



# RED FLAG

**MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM**

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



## South African Student Rebellion: **CALLS US TO MOBILIZE FOR COMMUNISM WORLDWIDE**

### **INTERVIEW WITH A NEW COMRADE IN BANGLADESH**

**Red Flag:** We are building one party around the world. We hope you can join us and help build it.

**HS:** It would be delightful for me to be with such a party, which we have been longing for. I think each member should know about each other, so that we could feel a strong bond among us. Thus we feel as a family across the world. What's your opinion, dear Comrade?

Needless to say, I'm very inexperienced in this particular field, so please feel free to give me your ideas. Any time, about anything. I would like get any kind of dialectical advice, which may help me be a true, concrete Communist indeed.

**RF:** Thanks comrade. Together we can change the world and get to know each other. When you get some time, comrade, would you be interested in translating some of our documents into Bengali?

**HS:** Wow what great news for me! In fact at this very early stage I have the intention of doing that. But I need to read fundamental writings based on Dialectical Materialism, not by the capitalist thinkers, but, of course, by Communists.

**RF:** What kind of work do you do?

**HS:** Here, many workers are going to the Middle East, under the GCC's GAMCA. (Gulf Countries'S Committee's Approved Medical

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October 28—South African students have once again shown their rebellious spirit. We call on rebellious students to join the fight for a communist world without money, where education and everything workers need will be free and accessible.

The uprising against the Government's raising of tuition fees began at the University of Witwatersrand ("Wits"). On October 21 tens of thousands struck, occupying the administration building, marching, and blocking roads with burning tires. The cops attacked with rubber bullets and teargas. The rebels stood their ground.

The rebellion quickly spread across the country, including the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Tshwane University of Technology and Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in Port Elizabeth. Thousands—black, white and Indian united—demonstrated at the parliament in Capetown. Several hundred burst into the building, interrupting finance minister Nhanlhla Nene's speech.

The next day a huge, militant crowd gathered in front of the seat of government in Pretoria. President Zuma then felt he had to cancel the fee increases, but not the fees.

Now many want to escalate the fight to demand abolishing fees altogether. Despite mass protests, the reformist leadership has made a deal with the government to try to end the protest.

But while free education sounds good, this is still capitalist education. It is inherently anti-

working class, anti-communist, racist and elitist whether it's sold or given away.

#### **We Need Communist Education**

Communist education will break down barriers between learning and doing. Study and work will be combined from early on. Students won't have to wait decades before contributing to society. And workers will continue to study throughout their lives.

Communist education will also break down the barriers between mental and manual labor—between the desk and the (work) bench. Everyone will do both mental and manual work.

Finally, communist education will abolish the informal racial/ethnic apartheid found in schools throughout the world. Everyone will be encouraged to develop to their full potential serving the working class in many fields.

All this will require a revolution for communism.

The South African student rebellion is a huge movement with very modest demands. We need a mass armed uprising with huge goals: the abolition of capitalism. Such an uprising, including masses of students, will be led by the communist working class and its Party and Red Army, and have as its goal building a communist society based on collectively meeting the need of all workers.

Under communism, there will be no fee increases and no fees. Money will be abolished

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**SYRIA:  
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WAR =  
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**THIS IS A  
3-WEEK  
ISSUE**



## Syrian Civil War: Capitalists vs. Capitalists

# IMPERIALIST WARS CREATE HUGE OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNISM

The Syrian masses are “voting with their feet” against the deadly four-year civil war between the Assad government and many rebel groups including the Islamic State (ISIS). About 22 million people lived in Syria in 2011. Close to half are now homeless (internally displaced or forced to migrate) and about 250,000 are dead.

This war – like others raging elsewhere – creates a desperate need and tremendous opportunities to mobilize masses everywhere for communism.

Who’s behind ISIS? Capitalists! And Assad and the Syrian state? Other capitalists! Although main-stream media will never admit it, it’s a war of capitalists versus capitalists. And not just rival gangs of regional capitalists. Syria is one front in the long-simmering war for world dominance mainly between US imperialism and its imperialist rivals China and Russia.

Some self-declared anti-imperialists support the butcher Assad, arguing that the US is the “main enemy.” Others want a “no-fly zone” led by US war criminals to keep Assad from bombing Syrian civilians. The Syrian masses, including those in squalid refugee camps and those trapped between fences in Europe, will gain nothing by supporting either capitalist gang. But if they organize to turn the guns around and take power into their own hands they can help lead the way toward communism.

**Syria is not an isolated case.** From the Iraq-Turkey border in the North to the Yemeni beaches in the South there are eight different battlefronts in the Middle East. They involve twelve Armies and two major powers (the US and Russia). The recent Russian offensive in Syria has significantly sharpened the situation.

Three years ago, the Israeli bombardment of Gaza seemed exceptional in its brutality. Since then an appalling list of cities, towns and villages have been bombed and shelled to rubble in Yemen, Iraq and Syria as well as Palestine.

War is how capitalism determines “peacetime” trade relations and national borders. The US victory in World War II won it access to the world’s key raw material: Mideast oil. It enabled the US to establish military bases in Western Europe and Japan, plus institutions of imperialist domination: the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the World Trade Organization.

Today the spreading world capitalist crisis is increasing global tensions. Like it or not, the rulers are dragging us on a course that will lead to another world war. That hellish war will decide which robber billionaires (Russian, Chinese or US) will make the rules for plundering the world’s resources and exploiting the world’s masses.

That is, unless the communist-led masses seize the time and wrest power from capitalist warmakers everywhere.

Capitalist war is terrifyingly destructive. World War II killed about 4% of the world’s population. Japan’s industrial capacity was de-



In October 1918, in the last days of World War I, a sailors’ rebellion at Wilmershaven, Germany spread to nearby Kiel. Thousands of workers occupied ships and buildings and eventually seized control of the whole city. By November 3 the mutinies had blossomed into a revolution. Inspired by the communist revolution in Russia, they also formed soldiers and workers’ councils. Within days the German war effort crumbled and Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicated his throne. But the German revolution was for capitalist democracy, not for communism. Twenty years later, the world was again at war.

stroyed. Much of Germany’s was too, and more was dismantled afterward. German steel production was capped at 25% of the prewar level, and car production at 10%.

But we must understand war dialectically and not allow its brutality to immobilize us with “shock and awe.” At the very moment that capitalism’s productive forces explode in bombs and missiles, its essential weakness is exposed. Both capitalist World Wars unleashed a tsunami of revolutionary energy among the masses. (See *Russian Revolution*, page 8.)

**Capitalism’s fatal flaw** is that it can’t openly mobilize armies to fight for the bosses’ system of wage slavery and profits. That’s why communism still haunts the capitalists although it is not presently a mass force.

Communism will replace the profit motive with the human motive: production for need, not profit. Even diehard capitalists realize that when the masses seize that idea, no force in the world will be able to stop us.

Unable to mobilize an ideological defense of profits, the capitalists rally the masses around religion (Islam, Judaism, Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism) or nationalism (Palestinian, Kurdish, Syrian statehood) or flat-out racism.

But their need to lie is a strategic weakness. Sooner or later their web of deceit begins to unravel. At that moment the masses can turn in a revolutionary fury. Communists within the bosses’ armed forces can organize this fury into a Red Army that, united with industrial workers, will end capitalism forever.

**Already opportunities are growing.** Masses are in motion. Minds are opening to communism. For example, Palestinian youth are again rising up against Israeli fascism and rejecting the leadership of Hamas and the PLO. Amidst an

atmosphere of racist terror, more Israeli soldiers are speaking out against the atrocities they’re ordered to commit.

**Communism and only communism** – not pacifism or nationalism or religion – can unite rebellious workers, soldiers and youth worldwide. Communism has no need to conceal its true aims because nearly everyone stands to gain in a society organized around the human motive.

On the contrary: communism needs to spread its true aims far and wide because such a society can only be realized by masses consciously committed to the communist goal.

Earlier communist movements didn’t do this. We must learn from their mistakes as well as from their heroic struggles especially during the extreme hardships imposed by world war.

**Let the imperialists start their wars. The communist-inspired masses will end them!**

*Past Red Flag articles have described mutinies and resistance movements that emerged in periods of world war. In coming issues we will write about mass mutinies in France during World War I, the communist-led resistance movement in Greece during and after World War II and more.*



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## SWEATSHOP WORKERS ORGANIZE ICWP COLLECTIVES

EL SALVADOR—Recently, men and women comrades of the International Communist Workers' Party met in a mountainous area in the northern part of the country. There we maquila workers, farm workers and teachers from different areas of the country shared our ideas.

During the discussion of the international report, we analyzed the conflict between Russia and the US and correlated it with the current scenario in Syria. Recently a Russian deputy revealed plans to export tons of wheat and oil to Syria. This nation, bloodied by the conflict between the pro-Assad bosses and the pro-Islamic radicals, will pay for them in the form of credits. That means indebting the nation in the short and medium term. This is a cost that will be paid by the workers.

A teacher comrade mentioned that this shows that the bosses, far from being interested in the wellbeing of the working class, are fighting for control of markets. Their wars decide which capitalists must locate their businesses and exploit in that nation or in another where a war is developing. Another comrade added that all capitalist wars have as their goal money and control of financial markets.

We addressed the problem of the refugees in Europe through reading the editorial in *Red Flag*. We discussed how the capitalists show their class hatred, appealing to the racism and xenophobia against these people who are fleeing due to the conflicts generated by the same bosses themselves.

However, along the borders of Bulgaria, Austria and Serbia, hundreds of workers are organizing to help their peers with food, shelter and medical care. This shows workers' solidarity with other workers, an action that appeals to the communist movement and represents the opportunity to win more people to fight for communism, not to reform the laws imposed by capitalist governments.

### Class Struggle in the Factories: Workers Need Communist Revolution, Not Reforms

One co-worker was attending a Party meeting for the first time. She commented that in the F

and D factory where she sells her labor power, the boss was demanding that each module produce 9,600 shirts in five days, in exchange for the ridiculous bonus of \$12 for each of the 16 workers who form each module.

By Friday of last week, the men and women workers of one module had produced 9450 shirts, lacking a half an hour to finish the work day. That is, they were 150 shirts short of the goal. Given this and the harassment by the supervisors who "motivated" them to produce the amount demanded by the bosses, a group of workers met with the factory bosses, asking for more time to reach the goal. The bosses agreed at that moment, but when it was time to leave, they cut the electric service to the work area. That meant that the workers didn't reach the goal and were denied the bonus. This caused anger and indignation in the work modules.

A comrade commented, "We feel upset by this situation. The bosses expect us to be passive but soon we will organize a strike to demand the payment of this bonus."

Another co-worker added, "We have seen that we cannot count on the support of any union in this struggle. Those who we thought would support us are supporting the bosses. That's why we are here organizing with ICWP."

This situation is an example of capitalist overproduction. This week the comrades in this maquila produced three weeks' worth of products. They are supposed to produce these unusual and absurd quantities of clothes to satisfy the bosses' thirst for profits.

In communism it won't be like this. Production will be aimed at meeting the needs of the masses



May Day, El Salvador, 2015  
"Let's Destroy Capitalism & Build Communism! ICWP"

and not to generate profits for the capitalists. With the elimination of money, through communist revolution organized by ICWP, the problems of production generated by the bosses' system of exchange value will no longer exist. All workers, men and women, and their families will have time for recreation and cultural enrichment of the highest quality.

We will no longer have to work ourselves to death for the enrichment of a few and the impoverishment of the majority who are the productive forces of our society.

What we produce will be for our families and communities. The bosses will no longer steal from us the fruits of our labor. We will only achieve this by organizing more communist clubs in our workplaces through *Red Flag* so that we develop political consciousness and a constant struggle against the capitalist system.

The gathering ended in a comradely manner. Everyone enjoyed chicken with potatoes and tortillas freshly made by the farmworkers, who received us in a way that showed communist solidarity. We strolled around the area, enjoying nature in a communist collective revolutionary environment.

## BANGLADESH COMRADE from page 1

Center Association). I'm working in one of these medical centres, which is authorized by the GCC (Gulf Countries' Committee). Everyday people wanting visas come to us for their medical check-ups. Before and after the doctor's direct part, we have to do the whole proceedings to inform them, about the papers, rules and regulations, bindings of the GCC, and about the doctors' views about their fitness for getting a visa.

And also a crucial thing is for us to help those

workers ruled "unfit" realize and improve their situation, as these extremely needy labourers have spent a lot of money. You know this is a very corrupt country we live in. Here every step to do anything with others, no matter whether it is the State or the private support centre, needs a bribe. For four years I have been dealing with these workers who are seeking a job abroad.

You can easily understand, as I myself think, as a Communist, my feelings in dealing with these situations for so long. At this stage I realize

very clearly the role of capital, of the capitalists' grandeur, how they grind us down! But the only remedy is to fight against them with our combined force. Otherwise we will be destroyed within very short time; individually we can't do anything.

**RF:** Thanks so much, comrade, for explaining the situation. You are right, we can't do anything individually. We need to organize the international working class to destroy the rule of capital and replace it with communism, a society where there are no bosses, no profit, no borders... a society where every worker contributes according to his or her ability and everybody's need is met. I ask again if you would like to join ICWP and help us build such movement.

**HS:** Why not? From the core of my heart, I want to be a member of such a party in the world. What can I do to be a member of ICWP?

**RF:** We welcome you as a member of ICWP. You can do many things – read, write and distribute *Red Flag* among your friends, workers and neighbors. You can organize meetings with those who are interested in our ideas, form study groups to understand the ideas of *Red Flag* and ICWP. Massively distribute our literature, especially *Red Flag* and *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* and, as you have already offered, translate them into Bengali, hopefully with other comrades like you.



Los Angeles, June 2013



# INDUSTRIAL WORKERS GIVE LEADERSHIP TO EXPANDING RED FLAG DISTRIBUTION

SOUTH AFRICA—The International Communist Workers’ Party here has intensified the struggle to mobilize the masses for communism. Diligent and consistent struggle by comrades is bearing fruits. In a week we have distributed 300 *Red Flags* at various factories. Many comrades who were just readers of *Red Flag* a year ago are taking big steps in distributing *RF* and recruiting workers to ICWP.

The example of Comrade Z is encouraging. It shows that we can become a mass party for communism and smash capitalism once and for all. Comrade Z has experienced some of the worst things that capitalism creates. He has worked numerous jobs in various industries but hunger and despair followed him like a shadow. Prison, hunger, prolonged unemployment, and a severe work-related injury led him to question capitalism.

Comrade Z started coming to the ICWP study groups on dialectical materialism about two years ago. He rarely spoke. That was then. Now Comrade Z is leading us from factory to factory, no longer the shy person. He vigorously explains the line of ICWP to workers. He is relentless. He knows the city like the palm of his hand. No mat-

ter where we go, Comrade Z knows somebody and he makes sure they get the *Red Flag*. “I can easily distribute 1000 *RF*,” the comrade said. He never runs out of energy.

We can give many more examples. Workers who were attracted to nationalism are now defending ICWP. Similarly some students who liked the Pan African nationalism and politics of EFF (Economic Freedom Fighters, led by Julius Malema, a nationalist group which broke with the African National Congress) are seeing that these movements are created by capitalist bosses to divide the working class. A comrade in the metal industry has been consistently recruiting workers on the job using the *Red Flag*. A young comrade has formed a group of ICWP members in his neighborhood. We are also reaching out to the immigrant workers who come to South Africa looking for work.

All these activities are taking place in the midst of the worldwide capitalist crisis resulting in small and big wars, and the horrific conditions of the migrants. The working class is looking for an alternative to the unending horrors of capitalism. ICWP is providing the vision of that alternative: a communist society without borders or



money – a society based on the workers’ need. We have long way to go but the comrades are confident that we can win.

### Comments from a *Red Flag* reader in South Asia after reading the pamphlet “Communist Education for a Classless Society”

I read the pamphlet about Communist Education. It helps to make me to understand things quite well. I am really suffocating in the education system, I am in. All degrees and expertise are made to serve imperialism and capitalism in the name of better life and nationalism. The only thing which keeps me going is that I am learning and reading to develop an ideological background to fight imperialist propaganda of individualism. This pamphlet is very insightful. Thank you for sending it. Very soon I will read the other one. The pamphlet is available at [icwpredflag.org/EDU/EdPamE.pdf](http://icwpredflag.org/EDU/EdPamE.pdf)



### SOUTH AFRICA STUDENTS, from page 1

immediately. The masses mobilized for communism will guarantee not only education but basic needs like food and shelter. Everyone will contribute what labor and thinking they can to make this possible.

In South Africa today, apartheid is gone but racist capitalism is still here. As a result, money and profits rule. Everything, including education, is for sale. To try to get a decent job you have to buy an education (and there are no guarantees).

Clearly the fee increases are racist, hitting poor, mainly black students especially hard, forcing many to drop out. Hundreds of academics signed a letter supporting the anti-elitist aspect of the student protests. Earlier this year there were protests against racism in the Universities.

The students organizing these protests need to mobilize for communism. The way to end racism and elitism and guarantee that everyone’s contribution is appreciated is with a communist revolution and a communist society.

The students’ justified fear of unemployment drives the rebellion. The global crisis of overproduction is suffocating the South African economy. Whole industries (like steel) are threatened.

As production shrinks, so do government revenues. Governments cut spending, imposing austerity, as Nene’s speech revealed.

In communism, the challenge will not be to make do with a scarce supply of money but to make the most of an abundant supply of labor (the whole working population).

There will be no unemployment; no one will be forced to stay idle. We can always redeploy the resources to produce something else we need.

The fear of the rebellion spreading to the working class caused the ANC government to back down. And rebellion could spread not only to the South African workers, but elsewhere too. Think of the impact of the original Soweto student rebellion of 1976, of the rebellion in France in 1968 and the student uprisings that set off the Cultural Revolution in China in the 1960’s.

Students can start things; but it takes workers and soldiers to finish them. Revolution will not happen without a mass communist party—the

ICWP—mobilizing communist industrial workers and soldiers to mobilize the masses for communism.

The party is just starting out in South Africa but struggles like these give us an opportunity to grow there and around the world. Join ICWP to put an end to racist capitalism and give the masses the education they deserve. Students should spread *Red Flag* to mobilize their fellow students for communism. They can also join the ranks of industrial workers and soldiers to hasten the end of racist capitalism and the dawn of a communist world.



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## Racism in China: Part II

### REAL COMMUNISM WILL END RACIST IMPERIALISM

“China is ruled by a party that calls itself Communist, but its economic reality is one of rapacious crony capitalism,” wrote a *New York Times* columnist. The *Times* prints many lies, but this is true. The Chinese rulers, like other capitalists, promote racism in two ways — at home and abroad — as they project economic and military power worldwide.

Chinese capitalism is extending its reach in sub-Saharan Africa (see *Red Flag* v. 6 #14). It has become an imperialist super-exploiter and enemy of black workers there. From Nigeria to Zambia to Mozambique, African workers are fighting back.

For example, the Huajian Group is investing up to \$2 billion in Ethiopia to produce shoes for export to Europe and North America. An average Ethiopian shoe-factory worker earns about 25% of what a Chinese worker gets.

Chinese bosses complain that African workers are less “productive.” That means they plan speedup and other methods to intensify racist exploitation. Expect more and more class struggle!

And help us take advantage of this opportunity to spread communism to Ethiopia and elsewhere. Translate this article and *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* into any language you can and share them widely.

#### Racism against Africans in China

US imperialism in the Americas creates racism against workers from Latin America living in the US. French imperialism did the same to Vietnamese and Algerian workers. And it’s happening to workers from sub-Saharan Africa living in China.

An estimated 200,000 Africans live in Guangzhou, China’s third-largest city (population: 13 million) and a manufacturing hub. Many new arrivals hope to export low-cost Chinese products to Africa. Few want factory jobs: for that, they could have stayed at home.

Some immigrants come on 30-day tourist visas. Many are considered “illegal” for staying longer. Authorities raid their homes, impose fines and jail sentences, and sometimes beat them.

Other migrants come to stay. But African couples in China are denied state health care and education for their children. Their Chinese-born children don’t have the same legal status as children of Chinese parents.

Chinese can be openly racist toward Africans, even those who speak fluent Mandarin. They use nasty names for the African neighborhood in central Guangzhou. Africans often can’t get taxis. When fights start, it’s usually the Africans who are arrested and brutalized by the police.

In 2009, hundreds of Africans protested at a Guangzhou police station after a Nigerian man jumped from a second floor to escape an immigration raid. In 2012, a huge protest erupted when another Nigerian man died mysteriously in police custody.

Some successful African businessmen marry Chinese women who can legally run their enterprises. Often these wives are older workers trying to escape the factory. Their African partners, however, do not become legal residents.

These would-be entrepreneurs need to learn that capitalism is racist to the core—wherever it is. “I’m living the American dream in the land of the dragon,” said one Nigerian merchant. But that “American dream” rests on a foundation of racism and genocide! Even successful African businessmen can’t escape the racism of Chinese capitalist society.

Guangzhong workers are at the epicenter of China’s strike wave. Many are immigrants from Southeast Asia. They were recruited five years ago when labor shortages were driving up factory wages. Now the economy is slowing. They will likely experience sharpening racist attacks. They and African immigrants and Chinese citizens must unite to mobilize for real communism. That’s how they will create the material basis to end all racism.

#### Communism: Inescapable Network of Mutuality

In communism nobody will exploit anyone’s labor. No group of workers will

take advantage of brothers and sisters elsewhere. Communism will erase national borders, making it possible finally to defeat imperialism’s racist ideology.

The capitalist wage system (even in socialism) leaves each household to fend for itself. This fosters individualism, contradicting workers’ need for class solidarity.

Individualism and labor-market competition create fertile ground for racism. The bosses’ politicians and ideologues sow the seeds. Their schools, media and culture water the poison weeds that take root.

Martin Luther King Jr. wrote from the Birmingham jail that we are all “caught in an inescapable network of mutuality.” In communism we will see this in daily practice. In a society without money it will be clear that “whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.” Life itself will reinforce communist anti-racist consciousness.

To win communism we must struggle sharply against the racist ideas that capitalists use to divide us. We must seek and build leadership from amongst the super-exploited and super-oppressed.

As we win and build communism, the former rulers, desperate to regain power, will intensify their racist attacks. Our fight against the material and ideological legacies of racist capitalism will sharpen. In the process the International Communist Workers’ Party will grow in numbers, confidence and influence — starting now.



2012 protest over death of Nigerian man in police custody



## HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS HAPPY TO HELP ORGANIZE FOR COMMUNISM

LOS ANGELES—In a recent edition of *Red Flag* there was an article about a discussion and drawings that high school students made based on the International Communist Workers’ Party leaflet of the refugee crisis and how communism will work.

“I felt good seeing my drawing in *Red Flag* because I didn’t think that my drawing was important for the project they are working on to accomplish communism,” commented the first student.

“My drawing was a world with no borders with all the people holding hands. I drew this because I began to think that this newspaper would eventually reach many countries including El Salvador.

“I thought about the situation in South Africa and other places and how it was really bad. I hope the drawing can help a little and that everyone can do something so that we live with communism; without money or borders. In a world where we are all able to eat and there won’t be poor nor rich people. That way we can have what we need like food, shelter, and clothing without

having to pay for them.”

This young man is now distributing six newspapers to his friends.

Another student put it this way: “The way my drawing was presented in the article and the information was real good. It gave me a good feeling. It was described with such great detail.

“I believe that communism is a good thing because it validates everybody to do something based on what they can do. If people get informed about it, they would like it. This is why I’m helping to distribute the newspaper.”

“I felt really cool when I saw my drawing that many in other countries will see,” a third student explained. “I hope that a lot of other students can take their time to think about communism because I believe it can change the world for the better.

“My mother is a single mother and my grandfather is of retirement age. Nevertheless, both still are forced to work super hard to be able to earn the money to pay off bills and provide us with everything we need.

“I see them getting home tired and stressed out

because they gave it their all and nevertheless they do not have enough to pay all the bills. It bothers me and I want to do something about it.

“I know that I can help distribute *Red Flag* to my family, friends and to many people at church so they can see what communism really is and can probably be part of the movement. I hope communism is achieved so that those workers who work day and night can be free of stress and so they can get what they need.”

Another student wrote the following poem based on the discussion:

*Communism!*  
A world where nothing  
will be the same.  
A world,  
where we do everything together.  
Food,  
for all the families.  
Jails,  
for what?  
Businesses,  
will no longer have their use.  
*Communism!*



## MAO ZEDONG'S "ON CONTRADICTION," PART I

The previous column in the series on the history of dialectics gave a brief summary of Mao's essay "On Practice." This week's column is the first of several analyzing Mao's essay "On Contradiction."

It is hard to exaggerate the influence that this one essay by Mao has had. It is likely that more people alive now have read it than any other text on dialectics. Compared to other works explaining the "new philosophy" that was developed in the 1930s in the Soviet Union, it is quite clear, and much of what it says is correct. It also lays out the Chinese Communist Party's version of the tremendously destructive political line adopted by the international communist movement in 1935, the "united front against fascism." Since this wrong political line leads to wrong philosophy, it is important to separate what is correct in the essay from what is false and reactionary.

### Two World Outlooks

The essay begins by explaining the difference between metaphysics and dialectics, two ways of looking at the universe and how it changes. The metaphysical way of thinking sees the world as made up of isolated, unchanging things. It sees things as static and stable, not changing at all or at most changing by the increase or decrease in the quantity of something. Metaphysical thinking claims to find capitalist exploitation and competition in all past human societies, even before social classes arose. It sees the changes that do happen as the result of external forces like geog-

raphy and climate.

Mao's essay explains the outlook of materialist dialectics, which says that things undergo real changes in quality, changes that produce what never existed before. These changes are not primarily the result of external forces, but of the internal conflict, the "contradictoriness" inside things and processes. Great social changes don't result mainly from geography and climate, but from internal social forces. China was undergoing big changes when Mao wrote but the climate was not. It was internal factors, especially class conflict, which was driving these changes, although some external circumstances are also required. Changes in nature are also mainly the result of internal contradictions.

Mao gave examples that make clearer the idea that changes come from the inside. If it is kept at the right temperature for a while, a fertilized egg turns into a baby chicken, but "no temperature can change a stone into a chicken." The temperature is necessary for the chicken to develop, but what is internal to the egg drives the process of creating a chicken.

Mao applied this internal analysis to war: "In battle, one army is victorious and the other is defeated, and both the victory and the defeat are determined by internal causes." The winning side had strength and good leadership. The losing side was weak or had incompetent leadership.

We should note that Mao is not saying simply that the stronger side wins. A weak army whose

leaders understand their weaknesses does not have to be defeated. It can retreat or use hit-and-run tactics. Mao makes a similar point about the defeat of the communists by Chinese capitalist forces in 1927, caused by political mistakes ("opportunism") within the communist party. He concludes that "to lead the revolution to victory," the party must "depend on the correctness of its political line and the solidity of its own organization."

### The Universality of Contradiction

Mao wrote that contradiction is universal in two ways. The first is that there are contradictions in everything in nature and in society, and these contradictions determine how the thing develops and changes. The second is that opposite sides of the contradictions in a process exist from its beginning to its end. Mao repeated arguments and examples from Engels and Lenin to show that contradictions are universal, unfortunately repeating Engels' incorrect claim that motion is itself a contradiction (this mistake was discussed in *Red Flag*, February 20, 2014). Mao also gave his own examples of interconnected opposites in war, like offense and defense or advance and retreat. This network of opposites "constitutes the totality of war, pushes its development forward and solves its problems."

Mao's discussion of the universality of contradictions is intended to introduce one of the main topics of the essay, the "particularity of contradiction." We will discuss this in the next column.

### LETTERS

#### Response to "I hate Capitalism, but I have doubts about Communism"

We read your letter (*RF* v. 6 #17) and the concerns that you expressed about communism. We know that capitalism means hunger, poverty, exploitation and oppression for the working class.

The area in which you work—marketing and sales—deals precisely with placement and selling of goods or services, the majority of which are not necessary for society. We discussed the issue with a friend and concluded that under capitalism the bosses impose patterns of consumption and behavior on society through their advertising media, television, and internet. Then they control the production of goods; that is, they produce A or B according to the tastes and preferences that they have imposed.

This scheme is known as the free market, neoliberalism, and globalization; here a consumer society is created. But the production of consumer goods is controlled by the ruling class that owns the means of production. The same class uses misleading advertising to sell, and monopolizes what in appearance is consumer preference. For example, advertising induces the consumption of Coca-Cola, a certain brand of beer, or a certain brand of tennis shoes.

Under capitalism, the use value of the product doesn't matter, what matters is its exchange value. Therefore, the working class is exploited to get maximum profit that goes into the pockets of the ruling class.

In communism, on the other hand, full importance will be given to use value. In this sense we think that commercial advertising should be abolished, advertising as it is now. During the building of communism, publicity should fulfill a role, but not of a commercial type. Instead, there should be massive publicity campaigns against racism, against exploitation, embracing communism, and that's where we think that you

### LETTERS

### LETTERS

can contribute.

**Mobilize the Masses for Communism** establishes as one of our guiding principles: "From each according to their commitment and capabilities, to each according to their needs." which is reason enough to show that there is no motive for everything to be homogenous.

In the ICWP we are all different, but we are the same class. We have the same goal: communist revolution to abolish capitalism and with it the wage system and class society. There is not only one single expression. There is criticism; we are guided by practice as the measure of truth. We invite you to join us in the struggle for Communism with the International Communist Workers' Party.

—Comrades in Mexico

### Same Enemy, Same Fight

Steel production illustrated how overproduction puts capitalism on trial in last issue's editorial. Since then, the crisis has spread.

According to the Swiss investment bank UBS the world now has an annual 553 metric tons of excess steel-production capacity. That's roughly the equivalent of 11,000 Montana-class battleships.

Imagine how many medical facilities, educational centers, apartments and community centers we could build with that much steel. That's exactly what we'd do under communism (after we've beaten the bosses' military). The ICWP would mobilize the masses to produce steel (and everything else) to provide for our collective needs.

But under this capitalist system overproduction is bad news for workers. Every day it's getting worse.

The editorial notes the threat to the South African and Mexican steel industries. The British newspaper *The Independent* says one in six UK steel workers will lose their jobs this month. Another 1,200 will be laid off as TATA

### CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

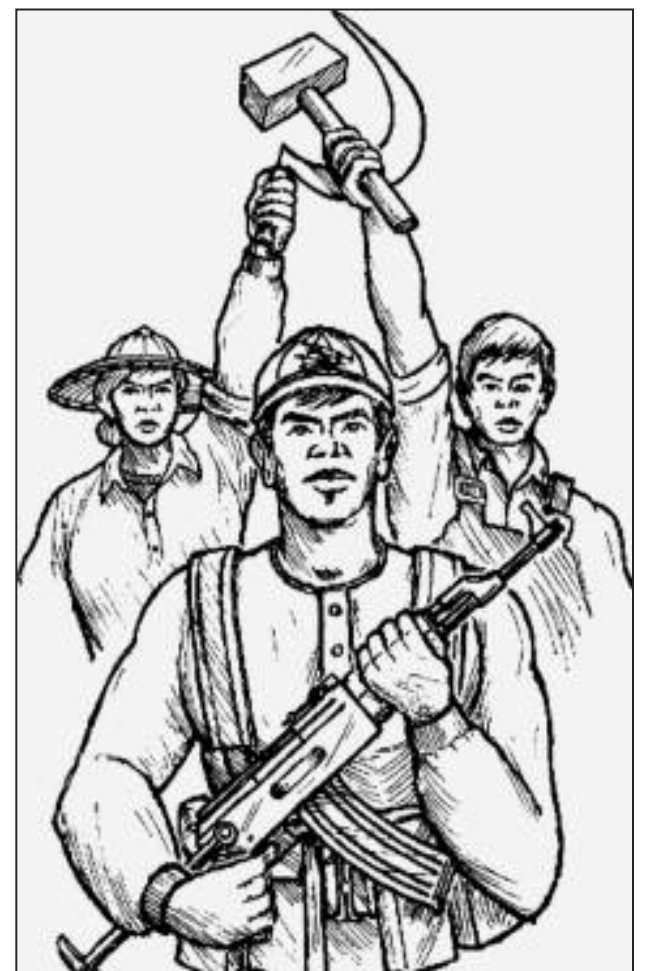
shuts sites throughout England and Scotland.

The U.S. heartland is next. The drop in commodity prices has sent an economic chill across a broad swath of the Midwest from the Gulf of Mexico to the Canadian border.

West Texas oil rigs have shut down. The drilling rigs, with their deep underground pipes, consumed much of the steel produced at the mammoth United States Steel plant outside of St. Louis. The company told more than 2,000 steel workers they are likely to be laid off next month. Miners who supply raw materials will follow.

I remember chanting "Same Enemy, Same Fight, Workers of the World Unite" at demonstrations. Overproduction has made it clear: the fight is to mobilize the masses for communism.

—U.S. industrial worker





## INDUSTRIAL WORKERS IN SOUTH AFRICA GOBBLE UP *RED FLAG*

### *Red Flag*: Food for Thought

My comrades and I went to an industrial area in town. It was lunch time so most of the workers were going to have some lunch. Then we met with four workers at the gate of a truck company called Nampark. They told us that they were there as early as 6 am and when we met them at 1 pm they were still looking for work. But there were no jobs. They were told this by the company.

So we told them about our party. One guy asked me an interesting question, "What's in it for us?"

We explained to him that under communism they won't need to look for work because everyone will have work. We would not produce for the market because we will abolish that, including money. They were very impressed. They asked for copies of *Red Flag* and they told us that they would also attend the conference.

After that we met some other workers as they were sitting preparing to eat their lunch. We gave them the *Red Flag*. They asked us what the difference is between us and the South African Communist Party (S.A.C.P.). We told them that the S.A.C.P. was trying to reform the system but we wanted to destroy it because it was unjust and evil. They told us that we should leave a few of the papers for their friends in the township, so we did.

—Comrades in South Africa

### COMMUNIST INTERNATIONALISM

After a two-day long journey, I finally arrived in South Africa. Since then I have lived a new experience, getting to know comrades from ICWP and a different culture.

I have seen comrades that I already knew and have met new comrades. In these few days I have learned a lot about their culture, language, food, houses and their experiences. The living conditions of the working class are similar throughout the world. Therein lies our

potential.

Our problems are similar. The government of the African National Congress (ANC) tried to raise tuition so high that only 1 of every 10 South African youths would be able to afford an education.

It's ironic and disgusting that the ANC once promised free capitalist education. The working class in South Africa, like the working class in El Salvador, has learned that we cannot achieve a decent life within capitalism through negotiations and elections. The fight for communist revolution is our only option.

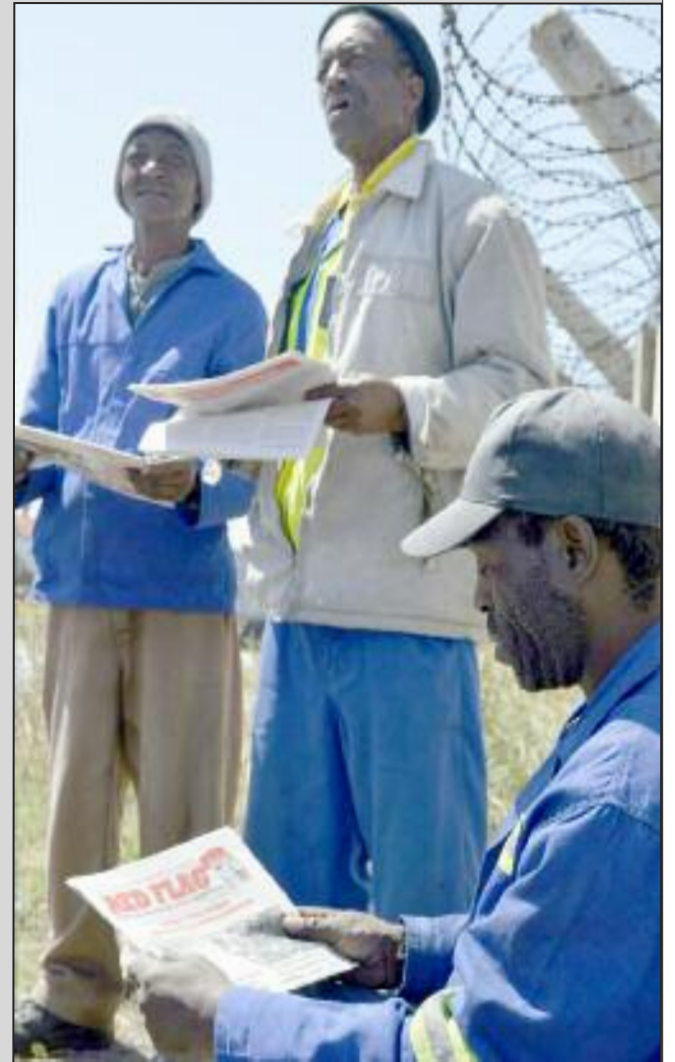
This city is a clear example of the capitalist system and the legacy of Apartheid that it keeps alive. You can see the contrast between black working-class neighborhoods and neighborhoods where the bosses live, which are mostly white.

"Many things have not changed. It's true that today we have the 'freedom' to be where we want, since there are no longer exclusive places for white people, but there is no economic freedom. We keep living in the same places, and we keep working for low wages," the comrade who is hosting me said. Capitalism promotes the illusion of freedom but no real freedom.

In capitalism, traveling the world is a privilege that the majority of workers cannot afford. Again, we have the illusion of freedom. In these days I have had time to think about how in a communist society, free from borders and racism, the human race will advance as never before.

In communism, we will be able to know the world and exchange experiences and knowledge among all of humanity. It will be a big change including in communist education. There won't be borders or money that prevent us from knowing things with our own eyes.

It was a gratifying and exciting experience to distribute our newspaper *Red Flag* to the workers today. Two other comrades and I went



to an industrial area. As we walked, we talked and handed *Red Flag* to the workers who were returning to their homes or beginning their shifts. Workers from different industries were reading communist literature.

We also met one of our comrades on his lunch break. He showed us the factory where he works and we continued our work.

This first experience shows the great potential that we have as a party in an industrial city. The working class is organizing worldwide. The party is putting communist internationalism into practice and this must motivate us to participate more actively for ICWP and *Red Flag*.

—Young Worker Comrade

### Newly Elected President of Guatemala: Racist Buffon

The *Red Flag* article on Guatemala in the last issue says correctly that the greatest crime of ex-president Molina was "racist genocide against the country's indigenous population." The newly elected president, Jimmy Morales, is no better — maybe, worse.

He recently said he doesn't believe genocide was committed during the 36-year civil war,

which killed 200,000 mostly indigenous workers.

What else could be expected of a comedian who built his career portraying the racist black-face stereotype Black Pitaya. Pitaya spoke in an infantile voice making self-deprecating racist jokes.

Morales continues to defend the character, which also appears in a line of shampoos and beauty products. Black Pitaya may not be the

worst of his crimes, but to allow the leading presidential character to wallow in such racist depictions is unacceptable. Racism matters: in Guatemala and everywhere!

The *Red Flag* article was right. The masses must mobilize for communist revolution. Only then can we build a world without racist black-face comedians that promote racist genocide.

—Seattle comrade

### Russian Revolution from page 8

Workers, soldiers and sailors had enough. In February of 1917, the Czar was overthrown in a revolution sparked by an International Women's Day demonstration. The monarchy was replaced by the Provisional Government led by the socialist Kerensky. Kerensky, backed by the Mensheviks, stayed in the war and even launched a disastrous offensive. By October 1917 workers, soldiers and sailors had once again had enough.

The Bolsheviks, realizing the time was ripe, set to work planning the insurrection. They'd already trained a Red Guard (workers' militia) and had thousands of soldiers and sailors ready to move. In Petrograd and some cities, they easily overwhelmed the opposition. In others, it was a harder fight. In Moscow it took six days of street fighting and over 1000 dead on the side of the revolutionaries.

Next basically everyone outside the working class and peasantry ganged up on the Bolsheviks. Mensheviks, most professionals, 'liberal' capitalists, monarchists and the 14 imperialist powers merged into a force called the "Whites." They waged a bitter three-year civil war which caused millions of deaths. But the Bolsheviks mobilized the masses, built a huge army which used revolutionary new tactics, and smashed the Whites.

So what went wrong? Why is Russia now an openly capitalist, imperialist state?

The source of the problem goes back to the issues behind the original split. It turned out that Lenin and most of the Bolshevik leaders also believed Russia needed a good dose of capitalism. The actual difference was that they believed it should be managed by communists, not by the old bosses.

As soon as the civil war was over they intro-

duced the New Economic Policy (NEP), which brought back money, the wage system, markets and production for profit. Over time, it also brought back crises of overproduction and unemployment.

Communists were put in the position of acting like capitalists. Over the years, they became what they were pretending to be. There was a lot of opposition to the NEP, and it took a while till the rot reached the top, but the end result was capitalism, not communism.

The ICWP will not make the same mistake. We will institute communism as soon as we take power, even before the inevitable civil war. No money, no wages, no market, no unemployment.

We start now mobilizing the masses for communism; we continue after the revolution. Together we will finish what the Bolsheviks started nearly a hundred years ago.



## **Russian Revolution Has Taught Us:**

# **NO REASON TO FIGHT FOR ANYTHING BUT COMMUNISM**

Almost a century ago (Nov 7, 1917) the Bolshevik party seized power in Russia. John Reed, who helped found the US Communist Party, wrote a famous eye-witness account entitled *Ten Days that Shook the World*. In the end the Bolsheviks failed to establish communism, but the capitalist world is still shaking from the attempt.

We in the International Communist Workers' Party are proud to be heirs of the Bolsheviks. We have learned a lot from both their successes and their failures.

The Bolsheviks, like the ICWP, started out small. They were originally members of the Russian Social Democratic Labor Party (RSDLP). The RSDLP began in study groups of Marxist intellectuals. These groups were scattered and inexperienced but they did two things right: they reached out to the working class and they formed a party with a newspaper *Iskra* (meaning "spark").

The RSDLP represented a mixture of ideas. Lenin was on the left. His comrades wanted a proletarian revolution, the dictatorship (undisputed rule) of the working class, and (eventually...) communism.

On the right was Martov, whose followers wanted to help the capitalists overthrow the Czar. They envisioned a long period of capitalism followed, at some time in the distant future, by some kind of "socialism."

These views were incompatible, and the RSDLP split in 1903.

The split itself was about three things: the very nature of the party; whether to limit the struggle to fighting for economic reforms or struggle to overthrow capitalism; and the need for one nationwide communist newspaper. Both sides

agreed that communism could not be implemented right away.

Martov wanted a very loose organization where anybody who considered him- or herself a member of the party, was. There was no expectation that these 'members' would actually work to build the party if they didn't feel like it. They were called the Mensheviks.

Lenin, on the other hand, wanted members to be committed to carrying out decisions made collectively (this was called "democratic centralism"). This is the way the ICWP operates. When we decide to do something (after much collective discussion) members carry out these decisions. Even if they don't feel like it. And even if they don't agree with it. This group was called the Bolsheviks. They believed in a cadre party.

But building a communist world requires a mass party with millions of communist leaders who have different levels of commitment and understanding of what is needed to make a revolution and are open to struggle. We in ICWP believe in communist centralism: masses will fight for communism to the extent they believe in it.

Shortly after the split, the 1905 revolution broke out (after the Czar's navy got its butt



**Russian soldiers march in 1917**

kicked by the Japanese navy). The 1905 revolution was soon suppressed, but the Bolshevik organizational principles were vindicated. The Mensheviks basically dissolved but the Bolsheviks survived the repression and soon revived.

In 1914 there was a wave of strikes and demonstrations in Petrograd, led mainly by the Bolsheviks. However, the Czar entered World War I on the side of Britain and France (who basically owned Russia). The (brief) wave of patriotic enthusiasm wrecked the workers' movement and millions were sent to the trenches.

The war went badly for the Russians, thanks to incompetent leadership, corruption and economic backwardness. Soon both the military and civilians were going hungry. Soldiers were sent to the front without arms. Nearly two million were killed, more than five million wounded.

See [RUSSIAN REVOLUTION](#), page 7

## **BUILDING FOR A COMMUNIST MAY DAY: 2016**

*From a Speech Given at a Los Angeles ICWP Fundraising Dinner*

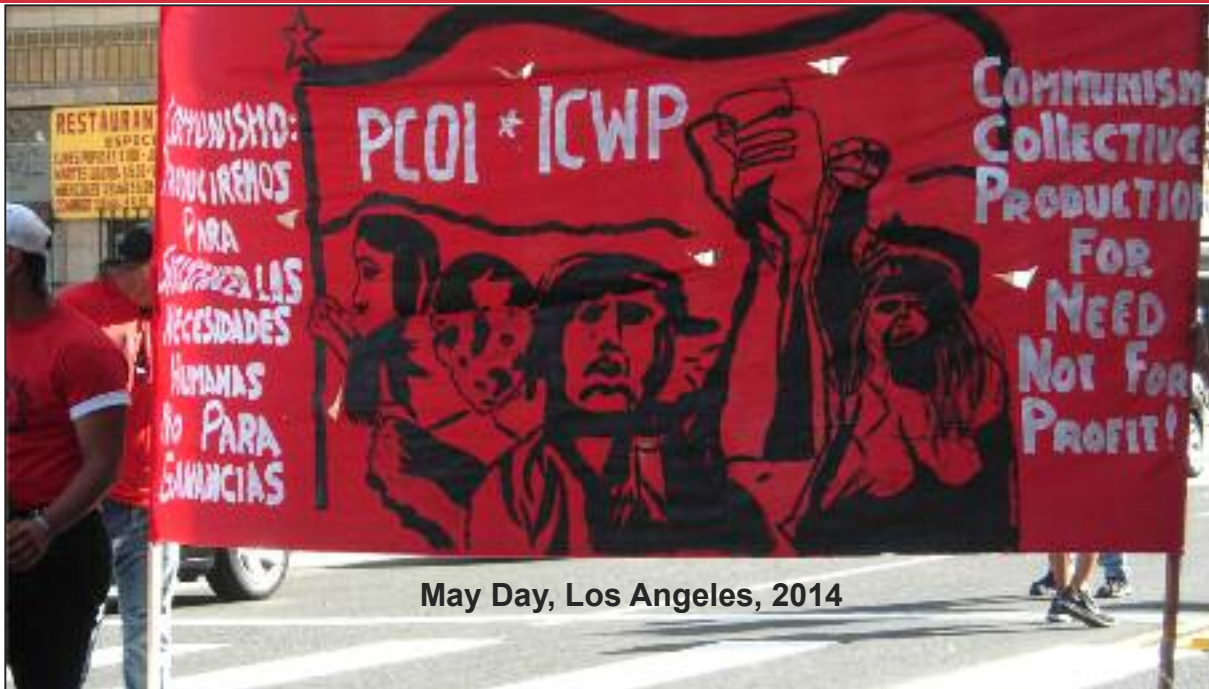
On May Day 2016, we will conduct our own march for a communist International Workers' Day.

Getting communist ideas to workers is urgent. Not only are capitalists preparing for World War III, but they are destroying our health and our earth. Thousands are dying daily from the capitalist-created migrant crisis, hunger, racism, super-exploitation and war.

Allowing the working class to be misled by reformism would be irresponsible. All across the world workers are open to communist ideas. We ask you to participate in planning the May Day march.

Many have already concluded that capitalism does not work. Building for May Day is a good way to talk to workers about communism. May Day commemorates a massive strike in the US that fought for the 8-hour work day but also advocated the "abolition of the wage system." Our RED May Day continues the struggle to abolish the wage system with communist revolution.

For this we need a mass revolutionary International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP). We fight for a world where we no longer work for money. Instead we will work according to our



**May Day, Los Angeles, 2014**

ability, commitment and love for each other. We will produce abundance to share, not to be hoarded by a few or go to waste.

Mistakes were made by communists in the past. Capitalists try to convince us that their failure was due to innate greed, selfishness and competition. However, workers disprove this daily, as *Red Flag* has shown with stories about thousands in Europe who aid migrants at risk and without pay. This demonstrates that communism is the kind of society that will allow our humanity to flourish. The society most of us long for.

Capitalism propagates greed, selfishness and competition but more and more workers worldwide are learning that we need each other for survival. We don't need the bosses and their ideas.

Our plans for May Day 2016 reminded me of

growing up in McFarland, a poor agricultural town next to Delano where the United Farm Workers organized. A movie came out last year about Cesar Chavez and this year a movie about my home town. Both were distortions and flat-out lies.

While I was growing up my parents were farmworkers. I participated in many rallies and protests, but one of my favorite memories was when we marched in downtown Delano to celebrate May Day.

I was around ten years old.

I listened attentively to speeches and got it in my head that revolution was right around the corner. I could not imagine how everyone would not simply join the struggle to create this better society as soon as they heard about it. Then as I continued my schooling and watched a lot of TV I got why people were not flocking to our communist movement. It was because of capitalism's daily anti-communist propaganda.

It is OUR job to dispel anti-communist lies. May Day is OUR day. The US rulers have done everything in their power to erase the history of May Day. Let us make May Day 2016 count in the history of the working class! We need your help. Come to our January planning meeting to get informed and involved!