported the liberation of the common people from the oppression of a small number of high-status people in society."

Historical records tell of frequent uprisings against Japanese feudalism. In the "Ikkoshū Uprisings" (15th-16th centuries) crowds of peasant farmers, Buddhist monks, Shinto priests and some local nobles, rebelled against the samurai rulers. Some followed a Buddhist form of religious egalitarianism (the True Pure Land sect) that promised salvation for all believers.

This emphasis on "salvation" severely limited the movement. However, early True Pure Land Buddhism drew real strength from self-governing communities (called ikki, or leagues) among the masses. These ikki formed armies and fought the samurai.

In 1488, the masses drove out the Constable of Kaga and took control of an entire province. They occupied a string of fortresses and temples, quickly adopting the new technology of firearms in spite of Buddhism's pacifist philosophy. This enabled them to hold out against the forces of Oda Nobunaga, who was in the process of unifying Japan.

By the end of the 16th century, samurai leaders like Ieyasu and Nobunaga were moving Japan into a new era based on trade (effectively, the seed of Japanese capitalism). The Ikko-Ikki, which controlled areas critical to their trade routes, became a significant obstacle. For this reason, and because they worried that the Ikki movement might spread, Ieyasu and Nobunaga attacked it ferociously.

The Ikko-Ikki were decisively defeated in the Battle of Azukizaka (1564). True Pure Land Buddhism still exists today, but it lost its radical edge long ago.

Next article: Apostolic Christianity: "All things in common... to all according to need."

Workers must put an end to exploitive factories

COMMUNISM WILL CREATE NEW CENTERS OF PRODUCTION

In the Jean-Mart garment factory, work reflects the conditions under the capitalist system. "We produce 10,000 jeans of the True Religion and Lucky brands per day. The average price for these jeans is \$350," a worker from this factory told *Red Flag*. If we add this up, this means a total of \$3,500,000!

This huge amount of money is divided among the contractors, manufacturers, stores and



Garment workers in Mirpur, Bangladesh, May Day 2010

banks.

"On Fridays we get paid. A large line forms in front of the truck to cash our checks. Many stay until 5:30 pm waiting for their check. We want them to bring the checks to our machines by 2:00 or 2:30 in the afternoon, shortly before we leave," added a worker.

The capitalists buy our labor power in exchange for a miserable check. This power transforms the fabric into merchandise to be sold, at the same time producing enormous profits for the owners.

"We need better ventilation in the factory and a larger dining room for when we take our breaks. Besides," a worker added, "they don't even let us drink coffee, eat snacks inside or listen to our earphones. They prohibit all conversations."

He continued, "All this control and abuse guarantees maximum production. And to assure it, there are supervisors like Luis, Maria, and Mrs. Deida."

In a communist society, factories will not be centers of exploitation, abuse, and control. There will not be supervisors or

bosses or privileges for some while the rest are condemned to wage slavery.

These new centers of production will also be centers of teaching and learning. The working class will be free to study, discuss and plan not only production and distribution, but all aspects of society. This will create working conditions and relations that will be completely different.

In these centers the desire to work and produce for the wellbeing of all will guide production. We will work comfortably because we will be creating the conditions to work in. With coffee and snacks, we will not only listen to music but we will also sing! We will produce the best products without a special "label" for and by the world's workers because we all deserve the best.

We invite the workers of the world who receive *Red Flag* to form study-action groups on the basis of the newspaper of the International Communist Workers' Party. We invite them to organize newspaper distribution networks, to write and report on their struggles and to go all out to mobilize the working masses for communism. At the end of our conversation, a worker explained, "We can do it!"

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WORKERS MUST NEVER SIDES WITH ANY CAPITALIST OR IMPERIALIST VULTURES FIGHTING FOR VENEZUELAN OIL

This is the second part of the article "Communism or 21st Century Socialism." The first part analyzed the ideological aspects. This part focuses on the control of oil.

According to OPEC and England's British Petroleum, in the Orinoco Belt, Venezuela has the largest oil reserves in the world, with 18% of the world's total, passing Iran and Saudi Arabia. According to the British newspaper, the *Guardian*, this represents in the market several trillions of dollars and reserves for 100 years.

The state company PDVSA (Oil of Venezuela) is producing, and planning future explorations, in conjunction with multinational oil companies like Rosneft and Lukoil of Russia, CNPC of China, and Vietnamese and Indian companies. At the same time, there is a line of multinationals wanting to get in, including the US' Chevron, Spain's Repsol, and others.

The group of Venezuelan bosses behind Chavez plans to increase production, reduce its dependence on the US market, and double sales to Asia, especially to China. Currently Venezuela produces an average of 3 million barrels a day. Chavez has promised to triple this production by 2020, to be sold mostly in Asia. There is a plan to build a pipeline through Colombia to send this oil to Asia. China is currently the second largest buyer of Venezuelan oil after the US.

With Petro-Caribe and ALBA oil companies, Venezuela sells oil to certain countries in the Caribbean and Latin America at lower prices in exchange for products or services, always still making big profits. Chavez says that his "internationalism" is to help these poor countries. The construction of a refinery in Nicaragua and the already built gasoline storage facility in El Salvador are part of these plans. But this basically means the creation and maintenance of a new elite of bosses in these countries, and therefore

strengthens capitalism.

On the other hand, there is another group of bosses, the opposition, who are supported by the US imperialists. The latter seek and need to control this oil, by any means, for their war preparations, especially against the Chinese bosses.

The US imperialists have lost a big part of their control of Middle East oil. Defeated politically, economically, and militarily in Iraq and Afghanistan, they are like a wounded beast, desperate to remain the biggest dog on the block. They will not allow, without a fight, the oil in their backyard to be easily taken by their Chinese and Russian rivals.

Chavez and his group know that they must prepare for a confrontation with the US imperialists, and his plans of "21st Century Socialism," Petro-Caribe, and ALBA oil companies fit like a ring on a finger. Through those plans they seek to win the trust and support of the Venezuelan masses and build a base of support among the masses and the governments of the Caribbean, and Central and South America.

The Bolivarian Army is one of the most and best armed in South America. Their Russian weapons include the AK44 and Mig airplanes. Chavez has organized and personally leads a militia of hundreds of thousands among workers, students, farmworkers and ex-soldiers. But his main weapons are nationalism, patriotism, and the cult of the personality. The hatred that the workers have against the capitalists

and imperialists is channeled into this patriotism.

The inter-imperialist rivalry is sharpening between China and the US. Sooner or later this means world war. We don't know if the US will invade Venezuela or achieve an internal change there in their favor. But if we look at the trend of the events in the Middle East, Venezuela could be a new bloody battlefield.

We workers should not support any imperialist. Our goal must be to destroy all of them and build a communist society.

Our interests as the working class are not to support either the Venezuelan-Chinese bosses, or the US. The bosses will try to win us through patriotism and nationalism to support them in their war against their rival bosses.

We can and must forge our own Red Army, led by our International Communist Workers' Party, and take power in benefit of the international working class.



LETTERS

LETTERS

LETTERS

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

DAY OF THE DEAD: ICWP LIVES

The recent celebration of the Day of the Dead was really one of resuscitation and life. We had a very good week. We visited several farmworkers with whom we share *Red Flag*. The purpose of our visit to one of these families was to celebrate the release of one of their children from jail. The youth was charged with kidnapping and carrying weapons. After his parents fought for five years, he was proved innocent. That gave us the opportunity to talk about the biggest lies of capitalism, among which is that bad people go to prison.

We analyzed that capitalism induces workers to commit petty crimes, or in this case, invented crimes, and that it imprisons many youth who are unemployed. They can't study and they are the poorest youth. The prisons are businesses for the bosses, since they are centers of drug distribution, from which many crimes are operated. In addition, many companies super-exploit the prisoners to maximize their profits.

They keep the youth imprisoned on the pretext of rehabilitating them, but they are really victims of the gangs that run the prisons. We asked the youth and his family to write about his experience in *Red Flag*, explaining the need to build communism. In capitalism, the bosses and their mercenaries are free, the workers are in jail. Only communist

revolution will put an end to this injustice. The bosses will be buried forever and the working class will liberate all of humanity.

—Comrades in Mexico

RED FLAG: "CHANGING THE WAY WORKERS THINK"

"I like the paper [*Red Flag*]," said a woman garment worker, getting it in front of the factory where she works. "It keeps me informed."

"You used to just come here once in a while

with your newspaper," said a Secretary at this same garment factory. "But now you come all the time. Your paper is changing the way the workers think. It's bad. It will end up getting people fired. Instead of passing out these papers, go get a job and stop being so lazy!"

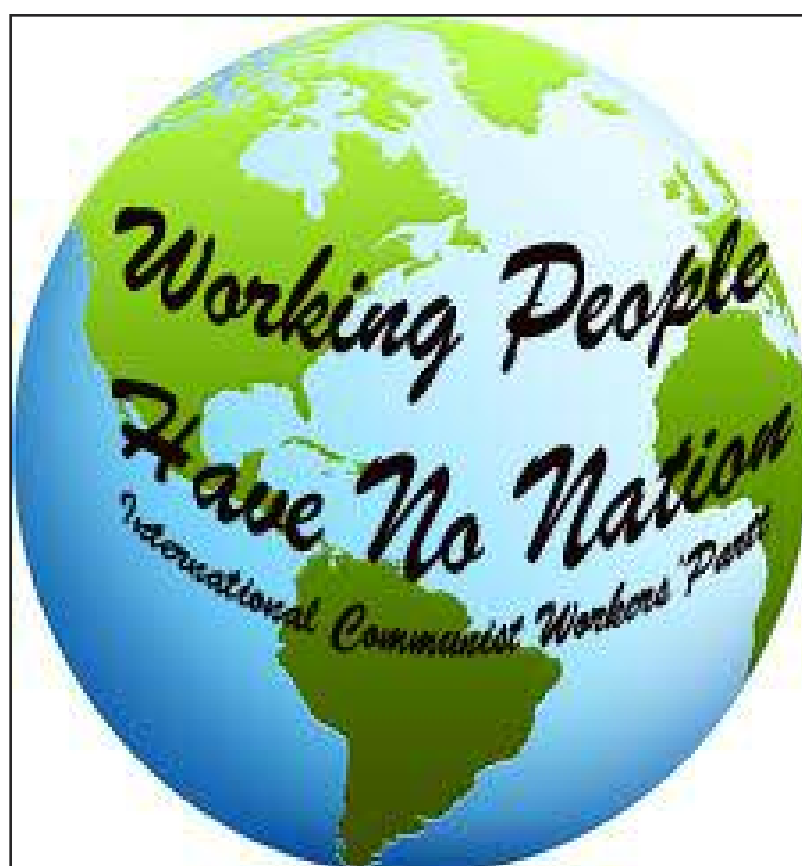
Who is the lazy one? What makes this bosses' lackey think we don't work? People who distribute *Red Flag* work different shifts, go to work and school; some are retired.

We should have told her, "It IS our job: to bring communist ideas to the workers. We don't get paid for it. We do it because it's necessary. People who work and go to school take time to distribute this paper because workers need it!"

About 300 workers work in this factory making jeans for the "Lucky Brand" and "True Religion" labels. About 200 of these workers take *Red Flag* every two weeks. This secretary's arrogant comments give a glimpse into how much the bosses fear the potential of workers with communist ideas changing the way they think and act on our potential to put an end to this system of racist, sexist exploitation for good.

We invite garment workers to write more about their experiences and ideas to *Red Flag* to help make the paper even better. We invite more people to help distribute *Red Flag* to open up a world of possibilities.

—Some *Red Flag* Distributors



THIS IS THE PAPER OF THE WORKING CLASS. WE GET NO FUNDING FROM THE CAPITALISTS, THEIR FOUNDATIONS OR NGOs. PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY TO HELP PAY FOR THE COSTS OF PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

WHAT CYNICISM, WHAT INDEPENDENCE?

The popular and exploited classes in Honduras and the rest of Central America no longer buy the lie that we are independent and sovereign countries since the emancipation from the Spanish yoke. The Honduran working class demonstrated this heroically by mobilizing massively in a march that was parallel to the one promoted by the government and the oligarchy on September 15, "Independence Day" from Spain.

Its no wonder because the working class feels like every day their lives are more dependent and, as a product of this, they are suffering more discrimination, exploitation, and marginalization. Now more than ever workers are conscious that there's nothing left except the popular organized struggle to shake off once and for all the internal and external ties of economic, social and political dependence.

We see, since the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus, the countries of Central America were first subjugated by Spanish exploitation, and from the late nineteenth century, by US imperialism. In Honduras it started with the banana and mining enclave, through transnational companies like United Fruit Company, Tela Railroad Company, and the Rosario Mining Company, which in 1980 paid the salary of the President of Honduras. That's the way the imperialists took over the main natural resources like the best lands and mines in a brutal act of submission and dependence.

The working class is now conscious that always throughout history, we have been under the yoke of other interests that are not our own, that our right to choose our own economic, political, social and cultural system can never be exercised in a traditional oligarchical democracy, which over the last more than one hundred years has depended on the interests of US imperialism. The only thing that has happened was to go from being a Spanish colony to becoming a colony in the service of US imperialism.

In this situation the majority of the population has opposed the rulers and supports the fight to stop the oligarchy in this pretension; thus this was reflected in the mass mobilization on September 15, where the popular slogans were "Fight For True Independence," "Imperialism Out!" and "Death to Imperialism!" "All for a Better Future!" "Yes to the Self Determination of the People," among others.

We now see the future of the working class with great optimism, since workers are not afraid of the maneuvers of the oligarchy in imposing fear and they accept the revolutionary struggle, in which the International Communist Workers' Party can develop important work to free ourselves forever from the colonial subjugation of the exploiter, through a true communist revolution.

—Comrade in Honduras

WORKERS NEED COMMUNISM, NOT SOCIALISM OR DEMOCRACY

As in many parts of the world, the old communist movement developed important protests against the evils of capitalism at the National University in Mexico.

In high schools, fighting against despotism, it ran candidates for Director (Principal), opposing legislation that gave that power to the Rector. It supported the creation of "popular" schools like

CCH-6. It supported the workers' strikes in the Valley of Mexico. It promoted student strikes.

However, its desire to participate in the school administrations and in the capitalist government led to its open corruption, when years before it had already renounced making a communist revolution, following its guides, Russia and China.

Allied with other bourgeois politicians who left the official party (PRI), like Cardenas, Muñoz, Ledo, Camacho Solís, López Obrador, etc., they followed the line of allying with the "lesser evil" capitalists, and looking for a peaceful transition. They advocated a "democratization of capitalism."

However, since its inception, democracy has been a great deception: the rule of a minority over the majority: slaves in Greece; wage slaves under capitalism.

The teachers, ideologues of capitalism, tell us that we are fighting for a "true" democracy. But what we need is to eliminate the system of wage slavery, the exploitation of workers by the capitalists. Instead they talk about the "participation of the majority," "that there not be monopolies," and "fair trade."

But capitalism is the use of someone else's labor (exploitation) and its subjugation and oppression. Reforms won't eliminate this. Once the wages are paid, all the additional value, created by the workers (surplus value), goes to the capitalists in the form of industrial profit, bank interest and rent.

The only solution is to end wage labor, something which socialism, devised as supposedly the first phase of communism, did not advocate. The officials, engineers, and members of the Party received a larger part of the value produced. Once the workers received their part, the rest (surplus value) was appropriated by the officials, even though there were no titles to property.

The idea that some were born to give orders and others to obey, some to work and others to enjoy, has to end, and NOW it's possible! Today's rebellious youth don't have to fight for, nor support, regimes of inequality like socialism or democracy.

In *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*, we explain how socialism ended the advances of those who came before us in Russia and China. Millions protested against the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan; hundreds are being influenced by those who advocate "armed struggle" for democracy. Why risk the dangers, expose liberty or life for a system of social inequality like socialism or democracy? Join the struggle for the emancipation of humanity. Join ICWP!

—Comrade in Mexico

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT FIGHTS FOR COMMUNISM

One day I went to the school library after school. I had ten copies of *Red Flag* in my backpack, which I had planned on giving to friends but then I realized, why not leave them in the library where anybody interested could read them?

I quickly found the librarian and asked him. He took his glasses off and blinked a few times "Why?" he asked, and then added, "I don't like that newspaper." I told him that libraries were supposed to carry whatever knowledge they

were able to and not cater to the desires of the librarian. He then asked me why was I a communist. I told him that communism would happen in the future and we were hastening its arrival.

He then asked who "WE" were. "Me and my comrades," I replied. "Do you think I'm the only communist in this world?" I asked. He then told me the reason why communism would never work. Then I asked him, "So you want capitalism for the rest of humanity?" He said, "Yes!" and then went on to explain his reasons why. He said that he liked freedom and human rights and that communism took away those values because people have been forced into it.

I said that many native American peoples had lived in communism with no money, jobs, or even the concept of private property. "What are they doing now?" asked the librarian. "Capitalism," I replied "because they're forced into it." He then allowed me to find a spot for the stack of newspapers.

I left the library with a smile on my face and then thought to myself that Native Americans had been true communists. They had no money, bosses, were ruled by chiefs, who did the same work as the rest of them, and they had no concept of private property. They worked not for themselves, but to feed the whole group first.

Now, however, they live under capitalism. Capitalists have built casinos and resorts designed to swindle workers out of their money by promising millions of dollars in prizes.

Why the sudden change? The capitalists have stolen all of their land and way of life. They have been forcibly placed on unfarmable land, so in order to feed themselves, they have to turn to the methods of their oppressors. They are forced to, just as we supposedly force people into communism. This shows the hypocrisy of the labor bosses and how much of their integrity they are willing to lose before losing any of their profits.

After basking in this minor victory I had scored against capitalism, I decided to score another one and join the party.

—New comrade



ICWP has published our manifesto *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*. It's available in English and Spanish. Order your copy or copies. Please send donations for the costs of printing and mailing. We also ask for your suggestions and criticisms.

Write to : PMB 362
3175 S. Hoover St.,
Los Angeles, CA 90007

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

IMPERIALISTS RUNNING OUT OF ECONOMIC SOLUTIONS

US Imperialism is no longer the undisputed economic master of the world. Just ten years ago a US dominated International Monetary Fund (IMF) strutted the globe dishing out “Structural Adjustment Policies.” These policies cut subsidies to health care, housing, and education on continent after continent, and they opened up national economies to the unbridled exploitation of the US dollar. The policy was called the “Washington Consensus.”

None of that confidence can be found in the latest IMF report, “Coping with High Debt and Sluggish Growth.” In fact the report suggests that economic remedies cannot cope with the high debt at all. It says that neither of the two strategies capitalists normally employ – austerity or Keynesian spending – will work.

Does this mean capitalism is about to collapse? No, it means the shape of a new world order is beginning to emerge. It means military might is becoming more important than ever.

Armed Might: An Economic Tool

“East Asia is now a renminbi bloc,” an article in the *Financial Times* (10/22) argued, “because the currencies of seven out of ten countries in the

region – including South Korea, Indonesia, Taiwan, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand – track the renminbi (China's currency) more closely than the US dollar, as do the economies of India, Chile, Israel, South Africa and Turkey.” The article does not mention it, but Kaddafi's Libya would have made that list as well. . . before the invasion.

This replacement of the US dollar as the world's reserve currency has been developing for some time. It is neither complete nor irreversible, but it has accelerated since the present crisis broke out in 2008. It has resulted in Washington's military 'pivot toward Asia' and the unleashing of a financial weapon: “Quantitative Easing.”

Quantitative Easing is a strategy that prints so many extra US dollars that everyone knows the real economy will be unable to support them, now or in the future. It is, in effect, a devaluation of the dollar.

Devalued Dollar Makes Red Flag Vital

This devaluation does three things. It makes it easier to pay back its debt (money it borrowed in 'real' dollars is now being paid back in 'devalued' dollars)! It makes US exports cheaper. Finally, it

allows US Banks to swamp rival economies with investment dollars – a measure which threatens them with inflation. As *Red Flag* has reported in earlier articles, rival imperialists have condemned it.

By Sept. 14, 2012, when the US announced its third 'Quantitative Easing,' the major rivals were prepared. Europe, Japan and China had already taken similar measures. A full scale currency war – marked by competitive devaluations – had begun. The world's first currency war (1921 - 1936), competitive devaluations by rival economies, led directly to the outbreak of World War II.

The demolition of the post World War II order will not mean the end of the world. It will mean world war, sooner or later. However, it also means the unleashing of the revolutionary energy of billions of workers, soldiers and students. Which way that energy is expressed – in nationalist and fascist movements or communist revolutions - depends upon us. The building of *Red Flag* readership is a vital and immediate response to the “Quantitative Easing” schemes of all the miserable imperialists!

MONEY: CAN'T SERVE THE NEEDS OF THE WORKING CLASS

We need money to buy food, but we cannot eat money when we are hungry. We spend most of our life making money and worrying about it. If we don't have it, we can lose our home or go hungry. The drive for money causes wars. What is money? How is money used in capitalist society and what problems does it create?

As we explained in previous articles, under capitalism, commodities have two contradictory aspects: use value and exchange value. The owners of the means of production, the capitalists, steal surplus value from workers who make the products that the capitalists sell. These commodities, produced by workers but owned by capitalists, must be exchanged in the market place for the surplus value to be turned into actual profits

Under capitalism, the market is a place where commodities are exchanged.

But without a way to measure the value of commodities, exchange would be chaotic and unpredictable. Money resolves this problem for the capitalists by embodying the value of each commodity and thus provides a universal means of exchange. The exchange value of a commodity is how much human labor must be spent to produce that commodity, and the average price of that commodity is proportional to that value. By giving a monetary value to each commodity (that is, a price), money also makes the circulation of commodities much easier. For example if it takes twice the amount of labor to produce a pizza compared to a loaf of bread, the average price of a pizza would be twice the average price of a loaf of bread. However, since money is a universal commodity, it allows us to exchange any commodity for another rather than simply bartering two loaves of bread for a pizza.

Historically, different commodities, such as gold, silver, and banknotes, have served as money. But no matter what commodity is chosen to represent money, money measures exchange

value and makes the circulation of commodities (use values) possible. In this way money reflects the duality between use and exchange value.

As long as there is a steady and reliable supply of money, market exchange can go on without a problem. However, there is a fundamental contradiction. Workers' labor power produces commodities. Although capitalist production is for exchange, there is no way to predict or guarantee that commodities produced will be exchanged for their value. If there isn't enough demand for the product, there will be conflict between the value of a commodity and its market price. In the worst case, the product will not sell at all. For example, in the year 2008, 6 million cars went unsold in the US because the buyers didn't have enough money to buy them. Where previously money made the exchange of commodities possible, money now comes into conflict with the exchange of commodities and prevents it from happening.

This contradiction between money and commodities makes the demand for money change constantly.

Thus, production and consumption in a society changes over time, which destabilizes money. Money becomes unreliable in measuring the exchange value of a commodity and in sending appropriate signals to capitalists about how much of a given commodity to produce for its use value. This causes the labor value of a commodity to diverge from its market price, causing a severe crisis. There are two possible solutions to resolve this crisis of the supply of money.

The first one is hoarding, when individuals or institutions withdraw money from circulation, thus reducing the available supply. When money is hoarded, it stores value which can be injected back into circulation in the future. Hoarding slows down the circulation of money, slowing down buying, selling, and the accumulation of profits. Hoarding is extremely detrimental to

capitalism since only when money is in circulation can it be invested in production to create value and make profits. In the financial crisis of 2007, serious hoarding of money by financial institutions deepened the crisis.

The opposite of hoarding is credit, when buying and selling takes place in the hope that a payment for value will be made in the future. Credit makes economic activity take place with less money than is available. It artificially inflates the price of commodities, as happened during the housing bubble. Credit creates debt and more credit is used to pay debt. Credit inevitably lays the basis for speculative bubbles. Ultimately when debts become due, there is not enough money to settle accounts. This is what happened in the financial crisis in US in 2008 and has been recently unraveling in Europe.

Money, whose historic role under capitalism is to embody the duality between use value and exchange value to make exchange possible, inevitably exposes the contradiction between use and exchange value. The attempt to resolve this contradiction forces capitalism to go through periodic cycles of hoarding and credit. In either case, the crisis exposes the very use of money and its inability to serve the needs of the working class.

(Next: we discuss how only in communism, when workers own all the means of production, production for exchange will end, and so will the need for money.)

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