

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

MAY DAY, SAN SALVADOR 2013



COMMUNIST MOBILIZING BEARS FRUIT FROM EL SALVADOR SWEATSHOPS TO LOS ANGELES MTA

EL SALVADOR—“We have to learn how to lead these big groups of workers,” said a young comrade, surprised at how many factory workers had shown up to meet with ICWP.

One of the organizers of the meeting answered, “Get used to it, comrade, because from now on we are only going to have groups like this.”

Women and men workers from four factories came to this meeting with different expectations. A worker said, “We want to know more deeply about the goal of the ICWP.” That is how the meeting began.

Party comrades presented the main ideas in our manifesto, *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*.

At the beginning of the conversation, comrades explained the irreconcilable difference between reform and revolution. One of those responsible for explaining the communist line of ICWP said, “Comrades, the only solution for our working class is joining the communist process. Forget about building the organizations that only prolong the life of capitalism!” This statement opened the discussion more and resulted in some workers making the decision to join the struggle to establish the workers’ system.

One woman worker was very clear in talking about the union leaders who have sold out to the system, and that this is a sign that the

communist system is needed immediately. “It depends on us whether the communist system is far off or near,” concluded a Party comrade.

There is still resistance among workers who still believe that through reform or crumbs from the bosses, power can be achieved. However, this resistance is lessening every day. But the point was made that the only way to achieve power is through communist revolution. It’s not true that the bosses are good people with the sell-out reformists, since they only use them to keep exploiting the working class.

The working class demands that either you are in favor of communist revolution or you are against it. Time is running out for the reformists, and the only thing left for the workers is the organization of an international communist party that is the workers’ vanguard.

At the end of the meeting, eleven *Red Flag* readers took the enormous step of becoming new fighters for communism now fully organized in ICWP. These small but great victories of the working class suggest that communist revolution is closer. Every step of our communist organization is a nail in the coffin of capitalism and its servants.

At the end of the meeting, we made a plan that the next meeting will be at the beach and there we’ll continue to discuss building ICWP more in this area of the world.

LOS ANGELES, CA.—The reaction of many MTA workers to the communist analysis in *Red Flag* (Vol. 4, #18) about the African-American mechanic who has been subjected to harassment and racist discrimination has been overwhelmingly positive.

A very excited mechanic shouted to a member of ICWP, “This is great; we need this kind of article so we can be united. United we’re stronger, and disorganized we are weak and that’s precisely what the bosses want. But with *Red Flag*, they’re not going to get it.”

When the ICWP club made the decision to write the article, we consulted with several *Red Flag* readers at MTA. An African-American co-worker told us, “Sounds like a good idea to me, since if the Party is capable of winning this co-worker, I assure you that they could then win many more.”

At first it seemed like a crazy idea since it appeared that many workers justified the attacks against this worker because they thought that his attitude was the cause of the bosses’ attacks on all the other workers. Currently the bosses have started writing warning notes to other mechanics that they could be fired, threatening the whole maintenance division of being “Under the Microscope” and that anyone who cannot justify or satisfy the criteria of the parasite bosses will receive a warning.

However the article in *Red Flag* has given a different atmosphere to the situation. The mechanics, service attendants and drivers who have read the article have realized that this is a planned attack and that the worker who

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Bay Area Transit Strike:**WORKERS NEED POLITICAL STRIKE FOR COMMUNISM**

The BART strike is over, if the workers vote this Friday to accept the contract. Regardless of the outcome, however, these workers' simmering anger will continue to boil and eventually explode in rebellious strikes.

US rulers are plotting to avoid this scenario. They fear industrial workers' strikes because they cut into their profits, and in transit, they create chaos, affecting the lives of millions.

But what they fear the most is these strikes' potential of becoming political strikes against capitalism. They know that with communist leadership these strikes can put forward the vision of communism, a system based on human needs, not money. This could inspire millions of workers, students and soldiers to fight for a better world.

Trade unionism's role is to prevent our class from reaching this potential. The BART strike, however, exposed the union officials' inability to control their restless members who forced them to call strikes twice this year, despite a no-strike clause in their contract.

Even if these traitors may impose the negotiated contract, their treachery is blatant. The rulers know they can't count on them to do their dirty work forever.

Now, forced to take things into their own hands, the California rulers are exposing their state apparatus as an arm of the US capitalists to oppress workers. They plan to pass laws to ban strikes by Bay Area and Los Angeles transit workers.

State Democratic Senator Mark DeSaulnier, chairman of the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee, said in July that he was looking into a state law to ban transit strikes, as Oregon and New York have done. (*San Jose Mercury News*, 10/20/13).

The Republican leaders of the Senate and the Assembly in a joint press release concerning the BART strike said, "We will soon announce a new proposal to ban transit strikes in California. Local residents should not have to suffer through another public transportation strike again." (10/22/13)

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was threatened with being fired is only one more victim, like so many black, latin and white youth who are in jail for not having a future under the capitalist system.

According to the comments and the reaction of the workers, it is not fear that they feel, but anger and combativeness. The following are some comments made to *Red Flag* distributors:

* One worker said, "We all liked the article. It seems that it is a new era of unity and struggle."

* A night shift worker said, "Terrific: it's the pure truth."

* A group of workers who were talking about it commented that it was very good and that "now the bosses realize that we have a voice."

* A worker said, "When the manager was reading the newspaper, with each paragraph that he read, he got redder."

* After reading the article, a mechanic on second shift said ironically, "And the union? Very well, thank you." (Read: Completely useless,

The US bosses openly declare war on us

Their system's insatiable appetite for maximum profits forces the bosses to lower our living standards. The bosses, their union officials and every pillar of capitalist society act as if life were cheap.

In Alameda County, where BART is headquartered, murder is the leading cause of youth death! Yet, the politicians, the media, and the Unions are completely indifferent to this. Racist mass murder is the new norm of a capitalist system in crisis, desperately needing fascism and war to keep afloat.

Such extreme racism cheapens the lives of all workers. In the US, while 19,000 are murdered every year in communities, a record 56,000 are killed at work. Under capitalism life is cheap. It's built into the way the system operates.

Life is cheap because capitalists make their profits off our labor power. None of us has a job unless it profits some capitalist. As the press revealed when BART was shut down this summer, the wage work of BART workers generates about \$73 million a day, or \$1.2 billion a month.

That's not just money. It's capital. It's social power, which enables them to control everything in capitalist society—the politicians, the media, etc. But that wealth or social power also has to beat back the social power of other capitalists.

Because of this competition, the capitalists always need more and more wealth. They get it by cutting costs: our wages, benefits, and safety. Under capitalism, life is cheap. Safety is expensive and profits are sacred.

When no longer able to beat their competitors by "peaceful" means, they resort to war. Capitalist competition inevitably leads to local, regional and world wars: mass murder of the international working class.

We need a system where life is sacred and profits are abolished.

If you agree with this, you are already thinking like a communist. You should start

thank you.)

Also, there were two comments from workers who were not convinced of the correctness of defending the co-worker under attack. However, after discussions about the essence of these attacks, now they are more involved in the preparations for future struggles and are realizing that an attack against one is an attack against all.

Worldwide, the bosses are going through a deep economic crisis and their juicy profits are declining and they are threatened worldwide by other capitalist powers. The ruling class knows this and is preparing for a world war. They need \$billions to maintain a military machine capable of beating the other empires.

To make those \$billions, the bosses will lower wages, speed up labor power, lower benefits and carry out other attacks against our class.

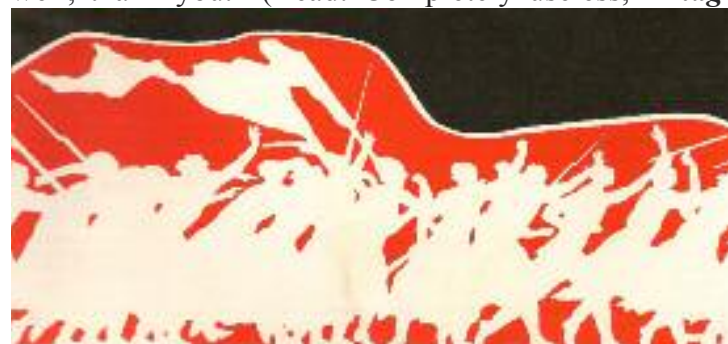
A group of three mechanics commented that it was necessary and important to ensure that *Red Flag* is read by more mechanics and other MTA

workers, to prepare a collective response in the future.

reading or distributing *Red Flag*, the newspaper of the International Communist Workers' Party, and seriously consider joining us to organize a communist revolution to end capitalism, its racism, sexism, profits, competition and wars.

Let's answer the bosses' war on us with class war for communism

Next year, LA transit workers will be facing this same capitalist beast with its media, politicians, courts, cops and treacherous union officials. Let's declare class war on the bosses, organizing a political strike against capitalism and for communism. Let's forge our class into the army necessary to vanquish the bosses forever, and build a communist world where our humanity will be society's main concern.



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PEACEFUL CAPITALISM WAGES RACIST WAR ON BOEING WORKERS

SEATTLE--Boeing tells us to be grateful for its seven-year backlog of airplane orders. The truth is that the company won these orders by giving huge discounts. Those discounts, in turn, are driving a war against Boeing's workers.

Boeing's weapon in this war is first aimed at slashing the prices it pays its 100 top suppliers by double-digit percentages over five years. So said Kent Fisher, vice president in charge of supplier management. Supplier-produced components make up 65 percent of the cost of Boeing jets.

Boeing now requires direct suppliers to open their financial books.

"We feel strongly [that a] portion of our supply base is earning higher returns [i.e. profits] than is warranted," added Fisher.

In a gross understatement, he said, "I'm sure that's an uncomfortable discussion for suppliers."

As "uncomfortable" as this discussion is for these smaller bosses, it is the hundreds of thousands of workers in subcontractor factories that bear the brunt of the attack. The company also demands that lean-management slave drivers from Boeing reorganize production in these job shops.

Racist Attacks Hurt Us All

Black, latin and asian workers make up a disproportionate share of the supplier workforce. Not only will these workers be sped up, but also many will lose their jobs. Workers in these shops already face lower wages and fewer benefits than workers at Boeing.

COO Paul Hogoboom of a Puyallup, Washington, metal cutting shop gushed about how his company became smarter and leaner after repeated visits by Boeing "efficiency experts." In other words, more exploited and fewer workers produce cheaper parts.

"We should write about this for *Red Flag*," insisted an outraged Boeing Machinist, knowing that it is only a matter of time before the bosses' machine gun swerves our way.

Capitalism Must Wage War Against Working Class

Even with these discounts Boeing is losing ground against Airbus in new orders this year. Even more frightening for Boeing bosses, China and other manufacturers of commercial jets will be entering the arena when the last planes of this backlog are delivered.

Too many producers will have the capacity to produce more planes than the market can bear. The cost pressures can only mount.

The era when Boeing commanded premium prices because of indispensable pro-

ducts and technical superiority is over, reports the *Puget Sound Business Journal* (10/25). Commercial President Ray Conner confirmed this outlook, demanding even more outsourcing in a video being shown to every crew meeting (see box). Fisher notes "an increased sense of urgency" for Boeing bosses.

That's why CEO McNerney announced a "no-fly list." Suppliers that don't submit to Boeing's demands and increase the exploitation of their workers will not be allowed to bid on Boeing parts.

Put Capitalism On The "No-Fly List"

Discounting future plane orders is Boeing's business plan. Workers in the plants are justifiably furious. "Why would those bastards do that to us?" they ask.

The Boeing bosses aren't greedier than any other bosses. The very nature of capitalist competition, the inevitable crisis of overcapacity (sometimes called the crisis of overproduction) and inter-imperialist rivalry require that they develop such a business plan.

Capitalism demands the bosses drive us into the dirt. The bosses will eventually be forced to resort to war in an attempt to eliminate their competition, but even "peaceful capitalism" means war on us.



We Need a Communist Revolution

To win this war, we workers must eliminate the material basis for capitalist competition and racism. We must end production for sale and profit.

We must start to produce planes and everything else based on the needs of our class. Production for need will end not only competition between bosses, but bosses themselves.

Even more importantly communist production will eliminate competition between workers. Communist production welcomes helping hands in our common struggle to master the forces of nature.

If it's war we must fight, than let's fight to win by mobilizing the masses for communism.

COMMUNISM ON THEIR MINDS

SEATTLE--Boeing's corporate business plan to impoverish us in order to discount planes in their backlog is just now coming to light. We've been in a number of lengthy discussions at work on what all this means. Here is the gist of just two. As you can see, the struggle to build a communist movement plays a major part in our thoughts.

"They [the bosses] are planning out the calamity," said the first machine operator after watching Commercial Airplane President Ray Conner's video at his crew meeting. We had just finished discussing Boeing's business plan and the crisis of overproduction barreling down the tracks.

"But there has to be something out there for us," he added.

"Why do you think that?" asked a comrade.

"Because then there is nothing."

"Exactly! There is nothing for us under capitalism."

"You're probably right. The rich people and executives will ride it out ... if they don't get shot. I actually think things will get bad enough that a revolution will come."

It turned out the real question was not about revolution in general, but about building for a revolution that changes the material basis of society with communist production.

He is not ready to take the next step because he is not used to thinking in these terms. We have to change this.

The next worker cut to the chase. After reading the draft *Red Flag* article, he highlighted the sentence, "We must end production for sale and profit."

"How do you do that?" he asked.

We discussed substituting masses mobilized for communism for the profit motive. We examined how the factory would look different under communism. We traced the development of production from slave societies to feudal societies to capitalism. We talked how the union, in which he is active, supports capitalism and has no answers. After all this we started to wander down the aisle to avoid the bosses' eyes and ears.

"That's true. We've been brought up to believe this is the only way production can be organized. But to change that you'll have to go up against the government, the corporations," he said. "When I was young and in the Black Panthers we always talked about when the revolution comes, but it's still not here."

He agreed the ICWP has a different version of revolution: one that changes the material basis of society: eliminates sale, profit and money.

"Look, I've seen how the capitalist government works. They'll kill a few and the rest will back off."

"Did they back off in South Africa after they killed 34 miners? Did they back off in Egypt? Or Brazil?" asked our comrade. "Workers can't live in the old way. The problem here isn't the courage of the working class. The problem is what are we fighting for."

"Yeah, but U.S. workers have been taught that communism is such a bad thing you'll never get enough to make a revolution. Maybe the workers in their twenties will be more open. There's a whole lost generation without a chance under capitalism."

"That's true," our comrade agreed, "but to be honest we're not that much different than the other workers here. If we can see the value of communism, so can others."

"Now is the time to add our grain of sand. Take a few more papers to distribute! I'll bring them over."

With that we had to part. We couldn't stand in the aisle forever.

“When I gave people food, they called me a saint. When I asked why people had no food, they called me a communist.” -- Helder Camara

The main problem of production in capitalism is the transformation of a necessity into a commodity. Every human being needs food, clothing and shelter to protect them and to be healthy. Food, clothes, houses and medicine are products that every human being requires to meet the basic needs of life. They are essential because of their use value.

But in capitalism, the bosses sell them to us for their exchange value, i.e. for the profits that they get from these products. If there is no profit for them, the products don't get to our homes, even when they're piled up in warehouses, or thrown away. In other words, if we don't have the money, we can't buy them. This is the main contradiction in the system of capitalist production.

The ideas that we reflect here are the result of collective discussions with comrades of ICWP and *Red Flag* readers from several countries of a communist analysis of food production, which was presented to comrades and friends at a recent meeting in Mexico.

Capitalism: Food to Sell

In capitalism, the goal of food production is not to have a healthy lifestyle, but to generate profits. This brings great suffering to the working class. Currently, 50% of the working class in the world (three and a half billion people) are malnourished: hungry, undernourished or obese. They suffer from poisoning, allergies or diseases such as cancer, and one third of the population survives on \$ 2 a day. To make matters worse, of all the food produced by workers in the bosses'

industries, 60% is thrown in the garbage because it is not sold. This amount is enough to feed a population higher than the current world population, the estimated population by mid-century (11 billion people).



**PRODUCTION FOR
NEED,
NOT FOR PROFIT**

Big corporations own 80% of the land on which food is grown. They have cornered the water for irrigation and have the technology, inputs, knowledge and laws to dominate the entire food system.

But to maintain profits and compete with other bosses, they have to invest in technology, improved varieties, transgenics, agrochemicals and they must pay farmworkers less.

Racism, sexism and nationalism are fundamental for them to exploit us. Women and children are superexploited in the harvest of berries in Mexico. Or undocumented immigrants in Brazil—mostly indigenous farmworkers from Bolivia, Uruguay and Paraguay. The bosses in the

U.S., in China and in all countries have their own undocumented workers.

Communism: Food to Eat

Use value will be the main thing in communism. We will use the most benign environments to produce food. In each climate (tropical, temperate or desert) suitable crops will be produced, and distributed to regions where they cannot be cultivated.

The same person over a period of time will produce food, at other times will produce clothing or build houses, and if needed can take care of sick people. We will do all physical and mental work. Both will be equally appreciated, and we will never value one over the other. We will work freely, without money, without bosses, without borders, without racism, and without sexism. We will be one family.

Whether or not we understand the contradiction in capitalism leads us to two paths. Not understanding it keeps us tied to the illusion that capitalism can be reformed, to create a “more humane capitalism.” Environmentalists, advocates of permaculture and agro-ecologists like Vandana Shiva, for example, passionately criticize and describe capitalism to mass audiences, but do not understand or explain the main contradiction, so they never speak of imperialism and war as inevitable to the nature of capitalism. Understanding this contradiction leads to communist revolution, because we know that capitalism has no solution. Only communism can meet all the needs of the working class. Join ICWP!

SEATTLE TEACHERS INTERESTED IN COMMUNIST EDUCATION

Recently several ICWP members participated in a conference on Teaching for Social Justice. It was organized by socialist and other left type groups, and endorsed by the teachers union. There were close to 1,000 educators and students who came from Washington and Oregon.

We set up a literature table in the common area, volunteered, and participated in several workshops. During the lunch break several more comrades came to distribute *Red Flag* to teachers and students. One workshop showed a documentary on the teacher strike in Mexico. When offered the paper with many articles on the strike, some people remarked that they knew all about it from the documentary. “This is different,” we replied. “This is about a communist group of teachers struggling for communist education in

the midst of the strike.” They immediately saw that we were not just reporting on a reform movement, we were talking about revolution.

We were able to reach many new people, and reconnect with old friends. Our table was consistently surrounded with folks who wanted to know if we were really communists, and why. Many were surprised that we had such controversial ideas on education. The crowd was very diverse and multiracial. Many were from Latin America, Asia and the Middle East.

Not surprisingly, a coworker told us she felt the prison workshop was interesting, but did not provide any answers on what she could do to stop the racist incarceration of young men of color. We talked about how the whole system is designed to keep groups of workers constantly underemployed, underpaid and uneducated so that they can be super exploited. The only way to end it is to end capitalism.

The idea put forward in some workshops was that more democracy and justice would save our schools. But why fight to save our schools if they are bad? Children are stuck there for 12 years or more... isolated from the real working world. Therefore, it is not surprising that they do not understand how the world works and what their role could be. In a communist world stu-

dents and workers will teach and learn together. There will be no separation of mental and manual labor.

In one workshop a comrade spoke to her breakout group about how we should stop encouraging kids to be lawyers and instead teach them to fight the system and break the laws that the ruling class set up to keep us all down. They need to know that there will never be justice or democracy for workers under their system. One facilitator overheard her and said, “That's exactly what we need to do!” He encouraged her to raise it when we regrouped. Unfortunately the workshop ran overtime and we had to end it then.

We should not be afraid to openly raise communist ideas in conferences like this one. Although they are organized by revisionists and reformers, people who come are not necessarily won to their politics. We learned this during the Occupy movement. Our ideas are like fresh air to workers, students and soldiers. They often remark, “I never thought about it that way” or “You've given me a whole new perspective”!

We not only got out a lot of lit, but we have an ever-expanding list of people who are interested in our “pizza and politics” groups. We really need to get out a pamphlet on the question of education. Many people have expressed interest in reading more. It will be very helpful to have at coming events.



The teacher in struggle is also teaching.

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California Trust Act: Trust the Government? No!

TRUST THE WORKING CLASS MOBILIZED FOR COMMUNISM!

California Governor Jerry Brown signed two bills in October that are being trumpeted as “helping immigrants.” He is acting because the House of Representatives has refused to pass Obama’s Comprehensive Immigration Reform (CIR). “While Washington is waffling on immigration, California is forging ahead. I’m not waiting,” said Brown.

The California legislature and Brown passed a bill granting driver’s licenses to undocumented immigrants—starting in 2015—after they pass the written and driving tests. They will have to buy car insurance. But these licenses will be marked to show that the person whose name and picture is on it is undocumented.

The second is the “California Trust Act,” which limits the state’s cooperation with “Secure Communities,” a fascist federal program that allows ICE to screen fingerprints taken by local police, and to check immigration status of those arrested to hold and deport them. Brown refused to sign a similar bill last year because he said it didn’t include enough exceptions for which immigrants would be held for deportation!

The version that the legislature passed and Brown signed includes a longer list of exceptions, including anyone convicted of a felony, several specific misdemeanors, or “a crime threatening public safety,” an obvious reference to youth that the racist cops accuse of being gang members.

The number of deportations carried out during Obama’s presidency will soon reach 2 million people, more than any other US President has deported! The “Secure Communities” program led to many of those deportations by requiring that immigrants arrested for any reason be held for ICE checks.

Now some of the same people who supported

that program, like Janet Napolitano, former head of ICE, campaigned to get the Trust Act passed. She and the imperialists she represents need the same families they have terrorized with mass deportations to trust them and their racist fascist system.

These US bosses don’t want so many immigrants deported because they need them to be hard working, patriotic slave laborers in their factories, especially war industries. They also need immigrant workers to patriotically send their more than four million native-born children into the military to serve the imperialists as cannon fodder as they pivot to Asia and prepare for war against China.

For now, unable to pass the CIR, which has been stalled by their capitalist domestic rivals like the Tea Party, the imperialist politicians are passing “piece-meal” bills to try to calm the justified anger and mistrust that immigrant workers have, to keep immigrant workers in the US as low paid workers and soldiers, and pressure Congress to pass CIR. To overcome the opposition their plans face in Congress, conservative Republican businessmen are planning to withdraw funding from Tea Party candidates who oppose CIR.

But we should not trust any capitalist-imperialist. They want us to march behind their flag: the US imperialist flag of racism, sexism, exploita-



Let’s Fight For a World Without Borders Down with Capitalism!

tion and mass murder. No bosses’ flag is our flag, and no law will liberate workers from racist capitalist wage slavery and terror.

Only communist revolution will put an end to racist terror, wage slavery, borders and nations. When immigrant workers mobilize for communism, they can and will give crucial leadership in the factories, the military and schools, to the fight of all workers to put an end to the bosses’ exploitation and their wars with communist revolution.

We workers, immigrants and citizens alike, need to put our trust in the international working class mobilized for communism. By spreading **Red Flag**, we will mobilize our friends, families and co-workers to collectively build the communist revolution we need. Organized into ICWP, we will plan, organize and fight for a communist world where workers will be welcome everywhere and mobilized to contribute to meet our class’s needs. Join us!

RED FLAG IMPACTS IMMIGRATION MARCH WITH COMMUNIST IDEAS

A group of youth, comrades and friends of ICWP, participated in a march demanding U.S. Immigration Reform. This reform is being driven by the capitalist government. Their plans are to assure the servitude of millions of immigrant workers in different industries like agriculture, garment and especially the war industry. They plan to use the children of immigrant workers as future soldiers in their wars, especially in the war against China.

Our plan is to mobilize the masses for communism in all of these industries. And most importantly to join the army and organize within it so that soldiers unite with the international working class and make revolutionary communist war against capitalism. In this process **Red Flag** plays an important role and that is why we have to make sure that it reaches all of these places.

Waiting for the march to start, a worker said, “Communism doesn’t work anywhere. Tell me of one place where it has worked.” His friends were

around him. “Communism has only been practiced for brief periods in history, like in ‘war communism,’ but in the end, it was socialism that was established in Russia, China, Cuba and other places. Socialism doesn’t eliminate wages, privilege or the market. The government administers state capitalism,” responded a comrade.

“What do you want with communism?” asked his friend.

“We want the masses of workers to control all of the means of production, the factories, the land and all of the industries necessary to maintain life, without any owners,” said the comrade.

A small group of workers were listening intently to the exchange. “You want to take away the factories, the land and everything that the owners have, but they have worked hard to get it,” answered the one that had first spoken.

“These capitalist owners are criminals. Everything they have has been gotten on the basis of the exploitation of workers, and this is a criminal act. We want a communist world without borders. Then all of the production necessary for humanity will be organized collectively by all of the workers. We will all receive according to our needs



FOR A WORLD WITHOUT BORDERS LET’S FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM! ICWP

Immigration Reform= Prolonged Slavery!

and contribute according to our commitment,” responded the comrade. In the end, all the workers in the group took **Red Flag**.

In the march the youth played an active role. They helped distribute 900 **Red Flag** newspapers.

A young student comrade declared, “I experienced a moment with the ICWP marching over two miles and distributing **Red Flag**. It was awesome. People were motivating us by saying, ‘¡Qué viva el comunismo!’ (Long Live Communism!) A lot of people took the **Red Flag**. Of course there were some negative comments but it didn’t stop me and my comrades. A woman said to us, ‘You guys look great. Can I take a picture of you?’ Explaining **Red Flag** to people was a good experience. Not only were they learning, but I was too.”



New View of Haitian Revolution Shows :

HOW THE MASSES MAKE HISTORY

This is not a book review. It does, however, ask you to read *The Making of Haiti* by Caroline Fick. This book could be a start of collectively re-evaluating the Haitian revolution as not just a successful revolution against chattel slavery and colonialism but also against the mass institutions (the plantations) of wage slavery. Perhaps the Haitian revolution which also abolished night work some 70 years before the Paris Commune should be placed among the great working-class revolutions of history.

The book is an important starting point because it makes the masses the makers of history. It is the story of the development of an heroic mass line. It throws light on the field slaves' organizations, ideological struggles, skills, development and achievements. You are one-third of the way through the book before there is even mention of Toussaint L'Ouverture, the famous general. He is mentioned then because as a free black he could travel openly from one plantation to another carrying news of upcoming, or accounts of past, night-time secret meetings. Yet even at that time Toussaint had his feet in both camps, with connections to the French royalists (not the French revolutionaries).

By any objective point of view, Haiti in the late 1790s was the most unlikely place to project a successful revolution against slavery. Plantation slavery was central to the worldwide development of industrial capital. It provided super profits (a slave ship could return a profit of 300% on one



Contemporary Depictions of the Haitian Revolution Dishonestly Show the Victorious Slaves Surrounded by the French

voyage). It provided the new European industries with cheap raw materials. It provided them markets for their manufactured goods. It even developed their banking system since the volume of the trade, and the time it took to sail the circuit from Europe to Africa to the Americas and back to Europe, demanded the creation of a credit system the likes of which had never been seen.

In all of this, Haitian plantations were the most profitable in the world. Controlled by French colonialism, they were coveted by both British and Spanish imperialists. In short, the armed might of three of the most powerful nations in the world wanted slavery in Haiti. But Frick's book doesn't spend much time on this "objective" situation. Her book deals with the key "subjective"

factor – the slaves themselves.

The struggle against Haitian slavery is a long, rich and complicated history, which we won't go into here, except to highlight three points which suggest that a study of the revolution will help us today realize key features in the development of a mass revolutionary line.

First, in the late 1790s many of the slaves bought from the Kongo were soldiers who had been captured in a civil war. Their military skills undoubtedly helped in securing the first stunning victories of the revolution. Military work is key.

Second, at a crucial point after the defeat of the French, Haitian leaders like Toussaint tried to re-impose the plantation system, offering the workers a quarter of the profits as wages. The ex-slaves refused. The similarities between the work-discipline rule of chattel slavery and wage slavery help illustrate the deep connection between racism and capitalism (a scenario that is playing out again today in South Africa).

Third, the power of the mass line. Toward the end it was Christophe, a black general who turned and sided with the French, who finally assessed the hopelessness of the French position. It was not the military might of the revolutionaries that would win the day. In fact he thought they could be defeated. "The danger [to the French]," he pointed out, "was in the general opinion of the blacks." It was a concept Marx was to point out years later: "Ideas, when grasped by the masses, become a material force."

DINNER ADVANCES THE BUILDING OF COMMUNISM

In late September, in the center of Mexico, five ICWP comrades organized a dinner meeting for our friends who are *Red Flag* readers. A total of 13 people came to the meeting. The goal of the meal was for comrades to get to know the friends with whom each of us has worked separately. After the meal, we told our friends that we wanted them to get to know us as people and to learn more about our communist ideas. A comrade talked to them about ICWP's goal, and we invited them to continue to read *Red Flag* and help us spread it to their friends.

A friend, who has read *Red Flag* for several years but hasn't joined the Party, said that she would continue to read *Red Flag* and come to meetings because the comrades that she knows best are serious in their work and carry out

communist practices in one way or another. She said that we are in the capitalist system and reproduce capitalist ways of acting, but that if we want to change the system, we must act like communists.

Another friend said that in his experience of living in the US he could verify that the communist comrades are truly different. A communist family opened the doors of their home without knowing him and without him even being in the Party. They sheltered him and treated him like a son. This experience has made him advance his understanding of how communism will be in the future.

Other friends commented that some articles in *Red Flag* do not easily convey the Party's ideas because they seem to be written only for the Party members. We told them that we are

concerned that the paper clearly reflect the line of the Party, and that they can help make it more understandable and enjoyable by writing for it. *Red Flag* is the newspaper of the working class, and it inspires us when we read letters from friends and new comrades and know that our party is growing in other parts of the world.

At the end of the meeting I apologized to a friend because the meeting lasted longer than planned and he couldn't play in a soccer semi-final. He said, "Don't worry. Communism is more important." I answered, "Then we are advancing in the understanding of communism for our class."

All the participants agreed on the next date for a study group about production in capitalism and in communism. We comrades of ICWP in Mexico are advancing in building the Party.

OBAMACARE from page 8

Only communism can meet workers' health needs.

We need preventive care on a mass scale and the best possible treatment when it's needed.

Prevention can only come with eliminating the profit system with its constant deadly stress of capitalist exploitation. It means eliminating deadly pollution in food and in all production to guarantee a safe, healthy environment. Workers will reorganize all aspects of life to meet our needs, like eliminating freeways clogged with cars spewing pollutants. Collective physical activity will be a regular part of life. People will be healthier in a society where life is organized collectively based on communist relations, where we are all responsible for each other's well-being.

There won't be racist differences in workers' health care. Workers will mobilize to guarantee that no resource is spared to make every advance in sci-

ence and technology available to everyone, and masses will learn how to use and evaluate them.

Medicine and all science will be the property of the masses, not an elite few.

Teaching and learning about our bodies will be a mass undertaking for everyone from childhood until they die. That way we can make tremendous progress quickly in identifying, treating and curing diseases. The barefoot doctor movement in China trained tens of thousands of rural workers to be doctors. In communism, we will take that much further. Millions will learn to treat tens of millions more. Everyone who works with sick people will learn science, treat patients, and also give them physical care, ending the division between mental and manual labor. Patients will be cared for collectively by teams of health workers; their families will be included.

Masses of workers are becoming disillusioned with Obamacare and want decent healthcare for all. ICWP and *Red Flag* need to show our



Barefoot doctors in China

friends, families and co-workers that no capitalist reform, whether single-payer or reformed ACA, will solve the problem, but communist revolution will. We ask readers to write about capitalist and communist health care and to spread *Red Flag* now.

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.

Navy to Youth: “Just Show Up”

I've been going to the Navy recruiter for about a month and I noticed that they are very approachable and easy to talk to. The Army and Marines asked redundant questions but the Navy just moved straight to the point. “Just show up, we can handle the rest,” they told me.

They are more aggressive in their approach to recruiting, more so than the Army or Air Force or even the Marines. The recruiter was more eager to have me in the Navy than the Army guys were. Even the Marine guys told me I should join the Navy.

It didn't occur to me at the time, but I just got some information on the reason why. The ruling class really needs the Navy to be strong because the next world war is going to be a sea war for control of the Pacific Ocean. I got some information from a comrade that the US ruling class is planning to “contain” China by blockading their oil coming through the Indian Ocean from the Middle East.

Later I read more about this in *Red Flag*.

That was very interesting and I noticed after looking at the map that the Navy is very important to the ruling class. So the Navy is also important to the working class so we can reverse whatever they are trying to do. We would convince our shipmates that what the imperialists are trying to do is wrong and convince them to join the Party.

--Toby

Fighting Cancer in a Communist Society and Communism

This is written in response to the letter about workers' struggles against cancer in communism.

Excellent analysis by the writer to the question: does this mean that even in communism, cancer will be a problem? The conclusion of the comrade is very true; since even living in communism, this disease will continue to be a serious problem. But this is the challenge that communist society will have to meet in order to advance in improving workers' health.

We would also like to add other causes and factors contributing to cancer. According to the International Research Agency, it is predicted that by 2030 cancer will kill 13.2 million people worldwide; and the saddest part is that for the working class the probabilities of survival are minimal. The main cause of this phenomenon is capitalism since the causes of cancer are related to industrialization and destruction of the environment for the continued exploitation of the working class.

Since the times of older systems, the ruling classes have not had pity on humanity. Historically, workers in the fields, mines, and many other areas, have been subjected to working under the poorest conditions, exposed to radiation and toxins, and forced to consume processed foods that gradually kill workers, without being provided decent health care. Capitalism is no exception as it generates huge profits for the pharmaceutical and other related industries.

In communism, years of effort will be needed to stop the growth of cancer and other diseases. Apart from a better diet and better physical care to lower risk factors, we will have to continue advancing scientifically to develop new

curative treatments; and more importantly, every human being will have the necessary medical care. As the comrade said, “This world can only be achieved in communism.”

Capitalism must be judged by the suffering that it has caused workers. The only way to improve the conditions of the workers is to destroy the capitalists!

With love for the working class,

--*Red Flag* Readers



Farmworkers on strike in Colombia, Summer 2013

To Eliminate Monsanto: Eliminate Capitalism

Los Angeles, CA.—Recently, my daughter and nieces went to a protest against Monsanto. This company, that in the 1930's produced pesticides, made the chemicals for the atomic bomb and later, during the Vietnam War, produced Agent Orange.

Now Monsanto controls the production of grains worldwide. They created a type of genetically modified seed that cannot reproduce itself as natural seeds do. The seed has been genetically altered and can contain the genes of an animal, like a frog or a pig, to create a stronger seed that can resist any insect attack, and resist the cold or heat. This accelerates their growth, which meets the needs of big business, and not the workers or small farmers.

Recently Obama signed the “Monsanto Law,” an injunction that prohibits people from suing or making any type of claim for any health problems caused by the seeds. Growers are forced to buy the seeds. For example, in Colombia, with the Free Trade Agreement, farmers could be tried and sentenced for saving the seeds for the next year's crop. Farmers and their supporters challenged this by nationwide strikes in September.

The consumption of these genetically modified seeds brings serious damage to the workers' health, such as the development of cancer cells, tumors, etc.

In the discussion that we had with my daughter, we tried to find a solution to this social problem that affects us all. She told me that we have to put an end to Monsanto so that they stop producing genetically modified food. She gave me all kinds of solutions which we try to apply to our lives like planting some fruit trees. She also suggested buying organic food, which is inaccessible for us workers because it is too expensive. Capitalism makes you believe that the system can be reformed, giving many alternatives which my daughter proposed as a solution.

I told her that all this is very individualistic and that we are not thinking about a solution for this problem. We could protest and stop Monsanto, but someone else with a different name

will come, hungry for profits at the cost of our health. It was a very good discussion that took us to the point that the only possible answer is to destroy this murderous system and build a communist world. She didn't tell me this, but I am sure she thought about it.

This brings a new generation of young people who want to transform the world who are offered fashionable answers like thinking green and acting green. This is just feeding capitalism. They need to know that life isn't like that, that we have the power to change things and that we all deserve to grow in a healthy environment and to feed ourselves well with healthy food.

--Garment Worker Comrade

What's Going on?

With this government that every day is more divided, could it be true that the monetary system is faltering, as it has been predicted, and that the closure is more serious than what people think?

How could it be possible that the families of the soldiers who died in battle, defending the interests of the rich people of this country are taking out loans to bury them, just because their benefits have been denied? Like dominoes, they are going from office to office.

Another problem is the long lines at the WIC office, which gives food to children who are US citizens. Now! What changes can we expect next?

Workers who help with their labor give their vote to these politicians who promised them something, but who now turn their back on them and forget that it's people like these who allow them to bring food to the table, whether it's in the White House or any other house in North America.

Should we say thanks on Thanksgiving Day? While the FDA keeps denying health services and salmonella continues causing illness and deadly infections?

You think that it should be us who will assess the turkeys and give thanks for the high prices of basic necessities, like milk, meat, and everything else. This brings us inflation, changes which affect all of us—you and me—like everyone who ends up being the victim of those who are too divided to make a decision—republicans or democrats.

What could there be behind this smoke screen?

Something that many don't want to join; they take the easy road and withdraw so they don't commit themselves. Will it be another Desert Storm, coming again like the government did, years before? What will they call it this time? Because although they don't talk about war any more, in the White House they live and breathe based on fragmented decisions—government, people, economy.

I'm a reader of *Red Flag*, which supports the road to a better life, and this would be starting a movement where we give voice to common thoughts and ideas which answer to our liberty.

Let's fight for ourselves, our children and class brothers and sisters. *Red Flag* reflects the true fight that understands the need of a people hungry for communism. Let's join to develop ourselves, ALL of us participating, for a better world.

--Reader in Los Angeles

Many who fought for Obamacare feel betrayed.

COMMUNISM: THE ONLY HEALTHY SYSTEM

National Healthcare was proposed in the US with many promises and hopes that health care would be available to all and that “economies of scale” would make it more affordable and effective.

However, the actual “Affordable Care Act” is anything but. This law ensures that the bosses, including the insurance industry, profit at the expense of the working class. Obamacare shifts payment for healthcare even more from corporations’ profits to workers, increasing workers’ taxes to pay for health care.

Workers with employer-sponsored group coverage will take even bigger hits than they have already, with increased co-payments and deductibles. The coming tax on these so-called “Cadillac” plans gives the bosses another excuse to limit coverage and raise workers’ costs.

Immigrants who do not have a green card are completely excluded from Obamacare.

The hype is that higher-paid workers with health insurance will pay more to cover the costs of lower-paid workers who have no health insurance, except immigrants without a green card. But lower-paid workers will get minimal cover-

age and the bosses’ profits are not touched. Cuts in MediCal and Medicare mean even worse health care. The bosses want a health care system to patch up workers and soldiers and get them back to work or the battlefield.

Healthcare and profits don’t mix!

Capitalism is not capable of or interested in providing the health care all workers need. In the name of “equality,” the bosses are forcing all workers to have minimal, dangerous health care. The workers suffer cuts and the capitalists protect their profits. Any taxes the bosses pay will be for war, not workers’ health care.

Many workers’ struggles aim to stop increases in the cost of health benefits. But no matter how militant, these struggles will not stop the attacks on workers’ health care.

Many who are seeing that the ACA is an attack are calling for “Single-Payer National Health Care” that eliminates the insurance companies’ profits. They point to Canada as a model. While most workers in Canada get a similar level of care, it doesn’t meet their needs. Many crucial



Health Workers on Strike in Kenya, 2012

tests and treatments are denied because they are expensive—with deadly results.

Whether single payer or private insurance, it’s still capitalist health care. In El Salvador, if you don’t get your medicine on the first day of the month, by the second day there often isn’t any left. In every country with national health care, the rich buy better care.

See OBAMACARE, page 6

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

DIALECTICAL THINKING BEFORE MARXISM

This is the first in a series on the history of dialectical philosophy.

The central idea of dialectics is the unity and struggle of opposites, that is, contradictory tendencies that are tied together and cause things to change and develop. Philosophy based on this idea is essential to the science of communism.

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels were the founders of communist philosophy, but they did not start from scratch. They borrowed ideas from a long history of dialectical thought that dates back at least 25 centuries in Europe and was developed independently in China and India. We can only mention here the earliest and latest stages of that history.

The earliest major dialectical thinker in European history was the Greek philosopher Heraclitus, who lived about 2500 years ago in what is now western Turkey. Heraclitus said that conflict is universal, “the father of everything,” and makes some people slaves and others free.

Heraclitus emphasized that opposite qualities of things exist at the same time: “Seawater is very pure and very foul water; for fish it is drinkable and life-sustaining, for people it is undrinkable and deadly.” “Writing is both straight and crooked.” He recognized that things have a connection to their opposites, a connection that turns back on itself, “like a bow or a lyre.”

Heraclitus drew the conclusion that everything constantly changes, that it isn’t possible to step in the same river twice, since different water is constantly flowing by. He also said that things tend to turn into their opposites: disease turns into health, weariness into rest, hot into cold, etc.

Heraclitus’ ideas were not well received by most other ancient Greek philosophers. They wanted to see stability in the natural world and social life, trying to make it plausible that the slave-owning class they represented would continue to rule indefinitely. Criticism by Heraclitus’ opponents spread his ideas and allowed them to influence later generations.

Hegel’s Big Contribution

The last major figure in the development of dialectical philosophy before Marxism was the German philosopher G. F. W. Hegel, who died in

1831. Hegel understood that he was following in Heraclitus’ footsteps and wrote that “there is no proposition of Heraclitus which I have not adopted in my logic.”

Hegel was inspired by the French revolution and worked closely with people fighting against the feudal monarchy in Prussia. He saw that conflict and contradiction are found everywhere, and that things and processes can only move themselves forward because they contain contradictions.

While contradictions within something can last a long time, they move toward their own elimination. The process of a contradiction eliminating itself is called “resolution.” Hegel argued that resolving contradictions gives rise to new situations, which will contain new contradictions that require resolution.

Hegel made a profound and thorough (but very difficult) study of contradictions and other topics in dialectics, and applied these concepts to nature and society. This was the reason that Marx declared that Hegel was a “mighty thinker” and regarded himself as Hegel’s pupil.

Despite Hegel’s contributions, Marx and Engels found two serious errors in Hegel’s philosophy. The first was that Hegel was not a materialist. Materialism says that material objects and structures are the basis of our thinking about them, thinking that represents those things more or less correctly. Our ideas about reality come ultimately from practical interaction with it.

Hegel did not see matter as the basis of thinking, but thinking as the basis of material things. He claimed that thinking is the “essential nature” of things, that thinking “goes out of itself” into things, and that “logical reason” holds the properties of things together and forms their unity. Marx rejected this idealist view as the reverse of the truth. He said that Hegel’s philosophy was standing on its head, and needed to be turned over to stand on its feet, on material reality.

Hegel’s second big mistake was directly about dialectics. Hegel maintained that contradictions could be resolved in ways that preserved both opposite sides in a “higher unity,” a synthesis that made them no longer contradictory. Marx argued

that this is dead wrong about contradictions in the material world of society and nature. These are resolved by “fighting to a decision,” with one side defeating the other. As we will see in future columns, this idea is the core of communist dialectics, with profound implications for the fight for communism.

Next column: *Marx and Engels initiated communist philosophy.*

DIALECTICAL IDEAS IN ANCIENT CHINA

The oldest known Chinese book, the *Yi-king* (1143 BCE) included the ideas – fundamental to dialectics — that everything is always changing and that opposites are interconnected. Examples included Yang and Ying, heaven and earth, male and female, light and dark, strong and weak, father and mother. Changes in “heaven” and on earth were explained through the development of these polar opposites.

The philosopher Lao-Tse (or Laozi) wrote that “when everyone on earth declares beauty beautiful, ugliness is thereby postulated. When everyone on earth recognizes the good in goodness, thereby is evil postulated. Being and non-being produce each other. Heavy and light complete each other. Long and short compose each other. High and low invert each other. Voice and tone wed each other. Before and after follow each other.” (around 600 BCE)

Mo’-ti’ (or Mozi), a carpenter and inventor, brought materialism into ancient Chinese dialectics. For example, he wrote that “My view of being and non-being rests on what the actual experience of the eyes or ears of the people accept as existent or non-existent, that is, on what is seen and heard.” (around 400 BCE) It shouldn’t surprise us to learn that Mo’-ti’ took a revolutionary attitude toward the ruling class of his time and that he believed that people could change their circumstances and direct their own lives.