



# RED FLAG

**MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM**

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



## CAPITALISM IS BEATABLE AND COMMUNISM IS ACHIEVABLE

**SOUTH AFRICA**—Mobilizing the Masses for Communism is resonating in the hearts and minds of the workers from township to township. A group of workers that included employed, unemployed, healthcare workers, a student and a soldier met to discuss how communism can win. There was a palpable sense of revolutionary excitement. “It is a fight; it is a war,” said a new comrade with many years of fighting the bosses.

These workers were mobilized by a comrade who has been distributing *Red Flag*. There was tremendous enthusiasm as we welcomed new comrades who joined ICWP. With such a large number of workers meeting to join ICWP, we encouraged every one to speak and express their ideas openly.

“Why don’t we vote?” “How long will it take to build a communist society?” “What caused the Ebola epidemic?” “How is ICWP funded?” “What does it mean to join ICWP?” Many such questions, differences and disagreements were resolved in a very comradely manner. There will be an ongoing struggle about other issues such the role of religion, how to organize society without money etc.

The comrades who attended ICWP’s international meeting played a key leadership role in the struggle. They constantly emphasized the necessity of building a network of *Red Flag* readers and joining ICWP.

“The organization (ICWP) is everything that matters and we must use *Red Flag* as an organizing tool,” recounted, very movingly, a young comrade who only seven months ago did not know anything about communism but is now a proud and committed member of ICWP.

A soldier comrade told us that he found an article about MTA that explained communism very useful and he shared it with other soldiers in his unit.

A young student was determined and resolute as he explained how the bosses use religion to mislead workers but with patient struggle we can win the masses to communism. Another young reader of *Red Flag* who became an ICWP member found the article explaining the inter-imperialist rivalry helpful.

As everyone agreed, we need to meet regularly and many comrades pledged to bring more coworkers to the meetings. It was a big step in the right direction for the

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## SOUTH AFRICAN WORKERS PLEDGE COMMUNIST SOLIDARITY TO MEXICAN STUDENTS

As members of ICWP in South Africa, it is with shock and outrage that we learned about the abduction of the 43 students by police in Guerrero, Mexico. We pledge solidarity with the students and their struggles to change their lives for the better, which can only happen with communist revolution. We support the call by parents and relatives and the whole community to the authorities to bring their children back alive as they took them.

This is a stark reminder of the students’ uprisings in South Africa in 1976. On June 16, students in Soweto took to the streets demanding an end to the Bantu education system. The response by the authorities was to unleash police terror and brutality on the students, killing and injuring hundreds. There are many families up to this day who do not know what has happened to their children since their disappearance then. But this did not dampen their spirits; they continued to fight to bring to an end the gutter education system. What started as a student protest gave spark to wider civic and workers’ struggles. It later gave birth to the trade union federation COSATU (Confederation of South African Trade Unions) and the civic movement SANCO.

After twenty years of bourgeois democracy, we see deep divisions and paralysis in COSATU threatening the collapse of the once mighty formation. Fighting for reforms always helps the ruling capitalist class. It is important therefore to raise our banners high and fight for communist revolution to end the bosses’ system once and for all. As ICWP we are fully behind the students struggles in Mexico. The best way for us to support the students and parents in Mexico is to intensify our efforts here to build ICWP and expand our networks of *Red Flag*.

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**US-China Rivalry: World's Main Contradiction****LET'S TURN IT INTO A CLASS WAR FOR COMMUNISM**

Our Party must clearly explain the main contradiction in the world and how this contradiction affects everything. Today that contradiction is the rivalry among the imperialists for control of the world's markets, resources and workers' labor power.

There is inter-imperialist rivalry of many kinds but the dramatic decline of US imperialism and the astonishing growth of Chinese imperialism is the main contradiction that is primarily shaping events in every corner of the world today. It is leading to World War III.

**It's our task to mobilize the masses for communism to change the main contradiction into a class war for communism.**

After World War II, the US occupied Western Europe and Japan. The rich oil fields of the Middle East came under its domination. Latin America was ruthlessly controlled by pro-US governments. As colonialism crumbled, the US expanded its influence in Africa and Asia. At its peak, the US had 55% of all world trade by volume.

After WWII, the devastation of Europe and Japan attracted US capital in search of cheap labor. Over decades, Japan and Germany emerged as formidable competitors of US imperialism. However, military occupation, as well as the financial institutions imposed by US imperialism after WWII, prevented Germany and Japan from fully developing as hostile competitors. The oil war in Iraq and military intervention in Kosovo were attempts by US imperialism to swat down rising competitor Russia and regional powers like Iran and Venezuela.

The growth of US and western capital, with its increasing mechanization, inevitably resulted in a decline in the rate of profit. Then, in the 1980's, China implemented a policy of free market capitalism. Western capital flooded China to shore up its rate of profit by super-exploiting millions of Chinese workers who made 10% of the wages of workers in Europe and US.

This enabled the Chinese capitalists to amass enormous wealth. Over three decades they have replaced the US and Europe in many parts of Africa, Latin America, and Asia as the leading trade partner. Today, the US' share has declined to 16% of world trade. US decline has also enabled Germany, Russia, India, and Brazil to expand their imperialist growth.

**US-China Rivalry Will Lead to World War**

Now China is the leading economy in the world. The Chinese have over \$3 trillion to invest. However, China cannot invest in key industries in the US and Europe. China invested heavily in Egypt, Libya, and Sudan, and the last two have been militarily attacked by the US.

However, Chinese investments in other countries are very small compared to US investments. Chinese capital faces obstacles to its expansion due to the rules and controls imposed on the world financial system by US imperialism.

US imperialists are trying to restrict the growth of Chinese capital by direct military intervention as in Libya or by financial control like the recent rejection of the Chinese take-over of Canadian oil fields. The US/China contradiction will inevitably lead to world war to destroy the world order that gave the US supremacy.

Before WWII, Great Britain was the leading imperialist power in the world and controlled world trade backed by its superior navy. The US ranked 6th in world trade and had a very small air force when WWII started. While it took the bombing of Pearl Harbor to start military production, the secret preparations for war started soon after the great depression of 1929. Seeing Japan as a rival for control of East Asia, the US ruling class provoked Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor as a pretext for entering the war. Within weeks the bosses massively converted auto plants to make tanks and airplanes. Boeing became the leading manufacturer of military airplanes.

Today China has enormous productive capacity just as the US did before WWII. As China finds it more and more difficult to grow, wider wars can quickly develop. The growth and expansion of capital is essential to the capitalists. If capital cannot grow, it becomes a destructive force, pushing the capitalists eventually to global war.

**Capitalist Crisis Intensifies Class Struggle**

Every area in the world is affected by the contradiction of China's growth and the US need to reverse its decline as well as prevent China and other imperialists from dominating the world.



**South Africa: as the class struggle heats up, ICWP grows among industrial workers. See article page 1.**



Capitalist crisis creates unstable and unpredictable outcomes. We should clearly show how this contradiction unfolds in specific events like the Ebola epidemic, Ukraine, Syria as well as in areas where we have industrial concentrations.

Each crisis of overproduction and the falling rate of profit means the further immiseration of the working class. Each such crisis, like the current one, creates violent conflicts among the capitalists-imperialists, but it also intensifies the class struggle and gives us the opportunity and necessity to mobilize the masses for communism.

In such crises, as the capitalist-imperialist system is preparing for war, the bosses can lose their ideological grip on the masses, like in South Africa today where the class struggle is intensifying and *Red Flag* and ICWP are growing (see South Africa, page 1). This is the material basis for change. As we explain this connection more clearly, we will avoid reformist traps and revolutionize our practice of mobilizing the masses for communism.

**Read our pamphlet:**

**BIGGER INDUSTRIAL WORKING CLASS:  
BIGGER COMMUNIST POTENTIAL  
WORLDWIDE**

Available at:

**www.icwpredflag.org**



**JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST  
WORKERS' PARTY (ICWP)  
WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG — (310) 487-7674  
E-MAIL: ICWP@ANONYMOUSSPEECH.COM  
WRITE TO: P.M.B. 362  
3006 S. VERMONT AVE., LOS ANGELES, CA  
90007, USA**



## GARMENT WORKERS, INSPIRED BY COMMUNISM, JOIN AND BUILD ICWP

EL SALVADOR—"We already dealt the bosses the first blow; now we have to go for the second," said a worker. Workers organized in the International Communist Workers' Party were very animated this weekend when they had a day at the beach for political analysis of the ways to push forward the struggles for communism, discussing how to get more workers to join the revolutionary struggle.

A worker who participated for the first time with his wife, also a worker, said, "Yes, I am the one who underlines in *Red Flag* the things I don't understand that I need to ask the comrades about." He went on to say, "I have been reading the paper and, if you give me the opportunity, I am joining the struggle together with all of you." The applause was immediate. He, his wife, and other comrades were welcomed into the ranks of the ICWP.

There were countless stories about how the workers in the maquila factories have reacted to our communist ideas.

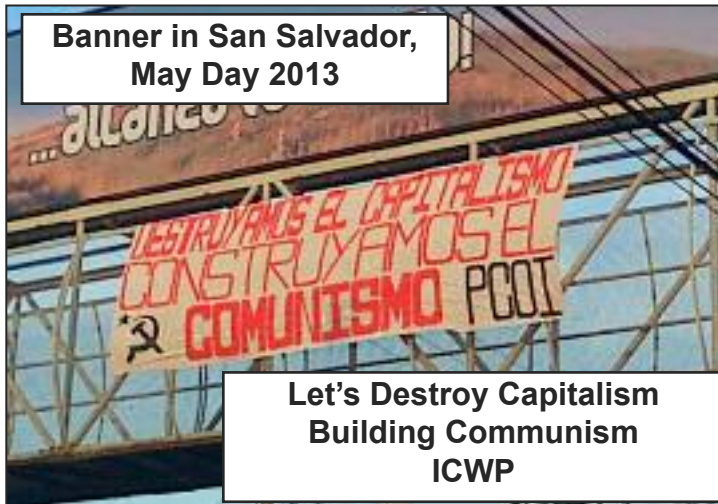
"We hit them where it hurts and now neither the bosses nor the union sellouts know what to do."

"We need to continue, together with our class, fighting against the bosses' oppression."

Such sentiments and many more were expressed with amazed joy as they felt the power of the workers and recounted how the supervisors and union leaders find themselves for the first time between a rock and a hard place.

"I want to congratulate the comrades who knew how to stand firm to defend the party's line," said a comrade. "The leaflet is not an ordinary piece of writing. It touches the reality that we as workers live everyday. We are clear that many union leaders don't care about the

Banner in San Salvador, May Day 2013



Let's Destroy Capitalism Building Communism ICWP

repression that we workers suffer from the bosses."

Their opinions are strong; you feel the great power that *Red Flag* has developed in them with the constant emphasis on the urgency of a communist revolution by the working class.

The workers are learning on the battlefield that only if they are organized with communist ideas can they confront the bosses' system and its servants. The union passed out a leaflet in answer to the ICWP leaflet which shows that they are the bosses' best friends and their goal is to get the bosses to be their friends. The workers' jokes and anger about the well-known position of these sellout union leaders have led the working class to feel inspired to continue building the International Communist Workers' Party.

At the end of the meeting, we read the editorial in *Red Flag* about communist health care and began to philosophize about how a communist world will be. Many let their imaginations fly with issues like health care, education, sports, etc. The next meeting was planned as well as the end-of-the-year celebration. And yes, the men and women workers enjoyed to the max such a beautiful sea, and the fried fish were big and delicious....

## US HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS CALL FOR COMMUNIST SOLIDARITY WITH STUDENTS IN MEXICO

High school students in the US wrote and are gathering signatures on the following letter:

*Greetings to friends in Guerrero, Mexico. We are a group of high school students in Los Angeles, California. We lament very much the disappearance of our comrades. As we know, this is yet one more of the many incidents committed by the police and governments in all countries. We are part of the International Communist Workers' Party. As its name says, our Party is to support and defend the working class of the world. Our objective is to abolish the capitalist system and put in march a communist system where governments will not exist and neither will bosses who exploit the working class and much less cops that instead of protecting people put fear in us. It will simply be a society in which everyone works according to their abilities and receives according to their needs. We cannot continue to let incidents like this occur anymore. The only solution is to organize ourselves for communist revolution. Friends, you are not alone. Your pain is our pain. Your struggle is our struggle.*



From Guerrero to Ferguson: Don't ask for capitalist "justice" Fight for communist workers' power

## COMMUNISM IS BASED ON WORKERS NEEDS; NOT CAPITALISM'S ILLUSION OF EQUALITY

LOS ANGELES--"Care for a copy of *Red Flag*?" asked the *Red Flag* distributor.

"No," said the MTA bus operator, "I have read it before and it is too negative."

"Well, it talks about the real world and how to change it with a communist revolution," was the answer. "The union says that in this contract they have reached 'equality.' Our view is that there is no such thing as equality. Everyone has different needs and satisfying those unequal needs unequally is the closest we can get to the capitalist illusion of 'equality.'"

"I agree with that. The Bible talks about needs too. I'll try reading your paper again," said the operator.

Two weeks later, the same operator said, "I read your paper and I found it a lot lighter."

"What's my name?" asked the distributor. "I remember yours."

"Tell me again and I promise not to forget it," said the operator.

The distributor told him, adding "Have a nice day," without offering the paper.

"Thanks. Let me have a copy of your paper, though" requested the operator before leaving.

A week later, this operator saw this distributor at another MTA Division passing out *Red Flag*. He opened his bus door and greeted the distributor cheerfully, by name!

This is but one example of the discussions and responses that our position on "equality" has provoked, before and after distributing

hundreds of leaflets on this issue to MTA workers.

The leaflet exposed as lies the union's claims that the new contract has "once and for all" eliminated the Two Tier system. It showed that it had instead created six new tiers.

We also exposed these traitors' hypocrisy since some of the same union officials who negotiated this contract also negotiated the Two Tier contract that paid operators hired after July 1, 1997 significantly less than operators hired before that date.

Also, under the new contract newly hired full time operators will have to work 17 years, pass through those six tiers, before earning top pay.

"The union tells us the next contract will eliminate this. But, it took them 17 years to 'eliminate' the Two Tiers. I bet it will take them just as long to 'eliminate' these six tiers," commented an operator at Division 3.

What's more, the Two Tier system for part timers is still in force. They start at 65% of the pay of those hired before 7/1/97 and it takes them 2 1/2 years to reach their maximum pay of 80% of those in tier one.

The union hacks "promised" to eliminate the Two Tier system to get the contract approved. Their only concern was to stop an MTA workers' strike at any cost. The new contract perpetuates the Tier System and will save MTA hundreds of millions of dollars.

**Capitalism promises equality and can't deliver.**

The capitalists hypocritically proclaim that "equal work" should be compensated with "equal pay." Yet, "unequal" pay for "equal work" is the order of the day. Furthermore, even when paying "equally" for "equal work," inequality is still rampant. If a single mother with two kids gets the same wages for doing the same job as a single person with no children, how is this equal?

**Communism promises something better: to meet the needs of the world's entire working class. It will deliver.**

"Equality" and "inequality" are concepts created by class society. "Equality" was one of the slogans of the French Revolution, used by the rising French capitalist class to mobilize the masses of workers and peasants to overthrow the old feudal system. Their aim, however, was to impose their wage slavery's dictatorship over the working masses.

Thus, "equality," in spite of its high-sounding "idealism," is nothing but a vehicle for capitalist class oppression. Communism does not strive to make everyone equal but to satisfy everyone's needs.

In a communist world, without money, classes and exploitation, the word "equality" will be history along with wage slavery and the class that invented them. Instead, our watchwords will be collectivity and comradeship--producing together to meet everyone's needs.



## Prop 47: Don't Swallow the Kool-Aid

### COMMUNISM WILL END RACISM AND MASS INCARCERATION

CALIFORNIA, USA, October 26 – “When I learned that the [racist, reactionary newspaper] *OC Register* supported Prop 47, I started wondering what was wrong with it,” admitted a liberal leader in the campaign to pass this November ballot initiative, financed by liberal and conservative capitalists.

We distributed a communist leaflet at several meetings and rallies this week. It explained what's wrong.

Prop 47 is part of a ruling-class effort to divert mass anger at racist mass incarceration. It builds an electoral movement to strengthen the capitalists' grip on our throats while saving the bosses \$\$\$\$billions. They need that money for war!

Political leaders must “channel populist passions” and “give voice to the justified grievances ... while convincing voters that the simple solutions offered up by the populists are bound to fail,” wrote Yascha Mounk in the ruling-class mouthpiece *Foreign Affairs*.

Mass incarceration is a lot worse than a “justified grievance.” We say the solution is communism. Mounk probably considers that too

“simple.” But, to the rulers' dismay, it will not fail.

#### What's Really Wrong with Prop 47

Prop 47 is a “sentencing reform” measure. It would reduce some felonies to misdemeanors, in some cases retroactively. The *New York Times* (10/6) calls it “common sense” that would save hundreds of millions of dollars. It identified this measure as “part of a national reappraisal of mass incarceration.”

“Clearly this would make a big difference in the lives of thousands of people and their friends and families,” said a *Red Flag* reader at a public meeting.

“But,” she continued, “Why aren't sweatshop owners and war makers considered criminals? How would society have to change so that we could prevent or manage anti-social behavior without prisons? Focusing on Prop 47 keeps us from asking and discussing the big questions.”

Others nodded. They followed up on this in their own ways. Even the speaker admitted later that these questions troubled her too.

Some activists criticize Prop 47 for “not going far enough.” The *NYT* notes that even if it passes, California would still “lag behind” other states that have “achieved prison cuts with no increase in crime.”

Some call for the abolition of the “prison-industrial complex.” But that can't happen under capitalism, a violently racist system in which a handful of rulers need mass terror to maintain their ability to exploit us.

#### Capitalists Are the Biggest Criminals

Capitalism drives to maximize profits by any

means necessary. This creates a “me-first” culture. Some get obscenely rich through legalized theft (exploiting workers, war profiteering). Others imitate them with smaller but illegal activities. Capitalism causes petty crime by creating expensive wants while denying the masses the means to satisfy them. It does this because it needs to constantly expand markets while driving down the cost of labor.

Communist society won't have money or private property. We'll all share the same standard of living. There will be meaningful work for all and a culture of collectivity and comradely respect. Fewer will turn to anti-social activity or dangerous drugs. We'll be able to abolish prisons and handle anti-social behavior collectively.

#### Prop 47: Not a “Step in the Right Direction”

**Prop 47 shows how capitalists use reforms to strengthen their system and divert the angry masses from communism. Its short-term benefits for some come at an unbearably high political cost to the working class.**

The “No on 47” campaign, pushed by cops and District Attorneys, aims to build racist fear. But the “Yes on 47” campaign builds illusions that capitalism can be reformed to meet our needs.

The Prop 47 campaign is mainly aimed at non-voters, trying to get them to register and vote. It wants us to reject the “simple” but not easy solution: replacing the capitalist system at the root of all our problems with a communist world with production for human needs instead of profits.

Small steps can lead to qualitative change. But reformist steps tie us to the capitalist-imperialist rulers who will drag us over the brink into world war and mass immiseration, a qualitative change for the worse.

The small steps we need are to get more workers and youth to read *Red Flag*. Let's discuss its ideas, and mobilize around them. Readers like you should join the International Communist Workers' Party. Small steps along the communist road will lead to the qualitative change we need.



Demonstrations in support of Prop 47, such as the one on the left, funded by corporate donors in Liberty Hill Foundation, seek to steer youth away from a communist solution--see photo on the right.

## SOUTH AFRICA from page 1

Party as we can see how the *Red Flag* is bringing all of us together in a common fight against capitalism.

To hold this meeting we had to overcome many practical obstacles of long-distance travel, limited money and extremely windy weather that hampered movement. We shared a delicious meal as comrades were hungry for food as well as revolutionary ideas.

After the meeting a comrade who helped mobilize this meeting commented, “I hope today was just the beginning of a good and lasting friendship amongst the comrades that gathered today.

“We can only grow together as ICWP if we meet frequently and become brothers and sisters of the same struggle...thus our bonds and revolutionary communist ideals and goals can be unbroken and have a solid foundation.

“We need to get to a point where we understand and believe that capitalism is overthrow-able and beat-able...and thus communism is achievable.”

## CAPITALISM PRODUCES GENOCIDAL EPIDEMICS: ERADICATE IT WITH COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

The student rose from her seat with the newspaper in her hand and said, “This is *Red Flag* newspaper from the International Communist Workers' Party and on the first page there's an article about Ebola. I can give you guys one if you want.” About a dozen students took it.

This was after a presentation where the topic was Ebola as well as other epidemics that spread during the conquest of the Americas by the Europeans. The presentation included the history of the epidemics and how they are transmitted and how they had devastating effects on the indigenous people.

The speaker made the point that at the beginning of the conquest of the Americas, capitalism was born. This birth entailed the enslavement of the America's indigenous people and the kidnapping and enslavement of Africans...and numerous genocides and robberies of resources. The spirit that pushed the birth of capitalism also pushed the spirit of conquest...conquest in search of riches and domination.

Similarities and differences of both the west Africa outbreak and the diseases of the conquest were noted. In Africa, the conditions were created and the victims are mainly black; however, in the conquest, the diseases were brought, and those infected were mainly indigenous. In both cases the question of racism exists: there are oppressors and oppressed. Capitalism, as an economic and political system has been developing since the encounter among the Europeans, Africans,

and indigenous.

The capitalist healthcare system that we have today is really unfair because if you don't have the funds for treatment, the treatment you get isn't good or you get no treatment at all. In a c o m m u n i s t healthcare system treatment would be provided to anyone who needs it. If we continue having this capitalist healthcare system more and more people will die because not everyone has the money. It's like saying “Only the rich will live and the working class will die.” How many more people need to die before people realize the capitalist healthcare system does not work? Capitalism as a whole isn't working.

If we were to destroy all borders and all capitalist governments, we'd be able to provide a healthcare system that is much more reasonable and reliable for all, not just for the rich.



China's barefoot doctors in the 1950s & 60s have taught us valuable lessons about medical care freed from the profit system.



## Kaiser Permanente Shows Capitalism in Action

### HEALTH CARE WORKERS MUST BREAK CHAINS OF WAGE-SLAVERY

CALIFORNIA, October 25 –“Kaiser really treats the nurses badly,” said a Kaiser physician. “Now they’re going after social workers.” She is also angry about increasingly being forced to practice a lower quality of medical care. That’s the reality of capitalist health care.

Conflict continues between the National Union of Healthcare Workers (NUHW), whose members include dietary workers, social workers, nurses, audiologists and others, and Kaiser Permanente, California’s largest Health Maintenance Organization (HMO). A November strike is possible. Will workers strike only to hold on to some benefits?

Kaiser reported \$1.1 billion net income for 2014’s first quarter, up from \$765 million for the same period in 2013. Yet Kaiser aims to cut



Kaiser, 2012

workers’ benefits and continue to under-staff hospitals and clinics.

NUHW has limited its struggle to working within the bosses’ laws/system, like election politics and personal attacks on Kaiser board members. However, the conflict between management and workers is systemic. The solution is destroying the capitalist profit system, which fails us all, and creating a system designed and run by workers: communism.

Under communism, money will no longer exist. Therefore, products (including health care) will no longer need to be exchanged for dollars, euros, or yen. We will be able to meet everybody’s physical and psycho-social needs by working cooperatively for the common good. We’ll help each other stay healthier and provide the best care possible when someone’s sick or injured.

As Kaiser workers think about a possible strike, we invite them to consider a political strike against capitalism and for communism.

#### All Capitalist Health-Care Models Are Bad

The Kaiser Permanente model requires pre-paid benefits. It spends that money to provide services later. Fewer services rendered, and more work squeezed out of employees, means more money in KP’s pocket. So Kaiser patients with serious psychiatric needs go untreated or wait more than seven weeks for an appointment.

An illustration: KP averages 600 hospital days/year in a post-acute care facility per 1,000 clients. By comparison, Medicare averages about 2,000 hospital days/year in a post-acute care facility per 1,000 clients.

But under the Medicare fee-for-service model, providers and hospitals make more profit when patients overeat, smoke, misuse medicine and end up with diabetes, heart conditions or other

ailments. These require hospital beds, enrollments in high-cost nursing facilities and other expensive interventions.

Both models are horrible.

But a third bad model is NUHW’s single-payer universal health care option. This might resolve some issues, but it creates others. With the federal government as single-payer, the pressure to cut services would come from a growing war budget.

#### The Capitalist Profit System Is the Problem

The US bosses seem concerned with our health care because they need a healthy workforce in their factories and in their military for inevitable wars to come. But they need to keep costs down so they find ways to make workers and patients pay.

The US spends twice as much per person on health care as other rich countries. Yet US life expectancy and infant mortality are among the worst. If Healthcare workers at Kaiser and worldwide put their energy into organizing to smash capitalism rather than for dead-end temporary reforms, we could win a true victory for the world’s working class!

Capitalists constantly spread anti-communist propaganda. They use racism, sexism, and patriotism to divide us, trying to ensure the survival of their system. But their system forces them to attack workers by cutting benefits, using us as cannon-fodder in war, and incarcerating the poor and unemployed, especially minorities. So it helps create its own gravediggers.

Help fight for a world where workers will share ALL that we produce! Fight for a world where no one will have excess while others starve! Help spread the truth about capitalism and the vision of a better tomorrow. Read and distribute *Red Flag*. Join the International Communist Workers’ Party.

## WE MAKE CARS, THEY MAKE PROFITS! LET’S ABOLISH THE WAGE SYSTEM! (PART 4)

As previous articles explained, capitalist production is intense. It demands the highest rate of profit, the largest share of the market and the cheapest possible rate of labor. In every sector it produces top dogs, or market leaders. In order to survive, lesser manufacturers have to try and replace the leaders. It’s a situation that creates a cut-throat, chaotic climate that contains the seed of overproduction, crisis and the widespread destruction of plant, equipment and workers.

Today, in the world’s auto industries, Japanese, South Korean and European manufacturers are struggling with overcapacity, being able to produce far more cars than the market can sell. China, one of the few areas where sales are growing, is threatened too with overcapacity. Because of relatively weak markets in the rest of the world all the major manufacturers want to build and sell in the Chinese markets.

“It’s a bloodbath of pricing and it’s a bloodbath of margins.” That was how European auto boss Sergio Marchionne described profit margins in the world auto industry a couple of years ago and it’s only gotten bloodier since.

It’s bloody all right when BMW celebrates a record sales year by announcing it will cut costs (wages, benefits, conditions) by \$575 million per year for the next 6 years!

It’s a bloodbath all right when VW, Europe’s largest auto maker, announces plans to cut costs an average of \$2 billion for the next three years.

Or when VW plans to open its new Chinese factory not in wage-cheap Shanghai, but 4,000 kilometers away in China’s interior, in wage-cheaper Urumqi.

It’s even bloodier when you realize that wages are only part of the story. In Slovakia, often called the “Detroit of the East” 70,000 workers produced 500,000 vehicles in 2010, but just two years later, in 2012, they produced 900,000 vehicles.

It’s the same in the US. In 2004 there were 70 auto plants. Today there are 55 producing almost as many vehicles. Labor costs are down 27% while some crews have to work two 10-hour night shifts on a Monday and Tuesday and two 10-hour day shifts on Friday and Saturday as well as a “mandatory” Sunday once a month.

It’s the same the world over: longer hours, more intense work, week-end work and safety cuts all add up to work shifts “full of fatigue, empty of satisfaction.” In some plants 57 seconds of every minute are accounted for! At Toyota in Japan there is a new phenomenon - karoshi, or death from overwork. In capitalism the wage worker is more robot than human, a commodity, to be used then discarded!

Listen to the German press comparing VW to Toyota. Toyota employs 339,000 workers and sold 9.98 million vehicles last year. VW employs 573,000 and sold 9.73 million vehicles. “Why does VW,” the German paper *Sddeutsche Zeitung* asks, “need more than 234,000 workers in order to produce fewer cars?” They want to cut the livelihood of 234,000 men and women! Capitalism is a world system with a world view, a view that sees wage workers as things.

The revolutionary movement *Red Flag* is building rubbishes that view of the world. If you



think that instead of reducing a person to hour after hour of intense, repetitive actions, the production process should draw on the full array of human capacities, then you are already thinking like a communist.

You should join our movement, if you think that instead of having to go cap-in-hand to beg, plead or ask for a job, you should find yourself producing something the community needs as a result of group discussions you yourself participated in, then you are already thinking like a communist. You should join our movement. If you think that instead of working to make bankers, industrialists and land developers fatter and more powerful, you should work to create a share-and-share-alike world, you already think like a communist.

**You know what to do!**



**Tlatlaya Massacre Shows:**

**SOLDIERS MUST ALLY WITH WORKERS TO KILL CAPITALISM**

Twenty-five Mexican soldiers confronted and killed 22 alleged drug traffickers in Tlatlaya, in the state of Mexico, last June 30. Under mounting pressure, the Mexican government took the unusual step of arresting eight soldiers in September and charging three with murder.

About 150 relatives and friends of soldiers marched on October 11 in the capital of Mexico in support of the soldiers who were involved in the Tlatlaya massacre. Marchers demanded a “fair trial” for soldiers who were “only following orders.” They also exposed a group inside the military which tortures soldiers who disobey orders.

**What should a communist soldier do when given orders like this?**

Youth, mainly from the working class, are trained in the army to follow orders to repress their own class. The massacre of Tlatelolco in 1968 has been the most brutal example of how the Mexican army has been used as a repressive force against the working class to keep the bosses in power.

The Tlatlaya massacre has exposed a power struggle between groups of capitalists fighting for control of certain areas in Mexico. In these wars among capitalist bosses, the workers and soldiers have nothing to gain.

Soldiers must understand that they have more in common with the working class than with the bosses. The only way to change their lives for the better is by mobilizing for communism and destroying capitalism.

**Capitalism: The Biggest Disaster**

Crime, corruption and poverty are the inevitable products of capitalism, governed by

money and private property. The bosses accumulate profits without caring how, with their State apparatus (including police, Army, jails, and judicial system) in the service of capital. They try to make us lose class consciousness, either out of fear or through their racist, nationalist, and sexist ideology. They want us apathetic or terrified so we won't organize and destroy their system.

Some say that the army supports the population in disasters. During disasters, the bosses fear the anger and possible rebellion of the workers against the system.

The army serves at the same time as a symbol of help and an instrument of repression.

The soldiers, as part of the working class, must understand that the solution is not to blindly obey the bosses' orders but to build communist consciousness and unite with their class brothers and sisters to destroy this system. In Communism, the priority will be the well-being and security of the whole working class.

**Soldiers: Unite With Workers to Turn Guns on the Bosses**

As long as the bosses continue to be thirsty for profits they will send soldiers to fight their wars like in the Middle East, the Ukraine, etc, and to



**The unity of workers, soldiers and peasants was crucial to the Russian Revolution.**

attack workers to defend their power. These wars will grow into World War III.

However, history teaches us that soldiers can turn their weapons against the bosses. In Russia in 1917, during World War I, the soldiers achieved this, which allowed the Russian Revolution to be won. Many soldiers were convinced to unite with the workers to kill the capitalists and win a socialist society.

Today this unstoppable force in the hands of soldiers, industrial workers and other workers must be inspired by a Communist society, not socialism, which revealed itself as a form of capitalism.

We will abolish money and the exploitation of the wage system. Each person will have the duty to take care of our class brothers and sisters. Criticism and self criticism will replace orders. Social relations will be closer.

Today the International Communist Workers' Party works to build communist consciousness among all workers, students, soldiers and their relatives in Mexico and worldwide. We must see that the only solution is to kill the bosses and the capitalist system. No to reforms! Soldiers and workers of the world, let's unite for Communist Revolution.

**LETTERS      LETTERS      LETTERS      CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS**

**THE "HOMELAND"?**

In my first year of school, the first thing I learned was the national anthem and the flag salute. From then on, I was learning what my teacher told me, about how to be a good patriot.

When I was seventeen years old I entered a military academy. There they crammed my head with more nationalism, so that in case of going to war (World War II) it showed how a good patriot knows to defend his country and democracy. I got so excited that I went to the appropriate office to present myself as a volunteer to go to the war to defend my country. I didn't go, but they took note of my good sentiments.

But if I had gone and gotten killed, it would have served me right, because what was I doing defending a country that I never had or would have? I say this because, to mention a few things, sometimes I had to go to other cities in search of a job, where more than once I was arrested on the charges of not being from the city and going around loitering. They didn't arrest only me under these charges. There were also many more workers jailed in these condi-



tions. The police did this to have workers to sweep the streets, the plaza, the parks, etc. We had to look for food in the street in waste bins.

These things and much more, happened in the country that I considered my country, my nation. After that, I left for the country to the north, the United States, where it did not go better for me. They arrested me some 15 times for wanting to form the Farmworkers' Union.

Kart Marx was right when he said that we workers have no nation. But what is the nation? The

nation is the land. But, how much land do the workers own? None. The nation is the space, but we workers don't have even a kite to throw in the air to fly and use the space. The nation is the sea, but we workers don't have a plank of wood to use to throw ourselves on to go in the water. The resources lying in the subsoil are also the nation but we workers don't have even a free gallon of gasoline. So, what nation do workers have under capitalism? None.

The "homeland" of the workers will be the whole world, a communist world. It will be a world without borders, nations, or classes. Currently the world is the property of the capitalists-imperialists. And they do what they want with it. They divide countries and workers. They have North Korea and South Korea; Sudan and South Sudan; Mexicans and Mexican-Americans, some feeling more important than others, etc.

For my part, since I'm not from here or there, I am a member of the International Communist Workers' Party. I am an internationalist.

--Farmworker without a country

**This is the paper of the working class. We get no funding from the capitalists, their foundation or NGOs. This newspaper is not a commodity produced for sale. We are fighting to abolish commodity production. However, we have to pay for the costs of producing and distributing the paper, as well as for other expenses of building an international party. The box below includes a suggested donation of \$20/year which is about the current cost of mailing a single copy to a U.S. address. PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY.**

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## LETTERS

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## CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

For the past three years *Red Flag* has been distributed regularly at NASSCO, a shipyard in San Diego that builds ships for the US Navy. The paper has a steady readership, running about 70 copies per issue. Workers at the main gate are usually in a hurry to get the trolley or a vanpool, so when conversations happen, they are very short. Here are a few recent comments from workers.

**“I love this paper!”**

A young worker said this today. He also said that many workers in the yard don't understand what communism means. I agreed and said that a lot of people think it is something terrible, like fascism. “Maybe they were made to think that way,” he said, and I agreed again.

**“What is the short difference between**

## Talking to Shipyard Workers

**communism and socialism?”** This question came from an older worker who has been reading the paper for a while. I did my best to explain this briefly, that socialism has wages and inequality, and always creates a new class of bosses. Under communism, we will all work and share the results, without bosses.

Afterwards, I realized that I had left out very important stuff, like communism doesn't use money. Maybe next time we can go into that.

**“I am a Christian”**

I had a brief discussion with the worker who said this. I said that we aren't religious, but Christian or not, we all want our children to live in a world without huge wars, economic crises, racism, and the other miseries capitalism has to offer. He said he would think that over.

**“You are the last soldier”**

The worker who said this meant that the communist movement is over and done with. Our experience is the opposite. Many workers are joining ICWP because they hate capitalism and see that we have figured out the main error of the old movement that fought for socialism. We respect and learn from the struggles of the old movement, but new “soldiers” are joining up to fight directly for communism, which is a really new idea that corrects the mistakes of the past.

ICWP thinks that industrial workers are the key to a communist future for the working class, and we hope that shipyard workers will tell us more about what they think and what they would like to see in *Red Flag*.

--A Comrade



## What is a communist strike?

*Red Flag* (v. 5 #15) highlights the west African nurses' strike in September demanding more help and basic protective gear to fight Ebola. These were reform demands and not an attack on the system, but these reforms would help save lives of our class brothers and sisters. Our Seattle comrades were inspired by the nurses' strike to discuss how communism will solve the health problems created by capitalism-imperialism. More of us are doing this now.

However, I think the article muddied the waters when it talked about the strike having “political overtones.” It showed me that we need to be clearer about what we mean by a “political strike.”

“Public” workers, like the nurses at these hospitals, have a government agency for a boss. So the nurses blamed (and struck against) the government. It wasn't called as a strike against capitalism or for communism. But was it “political”?

Every class struggle, everything in our lives, is political in that it is shaped by capitalism. We should expose the role of the capitalist state in every situation, and open a discussion of how communism can transform it. We must make the hidden politics open, or overt.

Whenever workers join a struggle, it's from a political perspective, even if not a conscious one. A lifetime of capitalist education trains us in reformism. Often that takes the form of demands, but not always. The essence of reformism is the illusion (or lie) that capitalism can or should, satisfy the needs and aspirations of the masses.

There have been many overtly political reformist strikes, some led by communists. Those strikes didn't help to mobilize the masses for communism.

As more of us develop a communist perspective, we will lead communist class struggle up to and including armed insurrection to destroy capitalism. Then we will lead the class struggle to build a communist society.

Communist class struggle starts with ideological debate in conversations, meetings, and in this paper. But is there more that we can do today to expand communist class struggle, especially in industry and the military? What do we mean by a “political strike to mobilize for communism”?

The Seattle article asked us to “imagine if [the nurses] made their strike an overt political strike to build for communist health care.” But it didn't give readers leadership on what to do in such situations, or how to prepare for them.

Certainly everyone should help get this paper to people from west Africa who could send it to friends or relatives. Circulating *Red Flag* in west Africa would create the material basis for imagining a communist strike there. And let's be clearer that we can't “build for communist health care” apart from mobilizing for communist revolution and communist society.

The work in Seattle is showing how to strengthen our industrial and other concentrations by sharply raising issues that aren't limited to our co-workers' daily lives. Let's do this more, and better.

--A Comrade

## Voting & Boycotting or Class Struggle?

A letter in *Red Flag*, Vol. 5 #17 talked about a transit union contract where many workers did not vote.

The writer compared it to the last Boeing contract that barely passed, but it was not because the workers chose to boycott it. Boeing and the IAM negotiated secretly, then chose to call for a vote while the workers were on Christmas break. They knew that many Boeing workers and their families leave town for the holidays and would be unable to make it back in time to vote.

This was a particularly nasty trick to pull, but this is what these capitalists will do to save their system. There is no fairness, no justice, no guilt. There is no democratic process when the ruling class controls the unions, the courts, the media, the police, the military.

Voting is one way the bosses lie to workers and distract us from the real issues. Boycotting is equally bad. Liberals love to boycott. It is passive and discourages us from fighting back.

As communists we need to be out in the streets if there is a demonstration; and at the plant gates if there is a walkout or strike vote. We must engage the workers, students and soldiers in discussions about the need to destroy capitalism and fight for workers power with communist revolution.

--Red in Seattle



**LOS ANGELES, October 28--Municipal and county workers and members of community organizations protesting cuts in government services and workers' pay gladly took copies of *Red Flag*. Under capitalism, the banks always come first! Communism will do away with money and banks!**



## How US Imperialism Benefits from Climate Movement

### WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS NOW IS A COMMUNIST CLIMATE

Since Al Gore's Academy Award-winning documentary "An Inconvenient Truth" (2006) a growing bloc of US capitalists has organized around Gore's environmental politics. In September it mobilized hundreds of thousands for the "People's Climate March" and the UN Climate Summit (see *RF*, v. 4, #16).

There's a contradiction between "Mother Earth" and "No Planet B" slogans on one hand, and the patriotic "We (Americans)" language and Statue-of-Liberty imagery used by the same activists. But what they have in common is denying class struggle. The drumbeat of all-class unity, combined with open China-bashing, will help US rulers win some workers and youth to fight and support their wars—eventually, world war.

The main US rulers are using this mass mobilization to strengthen their hand against domestic coal, gas and oil producers who put their narrow interests ahead of the US imperialist system.

The *New York Times* (10/5/14) described the disappearing Louisiana wetlands as, "like any environmental disaster carried beyond a certain point, a national-security threat." The threatened region contains 10% of US oil reserves and 25% of refinery capacity.

The *Times* attacked politicians controlled by oil and gas companies who are helping these companies avoid sharing the cost of repairing the damage they've caused.

National Republican leaders oppose Obama on everything, including a proposed \$37/ton carbon fee. For now, energy policy is left to the states, but US imperialism can't compete internationally that way. Democrats are using these issues – and the Supreme Court, the minimum wage, drug sentencing, and more – to "get out the vote."

Environmental leaders downplay all other capitalist attacks – mass incarceration, racist police murder, deportations, Ebola, the Gaza block-

ade – as minor compared with CO2 emissions. Some admit that capitalism causes climate change but declare that climate change "can't wait" for revolution.

As another article (*RF* v. 4 #15) explained, this reformism is a deadly diversion. The growing climate crisis is yet another reason to mobilize the masses for communism now!

This movement prepares the masses ideologically to accept a sharp decline in our standard of living in the name of "reducing our carbon footprint" and "saving life on earth as we know it" or even "saving civilization."

"Life as we know it" is CAPITALISM (which calls itself "civilization"! ) and we need to kill it, not save it.

#### Communism: How We Need to Live

Many climate-change activists are disgusted with capitalism and how it forces us to live. They are eager to swap their cars for bicycles or lawns for organic vegetable gardens. They talk about "living simply so others can simply live."

Our Party organizes mainly among those who are fighting to simply live. But let's also win more environmental activists to collectively organizing for communism.

Capitalist culture tirelessly promotes individualism and selfishness. Capitalist commodity production undergirds this "look out for #1" ideology. Still, the masses – especially industrial workers – know from experience that we rise or fall together. Many act unselfishly and even heroically in a worthy cause – witness the Ebola crisis.

The rulers want to manipulate this unselfishness to get us to accept a big economic hit from their "carbon pricing" while they maximize profits and use new tax money to rebuild their military.

We, in contrast, see in the unselfishness of the masses the possibility of communism. And in communism we'll create the material basis for

defeating selfishness and individualism.

In our communist future we will share the hardships of the struggle as well as the fruits of our collective labor. Nobody will benefit from another's misery. All will be asked to take responsibility for ensuring that everyone's needs are met.

Industrial workers and soldiers will lead in organizing both production and decision-making. The mobilized masses will develop new knowledge, technologies, and social forms to confront problems facing us. We'll find ways to move forward together.

The interrelated crises of capitalism – economic, political, military, environmental, cultural—are our opportunity. Let's seize it! Communist workers' power will reverse the immiseration of the masses, undo capitalism's environmental destruction, erase all borders, end imperialist war, and transform our way of life. .

**Forward to communism!**



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

## Soviet Russia in the 1920s:

### REDISCOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT OF DIALECTICAL MATERIALISM

It was not easy to learn dialectical materialism in the USSR in the 1920s. There were two reasons for this. One was the lack of good study materials. There were very few books that gave simple, correct explanations of what dialectical materialism is and how it can be used in the fight for communism.

The second reason was that much of the writing on dialectical materialism was done by revisionists, especially by so-called Mensheviks. These people still had the old social-democratic politics and a wrong philosophy to go along with it. Some advocated the anti-dialectical mechanist philosophy discussed in previous columns, a view supported by some Soviet leaders. Others advocated dialectics, but their version of it was much more about harmony than Lenin's dialectics of revolution.

These two weaknesses of Soviet philosophy are closely connected. Since the Bolshevik party lacked a well-developed party position on the main issues of dialectical materialism, they were not in a position to teach it to the masses. This situation only improved after a ten-year struggle, ending about 1932. This column will give a sketch of that struggle.

#### New Sources

One important weapon in the fight for dialectical materialism was the Soviet publication of previously unknown works by Marx, Engels and Lenin. Marx's early critique of Hegel's dialectics,

Engels book on the dialectics of nature, and Lenin's notes on his study of Hegel were all published in the 1920s. These works were very important for rediscovering what was already known about dialectical materialism, and supporting those fighting for a good line.

#### The Fight Against Mechanism

The anti-dialectical mechanist philosophy had considerable support among natural scientists and was used in the party's campaigns against religion. The main struggle against this philosophy was fought by students of the ex-Menshevik Avram Deborin, a follower of Plekhanov. The Deborinites conducted a long campaign against mechanism in books, conferences and academic journals. After a vote at a big conference in 1929, mechanism was declared defeated and condemned by the party leadership.

The Deborinites' criticism of mechanism was valuable, but their own philosophy had serious faults. Soon some communist philosophy students who had recently graduated from the party's Institute of Red Professors began to attack Deborinite philosophy and Stalin encouraged them to keep it up. The Deborinites were criticized for a number of things, including: (1) that they hadn't absorbed Lenin's advances over the old social-democratic philosophy, (2) that their philosophy was completely removed from the party's practical work, its political struggles and campaign of economic construction, and (3) they did not see their job as

developing and defending a party-wide position in philosophy.

Unlike Marx, Deborin claimed that Hegel had been essentially right about dialectics, saying that "in general the Hegelian construction must be considered correct also from the materialist point of view." He endorsed the idea that when a contradiction is resolved, the two sides form a higher unity where "they do not conflict." Marx's revolutionary idea that the two sides of a contradiction "fight to a decision" and one defeats the other was dismissed by the Deborinites when it was first published in 1927.

#### Overcoming the Deborinites

After extensive debate the Deborinites were removed from their assignments in 1931. The students who had started the campaign against them were given the responsibility of developing improved formulations of dialectical materialism and creating new textbooks for wide use. Two textbooks were written, one by a group in Moscow and the other in Leningrad. These books were eventually translated into other languages and established what we still take to be the basic contents of dialectics. Both texts were translated into Chinese and studied extensively in China, strongly influencing Mao Zedong's writings on philosophy.

These texts were a big step forward, but Soviet philosophy in the 1930s also had serious shortcomings. We will discuss some of them in our next column.