

RED FLAG

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



Los Angeles, CA-Saturday April 17—Youth help lead rally against the Nazis.

MAY DAY 2010 FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM TO SMASH ALL BORDERS AND WAGE SLAVERY



Los Angeles, CA. April 16—Hundreds of Workers Support Rio Tinto miners.



SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR—MAY DAY MARCH 2009

May 1st is not Immigrants Day, despite the claims of the US bosses and their lackeys in the pro-immigrant groups. May 1st is May Day, International Workers' Day. It's a communist holiday established in Paris, France in 1889 by the Second Communist International to honor the workers murdered in Chicago by the US bosses for organizing a general strike on May 1, 1886, to demand the eight hour day.

The first demonstrations started in 1890. Since then, hundreds of millions of workers have marched under communist leadership - no longer only for the reformist demand of a shorter work day - but for the revolutionary abolition of capitalism and its wage system that enslaves us to the capitalists.

May Day, however, lost its revolutionary spirit. The old communist movement that inspired it is dead. Worldwide these demonstrations are now led by the bosses' politicians and sellout union leaders. Workers no longer march under the red flag of revolution, but under the rags of all the capitalists-imperialists of the world.

The US bosses recently started to revive May Day, calling it Immigrants Day to

get immigrants and their allies to march massively demanding the Comprehensive Immigration Reform (CIR). Under this CIR "humanitarian" mask of giving to millions of undocumented workers a "path to legalization," the US imperialists are advancing their plans for war and fascism.

This "reform," far from being an "amnesty," will enslave in the bosses' war industries millions of these workers who will have to pay huge fines, learn English, wait six years before being able to apply for a "green card," and then wait another five more years to get it. Work is imperative. Being unemployed for 60 or more days means deportation. This will enable the bosses to impose racist and fascist working conditions to super exploit these workers.

The DREAM ACT is another "humanitarian" trick by the US bosses. It will supposedly "help" undocumented youth who came here when they were children, finished high school, but cannot go to universities because they are undocumented. This law will give them 6 years of "permanent conditional residency." If during this time, they finish two years of university studies or mili-

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The Communist Road Ahead

As capitalism's worldwide crisis deepens and imperialism drives relentlessly to wider and more deadly energy wars, hundreds of millions of workers are questioning capitalism. The crisis will deepen, regional wars will explode into World War III, and billions of workers unable to live in the old way will look for radical alternatives.

Will the workers choose to fight for communism as the only solution to the capitalist inferno? Not unless revolutionary communists now wage a protracted, patient, determined effort to put communism on the agenda of the international working class. This is the task we have shouldered: to win masses of workers to embrace communist ideas and to use them to fight for, win, and build a communist world.

What Is Communism?

Communism means a radical transformation of all social relations and institutions. This will require armed revolutionary struggle to smash the capitalist dictatorship that oppresses and exploits workers worldwide. Workers' power – the dictatorship of the working-class – will midwife the birth of the new society.

Millions of workers, organized worldwide as one party, will collectively run every aspect of society in our class' interest. The International Communist Workers Party we are building today is the nucleus of that new world.

Smash Racism, Sexism, Borders, and the Wage System

Communism will abolish money and the market. Nothing will be sold or bought. We will abolish capitalism's wage slavery and exploitation because we'll have no need to sell our labor power. Free from capitalism's curse of "work or starve," we will creatively and enthusiastically contribute to society "according to our commitment" and receive "according to our need."

Communism means a world without borders or nations. Workers will be welcomed wherever they go. We will replace the bosses' poisonous patriotism, used to protect their interests and pit workers against workers, with the true internationalism of "one world, one class, one party."

Only communism can end racism, the cornerstone of the capitalist system. The bosses need racism, nationalism and sexism to maximize their super-profits, to divide and rule over us. Capitalism's "dog-eat-dog" mentality will be smashed by our egalitarian, collective way of life. As we take the

future into our own hands, revolutionary optimism will prevail over cynicism, mysticism, and despair.

How We Fight For Communism

The road to communism is long and rocky, but "a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." Last century saw heroic struggles with workers "daring to storm heaven" and winning powerful victories despite overwhelming odds. The Russian Revolution of 1917, the defeat of Hitler's Nazi hordes at Stalingrad in 1943, the Chinese Revolution of 1949, and the Chinese Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution of the 1960s were tremendous achievements that still inspire us today.

Standing on the shoulders of these giants, we can see farther and clearer. We now see that these great victories were reversed because the old communist movement fought for socialism. They thought workers couldn't be won to fight directly for communism. Socialism is state capitalism, but communists believed they could steer it toward communism. It inevitably turned them into capitalists.

No More Retreats

Fighting directly for communism presents us with the huge task of building an international Party of millions of workers, soldiers and students before, during and after taking state power. Only millions of critical thinkers, workers imbued with the most advanced communist theory and practice, can guarantee that our Party won't become revisionist.

Revisionism means not having confidence that the working class can embrace and act upon the most advanced communist line at any particular time. Revisionism is the pro-capitalist ideology within every one of us. It is an ever-present danger that must be struggled against constantly. Criticism and self-criticism are among our main tools to defeat revisionism.

Today, Russia and China are imperialist powers locked in deadly rivalry with US imperialism on a collision course toward WWII. We won't embrace "revolutionary nationalism", as the old communist movement mistakenly did before WWII, or abandon our revolutionary slogan that "working people have no nation." Confident that workers can defeat fascism with communist revolution, we reject alliances with any "lesser evil boss" and condemn all "national liberation" struggles.

We warn of the dangers and stress the opportunities in the approaching storms. The First World War laid the ground for the Russian Revolution and WWII opened the door for the Chinese Revolu-

tion. Our task now is to prepare to turn the coming imperialist world war into a worldwide class war for communism.

Revolution, Not Reform

Fighting for communism means making communist ideas primary in every struggle where workers, soldiers, and students are fighting back against the bosses' attacks. Understanding that revolution and reform are contradictory, we must inject our communist ideas in every piece of literature, every conversation, and every struggle, confident that workers will see communist revolution as the only solution to their problems.

Long-term ties with our fellow workers, especially in the factories and barracks, are key to exposing illusions in reformism and reformist leaders. We use our newspaper *Red Flag* to build networks of readers and writers, organize action-study groups and recruit to our party. The relationships we build today will sharpen the class struggle, make revolution possible, and become the heart of the communist world we are building.

Dare to Struggle, Dare to Win!

The road to communism is long, with many ups and downs. Nevertheless, the final victory shall be ours. We face the most murderous fascist ruling class in history: the world's capitalists-imperialists. They boast the most lethal and destructive weapons. They arrogantly stride the world as all-powerful and invincible. However, they are strategically weak. More than any other ruling class in history, their economic and military might depend on the world's workers – especially those in industry and the military -- who are historically their gravediggers.

What blocks the completion of our historic task? The main obstacle is the rulers' poisonous ideology among our ranks. Racism, sexism, and nationalism divide us. Patriotism and reformism chain us to our exploiters. Cynicism, mysticism, one-sided thinking and individualism paralyze us.

We must smash these deadly ideas with a growing communist class-consciousness. We must deepen our understanding of dialectical materialism, our guiding science to liberation. The sooner we do this, the sooner we will smash capitalism and begin the construction of our new communist world.

The future is ours! Fight for Communism! Join the International Communist Workers Party! Read, Distribute, and Write for your newspaper *RED FLAG*!

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all fascists. There was self criticism for not having enough discussion earlier about the need to physically stop the fascists from spewing their racist filth and attacking the working class, to prevent them from harming our class and to train ourselves to fight for power against the big and little fascists. Some were surprised that the City of LA had so many cops protecting the Nazis. Others said that this

showed the commitment of Mayor Villaraigosa and the ruling class to defend the "free speech" of these gutter racists and fascists who do the bosses' dirty work of blaming immigrants for the bosses' capitalist crisis. The liberals pushing Comprehensive Immigration Reform use these Nazis to appear as workers' saviors, as if CIR were designed to rescue immigrants from both the Nazis and the Arizona style fascists who passed a law making racial profil-

ing the law. But the biggest fascists are Obama and his capitalist backers who push immigration reform to further their plans for fascism, wider oil wars and WWII. (SEE ARTICLE PAGE 1) By building a mass International Communist Workers' Party, workers will smash the big and little fascists. By organizing for multi-racial unity, workers' internationalism, and communist revolution, we will build the ICWP in the factories, military and schools.



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EL SALVADOR: FOR A COMMUNIST MAY DAY

SAN SALVADOR—"Hey, those banners and signs, what are they for?" a comrade of the ICWP asked some union teachers, and the response was, "They're for the May Day March." "We're preparing this march so it will turn out well," said another worker. In this union they have been working for months to win people to participate in the march for the workers. In the center of the capital of El Salvador, they expect 100,000 workers from cities and farms, students, teachers, men and women.

Caravans will come from all over the country: trucks, buses, pickups and private cars full of workers from every corner of the country. Many will have to leave their homes the previous day or before sunrise to commemorate 120 years of the spirit of the Martyrs of Chicago.

Meetings, lunches, Communist dinners have been carried out by workers all over the country. The preparations for the Proletarian May Day this year have included a high degree of political discussion. On one side are the clouds of imperialist war and fascism which threaten the international working class, already in a state of hunger, unemployment, and repression. On the other side are the perseverance and sacrifice to build a true party with a communist vision, which advances under attack towards liberation from the capitalist yoke.

Workers, students, teachers, farm workers; youth, adults, children and old people, men and women will answer "Present!" in the roll call of the international working class on this historic May Day of 2010, which will see the birth of the participation of members of the international working class organized in the ICWP.

The International Communist Workers' Party – ICWP—makes its first appearance in this demonstration; the newspaper **Red Flag** is its weapon. Hundreds of newspapers and thousands of Communist leaflets will be distributed like fresh water to satisfy the thirst of the Salvadoran working class for internationalist revolutionary information. Groups of youth and adults, members of the party, have made it possible for this Communist material to be produced collectively.

In addition, unions united in the National Confederation for a Secure Country without Hunger (Conphas for its initials in Spanish) during this May Day march will demand that President Mauricio Funes and the FMLN fulfill the government plan they promised during the electoral campaign. But we already know that the promises that electoral politicians make to the working class can never be trusted; historically they have been just that: promises and tricks.

The only proletarian reality is that the working class through its International Communist Workers' Party ICWP offers the alternative to replace a capitalist system based in profit for a few with a communist system where the dictatorship of the proletariat will be what governs the destinies of the class that produces everything in the world. Join an ICWP study group and distribute the proletarian newspaper **Red Flag**.

**LONG LIVE MAY DAY! LONG LIVE THE INTERNATIONAL WORKING CLASS!
LONG LIVE THE ICWP !**



LOS ANGELES—APRIL 17, ANTI-NAZI RALLY

THE ICWP MARCHES IN SPAIN TO MAKE COMMUNIST IDEAS MASS IDEAS AND TO FIGHT TO DESTROY CAPITALISM.

**LONG LIVE COMMUNISM!!!
LONG LIVE MAY DAY!!!**

SPAIN—The International Monetary Fund (IMF) predicts that Spain will lag behind the other European countries in recovering from the economic crisis. Spain's growth rate will be 2.4% less than the world average in 2010, and it will lose 3.8% of its Gross Domestic Product.

The IMF estimates in its World Economic Perspectives bulletin that unemployment will reach 18.2% of the workforce this year and will break the psychological barrier of 20% next year.

The construction sector is a special drag/burden for Spain and the IMF predicts that there will be "big" additional declines in housing prices, as happened in Denmark and the United Kingdom, although they don't specify its possible magnitude (ABC Spanish TV, October 2009).

One more time on May Day we see the imperialists are fighting among themselves for the profits produced by the working class, as they say that everything will get better some day. The problem is that it's the best lie

the capitalist system has got working for them, offering racism to the people as they finance their wars through markets, but their main goal is the super-profits they make off the working class.

Spain is submerged in a crisis in which the workers are thinking more about fighting among themselves for a job, falling into the trap that the system set for them a long time ago, and has spent decades perfecting, the division of the working class.

This May Day will demonstrate that the working class can be united and that we of the ICWP have the communist line that will make the working class the army that takes the responsibility to destroy capitalism.

Our goal is to then work directly for the communist system that Marx, Engels, Lenin and many others taught us must be the system of the proletariat, where we will work together, equally using natural resources in an adequate way based on social consciousness, and not destroying them.

LOS ANGELES: HUNDREDS PROTEST NAZI SCUM

"This racist garbage that we have here will be wiped away with a communist revolution, and we won't forget that these are little fascists compared to those who are in the White House, the US government, those who are preparing for WWII." These words were spoken strongly through the loudspeaker, while hundreds protested the presence of a small group of Nazis protected by hundreds of armed police.

Comrades, young friends, and adults distributed more than 300 RED FLAG newspapers and hundreds of leaflets calling for the May Day March for Communism with the flags of the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) and carried anti-capitalist and pro-communist signs. Members and friends of the ICWP led chants in Spanish and English like "Same Enemy, Same Fight, Workers of the World, Unite!", "Death to the Fascists! Power to Workers!", and others calling on workers to unite to smash the fascists. Many of the demonstrators took up our chants.

A man who came around the demonstrators took off his shirt and defiantly showed his fascist tattoos over his entire body. Quickly a dozen anti-racist students and workers gave him what he deserved. The police intervened and the demonstrators dispersed.

After a long time the fascists who call themselves the "National Socialist Movement" came out, protected by a phalanx of police who led them to

their destination in front of LA City Hall. The police, dressed in riot gear, had established a line of protection on the roofs of the buildings where agents were in position. The fascists came dressed in black uniforms with helmets and swastikas, and they carried metal shields. In a sea of slogans, cursing and yelling, several fascist speakers hurled racist insults that could only barely be heard. At the end of their racist and anti-immigrant attack, they were taken away by the police. As they walked, projectiles, eggs, rocks and bottles hit them and decked two of the fascists.

In opposition to the fascists and during the events, the ICWP made several speeches in Spanish and English in which we denounced the capitalist crisis whose only solution is WWII and fascism. We stressed the need to organize in the schools, the factories, and the army for communism now, and in this way prepare the working class for communist revolution to take power. This is our task and we proudly accept it!

Afterwards, some of the participants had questions about the crowd's attack on the fascist. "If we're violent against them, this just helps them," "violence is never justified" were some of the comments. After a collective discussion, it was stated, among other things, that this racist had committed and continued to commit crimes against the working class like

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Rio Tinto Miners Support Rally: Fight Bosses' Laws, Imperialist Ambitions

SEATTLE, WA, April 14 — “I’ve been told the British Consulate fled from this building,” said a Boeing Machinist who brought a shop floor solidarity letter to a downtown rally in support of locked-out Rio Tinto miners, “but I think they are cowering with their buddies in the JPMorgan Chase offices three blocks down. That’s where we ought to march next time!” The AFL-CIO officials were not happy when the 250 mostly longshore and warehouse workers—men, women, black, Latin and white—shouted their approval.

The demonstrators were in a fighting mood, but the AFL-CIO misleaders were desperate to divert this anger into some sort of patriotic wasteland. “When you run a business in American, you have to treat workers according to the rule of law,” they said.

Rio Tinto’s board not only includes the “Who’s Who” of the British ruling class, but also representatives from Australia, Canada and the U.S. The CEO of American West Airlines and COO of the long-time ruling class Dupont Company, Richard Goodmanson holds a seat. The biggest U.S. bank, JPMorgan Chase, was represented by David Mayhew, chairman of JPMorgan Cazenove, the wholly owed subsidiary of JPMorgan Chase in London. Indeed, when JPMorgan Chase was mentioned the workers erupted into a chorus of boos.



Who’s Law?

The law in its majestic equality forbids the rich, as well as the poor, to sleep under the bridge, to beg in the streets, and to steal bread.

—Anatole France

The union leaders made a big deal of how Rio Tinto was trying to get around the rule of law because of corporate greed. In fact, it is precisely the rule of law that guarantee’s the bosses right to exploit. The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) and

the federal mediators—that the unions turn to in times like these—are not neutral parties in this class war.

Make no mistake about it; workers will have to smash the rule of law with communist revolution to free us from this exploitation. Marchers bought copies of *Red Flag* with articles showing how these communist ideas are essential to miners, as well as aerospace workers, struggles.

Imperialist Ambitions Sharpen Attacks

It’s certainly true that the exploitation of industrial workers is sharpening. One speaker quoted a CEO’s statement about the need to do away with tradition 3-year contracts that spell out a certain wages and benefits. “They’ve got to go,” the CEO said. “We need longer contracts [i.e. no strikes] that are ‘flexible.’” Sounds like the CEO of Rio Tinto, but it wasn’t. The CEO was from aerospace; in pattern setting negotiations for the big Boeing contract in 2012.

Rio Tinto is an alliance between the biggest English-speaking bosses. In conjunction with other huge mining companies, it is trying develop a near monopoly in iron ore, key for steel production, and other key elements.

The main target is the booming Chinese steel and manufacturing sector. Iron ore is the second biggest import of China, following only oil. China tried to buy a big part in Rio Tinto, but was blocked by the Australian government. It is not hard to imagine the collusion of the other governments represented on the Rio board.

As these imperialist giants battle over raw materials, it’s the workers all over the world that are getting stepped on. The bosses kill miners from Boron, CA to West Virginia to China on the altar of profits and imperialist rivalry. Eventually, this fight for raw materials will break out in world war, as it always has during the history of capitalism.

That’s why our solidarity letter called for rank-and-file, multi-racial working class solidarity around the world even as “the biggest companies and their governments line up against us.” We have to replace the history of capitalism, its imperialist rivalry, war and exploitation with communism. Workers’ power means we can each share in the fruits of our labor according to our needs, not according to the demands of the bosses’ profits.

Mexico-Crisis and Fascism

Mexico—One of the words we hear and read a lot in the news is “crisis,” economic, cultural, and moral. The bourgeoisie drags us from one crisis to the next, from devaluation of the peso in 1982 to the current world wide economic crisis which “came on us from abroad” to hurt “our country.”

Because of its enormous capacity for production, the capitalist economy creates relative overproduction; hundreds of factories are open, competing between themselves until they can’t sell what they produce, not because the workers have satisfied their basic necessities, but because they don’t have the money to do so. And then they close the factories and lay off workers. Humanity is desolated as if a natural catastrophe had befallen it, and all because of the great capacity of development of productive forces, which is not used for the benefit of the workers, but for the bosses’ profits.

And each crisis is “overcome” by the capitalists by increasing the suffering of the workers until we organize ourselves together with soldiers and overthrow them with a communist revolution.

In Mexico, the European and Asian imperialists have advanced in gaining market share in competition with American companies: Daimler-Benz, BMW, Nissan-Renault, Siemens, Toyota, Honda, Sony, Hitachi, etc., etc.

From time to time we hear and read that the end of the crisis is near, others foresee even more difficult times ahead. In Ireland, the government reduced the base salary of teachers up to 15%, in addition to

imposing a general tax hike and reducing welfare benefits. All this, followed at the end of 2009 by the burst of the “housing bubble,” which left the banks on the verge of bankruptcy. Once the government “rescued” them, the fiscal deficit rose to almost 12% of the Gross Domestic Product (Greece’s is 12.7%).

The economists, emissaries of the ruling class, say that “the governments of the whole world are being forced to face the difficult decisions that Ireland has had to adopt,” and that Ireland “is gaining the applause of the financial markets for taking the kind of painful economic measures that many other countries are postponing.” (Neil Shah/Dow Jones Newswires 03-16-2010)

“To do what is required...has made life more difficult for the 4.5 million Irish.” (ibid) As the Irish government resists the pressure to raise corporate taxes, showing that they serve the state apparatus, all over the world state and municipal governments are reducing services.

In the Euro Zone, Greece is on the verge of bankruptcy and the announcement by the government of sharp cuts in spending and raising taxes brought about protests and strikes at the beginning of March, 2010.

This is the way that the capitalists of the world foresee a successful recovery from this, the “deepest crisis since 1929.” They have rehabilitated their automobile factories, adjusting wages as they did the salaries of middle management.

Capital is exported from the US, Europe and Japan, seeking the cheapest labor (open racism) and more and more pressure to repeal the protective legislation that workers’ struggles have achieved. They also use the drug traffic, keeping it controlled but without ending it, to feed their economies and corrupt the youth.

Raising taxes on corporations or reforming capitalism will only prolong our existence as wage workers. What we need is to abolish wage slavery with communist revolution.



U.S. POSTAL WORKERS HIT HARD BY CAPITALIST CRISIS

For many years most postal workers who wanted overtime were able to get plenty of extra work, but the crisis of capitalism has permanently changed their working conditions. For example, in the last couple of years everyone has noticed these changes, but has not fully understood them. Then the Postal Service temporarily started giving overtime again, but only to people who did not want it and only until the Postal Service's new sorting machines were ready.

Almost all postal workers on the overtime list depended on the extra cash that overtime provided. Now with that extra income gone, many workers have to change their lives, spending less time with their families to look for a part time job, having trouble paying bills and mortgages.

Many workers think there are have fewer hours because mail volume has dropped due to the economic crisis. People and businesses aren't mailing as much. E-mail has taken a toll, too. The post office can't be "self sufficient" anymore. The government has money for banks and war, but does not for workers -- whether postal workers or workers facing home foreclosure. It uses our taxes to finance wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, while they give the Postmaster hundreds of thousands in bonuses.

After the 2006 Postal Service reform, the Postal Service was no longer required to break even, but could create new products to compete with other companies and exploit workers even more to make a profit. Even before the economic crisis, the post office was eliminating jobs, merging and readjusting in many areas.

Creating job positions like the "casual worker," hired on a six month contract, or the T.E. (transitional employee) hired on a yearly contract are ways to cut wages by eliminating overtime. Not

only is this bad for our brother and sister co-workers, it is also bad for all workers. Casuals, who make \$4 to \$5 less than regulars, and T.E.'s, who get no benefits or pensions at all, are super-exploited, doing the same job for less pay and **no** benefits. The post office makes more profits from these workers and keeps workers divided by creating different levels of pay. The capitalist wage system must always try to divide workers, even more during this crisis.

The implementation of the "DPS" (machines that sort mail and put bar codes on each letter), and in the future the "FSS" (huge machines to sort out magazines) automated systems, worsen our conditions on the work floor and on the street, eliminating thousands of postal workers' jobs. The sophisticated machinery, costing the post office billions, is a way to cut workers and hours. The workers who get "lucky" and keep their jobs are locked in a constant fight against management. But a winning fight must be based on the understanding that the capitalist system will attack us harder and harder until we get rid of it with communist revolution.

Reforms, such as a return of over-time work, can't resolve the crisis which is built into capitalism. Only revolution will end crises, exploitation, and war. Under communism, machines, instead of being used to attack workers, will free workers to do other needed work and make workers' lives better. We won't have to depend on a job and overtime to feed our families. That will be the collective responsibility of the whole working class.

Now the post office is talking about eliminating one day of mail delivery, probably Saturday. This will save millions of dollars for the bosses, at the ex-



pense of postal workers and many other workers who rely on Saturday mail and services.

All of these attacks are ways of super-exploiting workers to save billions to bail out banks and wage wars for the bosses' profits around the world. Under this capitalist system, workers will never have a decent life for our families. Capitalism, based on racism and exploitation, can never meet the needs of the working class. We need to fight back against these attacks with the goal of destroying a system that can't provide for workers' needs. We need to fight for communism, a system based on workers' need, not on profits. More workers reading RED FLAG will help us unite with a clear vision that our fight must be to get rid of capitalism with share and share alike communism. We need action study groups to discuss the challenges ahead, build for a political strike against the capitalist system that cuts jobs and hours for profit and war, and deepen the long term struggle for communism.

Kyrgyzstan's "Revolution":

US AND RUSSIA BATTLE OVER CENTRAL ASIA

On April 6-7, Kyrgyzstan's president Kurmanbek Bakiyev was overthrown by a "revolution" similar to the one that brought him to power in 2005. His US sponsored "Tulip" revolution put an end to the 15 year rule of President Askar Akayev, who allowed Putin to build a full blown military base at Kant, 25 miles from the US air base at Manas.

Bakiyev's demise, however, was most likely sponsored by the Kremlin. Russia was the first country to recognize the interim government and to offer financial aid. According to the Washington Post, "The media campaign (portraying President Bakiyev as a repugnant dictator), along with punishing economic measures adopted by the Kremlin, played a critical role in fanning public anger against Bakiyev..." WP (4/12/10).

In early 2009, Bakiyev pocketed \$471 millions from a \$2 billion Kremlin aid package, in exchange for closing the US air base at Manas. But, months later he reversed his position when the US increased to \$60 million its rent for the base. This infuriated the Russians, but they took no overt action, except to freeze the remaining \$1.71 billion. He also wanted to charge Russia for the use of their military base.

Bakiyev's Biggest Crime: Planning To Build a US Counter Terrorist Base

On March 16, 2010, however, the US embassy in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan's capital, confirmed it would provide \$5.5 million to build a counter-terrorism training center at Kyrgyzstan's Batken region. One day later, US Central Command chief, David Petraeus, showed up to discuss with Bakiyev a broader

security cooperation which included constructing a military hospital and the Special Forces Scorpion compound.

This was contrary to the Russian bosses' military plans. In late 2009, several months after the \$2 billions aid package deal, the Russian-dominated Collective Security and Cooperation Organization had announced that it would set up a counter-terrorism facility in that same region.

"Such a demonstrative act by the Kyrgyz side to agree ...to [build the US-funded counter-terrorism center] is like throwing down a challenge to Russia and China," says Aleksandr Knyazev, a political analyst for the Commonwealth of Independent States Institute in Bishkek. Three weeks after the US embassy's announcement, Bakiyev was deposed.

Why Did Batken Cause Russia To React?

The Russian imperialists had not been happy with the US Manas air base, but they could live with it, temporarily. According to the same above mentioned source, "From a purely military point of view, any American military base on Kyrgyz territory cannot threaten Russian interests. Russia dominates in this region in any case. It's clear."

Batken, however, lies in the Ferghana Valley, an 8, 494 sq mi (22,000 sq km) valley that runs through Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan. It is historically the cradle of Islamist radicalism in the region. At a time when the US imperialists are looking to reconcile with the Taliban in some form or another, this valley is crucial to any US plans to expand its

influence in this energy rich, strategically located region.

The US bosses hope a Taliban governed Afghanistan will help radicalize these mostly Muslim Central Asian countries and some provinces in Iran, Russia, and China. These fundamentalist forces could then be used to blow up pipelines and energy infrastructure, destabilize politically these countries and provinces, and promote regimes changes.

Therefore, Kyrgyzstan Ferghana Valley's strategic geographic position is crucial to the US strategy of expanding the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) into Central Asia, depriving China of the energy it needs for future economic growth and wars, and continuing the military encirclement of China and Russia in preparation for its inevitable clash with them. Bakiyev's overthrow shows the Russian bosses' determination to thwart the US plans.

The battle over Kyrgyzstan, however, is not over. Manas is a key link in the northern supply chain for the US and NATO forces in Afghanistan. Some of the leaders who overthrew Bakiyev led the "Tulip" revolution in 2005 and have worked with Washington in the past. China's influence is also growing in the country. With bilateral trade of \$10 billion, it has surged to become Kyrgyzstan's main trading partner.

The fight over Kyrgyzstan is part of the imperialists' struggle over the energy rich Central Asia. It just brings chaos, destruction, and death to the

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Education: How the “academic model” serves capitalism and why revisionists fought for it

An earlier explained that there was never any “golden age” in capitalist education. As we struggle against the racist cutbacks during the current crisis of capitalism, we mustn’t fall into the trap of thinking that communist education would be like the present system with everybody’s reform demands met. It contrasted the early Soviet model of education, where children learned through engagement in real work. Unfortunately, this was replaced with the Prussian “academic model” that the US bosses loved. It was a vital component of socialism, which turned out to be capitalism with a ‘proletarian’ mask.

Academic learning chopped knowledge up into the familiar separate, lifeless, abstract subjects. It divided the students into same-age groups. Students in the Soviet Union after about 1930 were subject to drills, tests, grading, and endless lectures – just as students are in most capitalist schools today.

This “academic model” is pathetically ineffective at teaching anything useful. People learn by doing, not by listening to monologues. This seems to be a paradox: don’t the capitalists need children to learn useful skills? Then why did the socialists and revisionists and capitalists love the academic model so much?

It’s true that capitalists need skilled workers, but not that many and not that skilled. Like all exploiters, they prefer their subjects to be as ignorant as possible. Therefore, capitalist society is designed so that most individual workers are educated in depth in only one narrow specialty. Capitalists have no need or desire to give many people a broad education.

Why are students treated like cogs in a machine?

Karl Marx said that capitalist education was “mere training to act as a machine.” Today it has become training to act as just a component of a machine. Capitalist society is constructed like a machine, by assembling large numbers of mass-produced, specialized, interchangeable components.

In the academic model schools and classrooms are the production lines for the bosses’ specialized worker/components. The main thing they learn is to show up on time, keep quiet and take orders. They are trained to work for “points” that add up to “grades” that add up to “credits” and then “degrees” – just as they will later work for “money.”

For most youth, school is a tremendous waste of time. That’s fine for the capitalists, because they don’t have jobs for all these youth, who anyway tend to make trouble in the workplace. The bosses are happy to park young people in schools, killing time until they are ripe for exploitation and/or the military. In wartime – especially when the bosses need to mobilize for world wars like the one that is starting to shape up now – they will make those young people kill other young workers instead of just killing time.

For the bosses (and revisionists) there’s one more huge advantage of the academic model. Mao once complained the schools imposed on students three “separations”: separation from communist ideas, separation from the working class, and separation from work itself.” At the time, Mao was talking about schools under socialism, but what he said is just as true of capitalism. Probably the most important role of schools (and colleges) is to enforce these separations. Schools keep youth away from workers, and encourage young people to think of themselves as different and better.

Communist education: the future is now

Communist education is the opposite of capitalist schooling, not a “new and improved” version of it. For a glimpse of the future, we can look at the best examples from the past, as previous (and future) articles in *Red Flag* do. But we can also look at our ICWP study groups today.

Recently a teacher comrade gently criticized a student comrade in her class for not doing the assigned work. “It’s boring,” the student complained. The teacher explained that the assigned readings raised fundamental questions about revolutionary social change “just like we discuss in our study group.” “But study groups are interesting,” the youth replied.

Why are the same ideas interesting in a study group but boring in the classroom?

People come to study groups because they want to learn how to change the world and better serve the working class. The learning and the comradeship are the rewards. In communist society, education won’t be boring (“alienated”) because we will study to prepare ourselves to better meet the needs of our own class. We will have study groups everywhere, linked to military, industrial, and other workplaces in which we work “from each according to commitment” for the benefit of the international working class as a whole.

“I always feel smarter after a study group,” remarked a college student, “Imagine the whole working class getting smarter!” That’s what communist education is all about.

See Red Flag Comments on , page 15

Campus Anti-War Group Debates Israel-Palestine Conflict

San Diego, April 13. A speaker from L.A. Jews for Peace spoke to about 50 students at a campus group in San Diego about the Israel-Palestine conflict and its relation to American imperialism, followed by comments and questions from many students. The speaker condemned Israel’s occupation of the West Bank, its attack on Gaza, and other Israeli war crimes, but also gave a critique of nationalism.

A crucial point made about the Israel-Palestine conflict was debunking the historical fable of “ancient animosities.” This is the idea that Israelis and Palestinians have been enemies from time immemorial. But their animosity grew out of the relatively new nationalities that were first manufactured by European imperialism after World War I, when the British and French defeated the Ottoman Empire (Turkey).

Another point made was that nationalism is socially constructed by capitalists. Its aim is to generate irrational notions like patriotism and racism that di-

vide the working class. The speaker explained that racism always goes along with nationalism and critiqued both the current Israeli and future Palestinian states. The workers within each of these states do not benefit from the battle between their bosses. The arbitrary border separates similar workers and prevents strengthening labor movements within the area. The speaker noted that teachers from Israel and Palestine were both on strike and yet stayed divided because of the borders and wall that Israel has built.

Nationalism does not even favor workers who live within that particular nation. This was illustrated when we discussed how the American Empire plans on funneling \$30 billion in arms to Israel and \$35 billion to pro-U.S. Arab states like Jordan and Egypt within the next few years, as a part of U.S. attempts to dominate the Middle East. At the same time, more and more American workers are losing their jobs, education is taking massive cuts, and attending college is possible for less and less students.

Clearly, the interests of the American Empire are not the same interests as the workers who live in the United States.

One example used during the discussion described how nationalism supposes a difference between a homeless person in Tijuana and a homeless person in San Diego. The difference is supposed to be that one is Mexican, while the other is American. Of course, this is nonsense. These two people have just about everything in common with each other and just about nothing in common with the interests of “their nation.” But capitalism needs this division to maintain its rule.

The speaker advocated a “regional” solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that goes beyond nationalism, or one and two-state political “solutions.” The crucial point, however, is that only communist revolution can do away with borders and bloody national conflicts, and get beyond nationalist thinking.

KYRGYSTAN’S REVOLUTION, FROM PAGE 13

working class. Capitalist competition for markets dictates that the boss who uses the cheapest natural resources and labor eliminates his competitor and rules the markets. The cheapest natural resource becomes “strategic” and “irreplaceable” industrially and militarily.

Under communism there will be no wars over natural resources. No resource will be so strategic or valuable to merit the life of a worker. No alternative

source of energy will be too “costly” to produce. All it takes to produce is labor power, and the billions of unemployed workers that today’s capitalism can’t profitably exploit will be organized to produce everything we need in the safest manner possible.

This will require a communist revolution, a party to lead it, and millions of workers, soldiers and students won ideologically to fight for it. That’s the goal of ICWP. Join us!



LETTERS

LETTERS *****

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

Revisionism, Crisis and Fascism

A necessary complement to the business crisis which oppresses us is the intolerance to the freedom of thought, of association, the harassment of dissidents, like Lenin said, "attacking everybody and everything."

With the argument that criminals takes advantage of the lack of regulations, the ruling class all over the world has implemented measures of control over the population: ID cards, searching phones and properties, and more laws that restrict our rights as citizens and as workers.

They need workers in the US and in Europe, nevertheless faced with the abject poverty in Africa, Asia and Latin America millions have emigrated and the capitalists control these workers to keep wages low, making sure they don't organize or rebel. Thus they show their sharpening racism, giving rise to ideas that put down immigrants and groups that attack and kill them.

Nevertheless the workers fight back everywhere. Thus, during World War II, the US imperialists exposed their plans for world leadership and their pretensions for an "American century" which was answered by the anti-colonial awakening in Asia and Africa and a dispute over the profits of Latin America which led to the imposition of dictatorships there.

After the end of the "cold war" and the dissolution of the USSR, the dispute has sharpened. The national bourgeoisies have resurged in Latin America, supported by the revisionist supporters of the ex-USSR, China, and Cuba.

These revisionists are cleverer than ever mobilizing their followers to support the Latin American governments who are fighting the US imperialists over profits, allying themselves with the Russian and Chinese oppressors. They are mobilizing more workers than ever, but not for revolution but instead to sustain a "lesser evil" capitalism. They say that their line to support the nationalist bourgeoisie has been proved correct, by the fact that they have the government.

The working class and oppressed people of the world have nothing to gain supporting a group of capitalists; what we need is communist revolution.

Comrade from Mexico

Dear RED FLAG,

The article on page 14 of the last issue which deals with the death of the miners due to unsafe conditions explains how the bosses put workers' lives in risky situations for their profit. But the article talks about the bosses' greed. It is not the bosses' greed. It is the logic of capitalism. In order to stay on top or to survive in the dog eat dog capitalist system, every capitalist has to maximize his profit. That is why they don't spend money to make the situation safe for workers.

It is not greed. It is maximizing profit. There is no greedy or not greedy capitalist, they must maximize profits at the expense of the workers. For capitalists it is not a moral question. It is an economic question and a question of their survival to maximize profit.

A Comrade

Dear Red Flag,

Red Flag newspaper is great, but it could be a lot better. One thing we really have to do is explain better what we actually mean by "communism".

For example, in the article on Haiti in the first issue, the writer went to the trouble of explaining the difference between use value and exchange value. That helped. And in the second issue there was a short article that began to discuss education in Russia and China (when they were communist). It seemed to be part of a series - but nothing else appeared.

When I got the fourth issue, I did a little experiment: if I didn't know much about communism before reading the issue, how much would I have learned after? The answer: not much.

In the fourth there are a couple of articles about education, but they talk almost exclusively about capitalist education and how the bosses are reshaping it. The only thing it says about communist education is that it will be directed

at "building a communist world", which doesn't really help.

There is also an article about the Boron miners' strike, but the article talks almost exclusively about how big and exploitative Rio Tinto is, and how supporting the miners' struggle is important. The article gives no indication how mining or any other industry would operate under communism. In fact, all it says about communism is that it will put an end to this "profit hungry monster" and that our labor will "serve the needs of our class". This doesn't explain anything.

The main article in the fourth issue is about the immigration reform plan. It talks almost exclusively about how this plan serves the interests of the US bosses and how racist the Democrats are. At the end is yet another paragraph of vague generalities about how only communism can end war, racism and exploitation. (I agree but not because of reading vague generalities).

Now I happen to know that (according to our plans) under communism there will be no borders and no nations. This is not mentioned anywhere in the whole paper. Also, I happen to know that under communism there will be no wage system - in fact, no money. That also is not explained.

Fortunately, however, there is a picture on the front page. In that picture there is a banner. And on that banner, in English and Spanish, it says "smash borders and wage slavery with communist revolution". That one picture says more about communism than the rest of the paper combined!

Obviously, we can't rely on pictures of banners to explain communism. We have to start devoting more space to this in our articles, even if it means less space for explaining how bad capitalism is. This is especially important considering that there are organizations and even governments that call themselves "communist" but have nothing in common with us.

Comments on Education Article, from page 14

This article makes important points about capitalist versus communist education. We hope the author and others will write more about the "three separations" and how we can overcome them.

However, the main role of capitalist schools is to push the rulers' racist and nationalist ideology. Especially now, when the rulers are planning for world war sooner rather than later, they need to win masses of youth to patriotism so they will actively support the capitalists as industrial workers and soldiers.

"Education reform" in the U.S. and elsewhere reflects the rulers' attempt to make the schools more effective at building loyalty to capitalism. This has become an international movement with backing from imperialist outfits like the Ford Foundation, which throws money at liberal-led projects like the Institute for Democracy, Education, and Access at UCLA.

The rulers prefer to reform education "on the cheap" because of the same economic crisis that's driving them toward war. And they don't all agree on how to do it. That's why it's so important for us to un-

derstand how liberal reforms (even when presented as radical or Marxist) serve the capitalist rulers, not working-class students.



Soviet school, 1921

MAY DAY, FROM PAGE 1

tary service, they will become eligible for permanent residency.

Two years of community service, a third option, was eliminated because the US bosses want to steer these youth into the military. With the current economic crisis, and more than 40% of latino youth not finishing high school, the bosses know that the majority will end up fighting in their imperialist wars for oil.

Also, for the militarization of society in preparation for World War III, the bosses will need fascist laws to smash any rebellion. The anti-immigrant laws which they are passing serve this goal. Their computerized national data base, accessible by the internet to control those "not authorized" to work, will be used against all workers. The national biometric ID card will consolidate this police state even more.

No bosses' "Immigration Reform" can ever eliminate the main causes of "illegal" immigration: the lack of jobs and the borders. This can only be achieved by destroying the capitalist system that feeds on these evils. For that, we need a communist revolution worldwide that smashes all the bosses' borders that make us workers "illegal". In a communist world, free of nations, we will all always have work because we'll contribute to society "according to our commitment." But if workers decide to immigrate, they will be welcomed wherever they go. To achieve this communist world, we need to massively build the International Communist Workers Party. Join us! May Day is our day, not the bosses' Immigrant Day! Long live our Communist May Day! Citizens, immigrants, and workers of the World Unite.

FROM THE U.S. TO EUROPE TO CHINA: DESTROY CAPITALISM THAT MAKES WORKERS “ILLEGAL”

They may travel up to 1,000 miles from poverty to find legal, semi-legal or illegal work in factories, construction or service industries. In 2003 alone, they sent an estimated \$45 billion to their homes in rural villages that would not survive without that money (NY Times 10/12/04). They accept any factory work – working 10 or 12 hours a day, 7 days a week. Does this sound familiar? It should. This is what is happening on a much smaller scale in the US with immigrants from Mexico and Central America and in Europe with immigrants from Africa, Turkey and Eastern Europe. There is one crucial difference. The 120 million migrant workers described above are Chinese and they travel to find work in China. *They are illegal or guest workers in their ‘own’ country!*

Understanding this changes the immigration debate. Whether we find ourselves debating ‘paths to citizenship’ (USA) or rescinding ‘hukou’ laws (China) we discover that capitalism doesn’t need borders or nationality to make workers ‘illegal.’ Once we understand it needs to divide us any way it can (race, nationality, gender, legality), we see the constant police harassment of Black and Latin youth here in the USA in a different light. It is part of the need to make working class life itself ‘illegal’ and insecure.

It’s as if capitalism is saying “*Don’t feel comfortable or as if you belong here on this earth, always know that you are a temporary or disposable unit!*” Whether your working class feet are planted in a factory in Shengshen, China, or in LA’s Alameda corridor, capitalism will find a way to question the very legality of your existence. This is especially true in these days of crisis when even ‘legal,’ workers in Union shops, have an acute sense of job insecurity!

A DIVIDED WORKING CLASS

Internationally statistics on the world’s workers often make a distinction between formal and informal work, or a job without access to social benefits or unemployment protection. Of course, most ‘illegal’ migrant workers would fall into this informal category but the category also includes ‘citizen’ workers.

According to the IMF (International Monetary Fund) the informal sector in South America amounts to 50% of the workforce. Others have calculated that

2/3 of the newly created jobs in South East Asia are in the informal sector, as are 61% of the urban workforce in Africa. In India it is estimated as 90% of the urban workforce. Not all informal work is badly paid but the case of India shows the strong link between informal work and poverty. When last measured in 2004-5, the per capita intake of calories in urban areas was 2020. This compares with the infamous ‘Buchenwald ration’ for heavy labor of 1750 and means that the intake of calories in urban India is just 15% above the ration at a NAZI death camp. The only country to rival China in its sustained capital growth, India, extracts its profit margins in part out of a calorie starved working class.

This mass of desperate workers then is used to undermine the conditions of work in the ‘formal’ sector. It is not uncommon, for example, for management in a modern auto plant any where in the world to be able to keep its workers working for 57 seconds out of every minute! All this in an industrial working class that, as sociologist Pietro Basso has pointed out, is absolutely larger than at any time in the history of the world.

At one time in ancient Rome, the Senate passed a law requiring all slaves to wear the same colored tunics. However, as soon as the Senators saw how huge the city’s slave population was, they cancelled the law. They were scared once the slaves realized their numerical superiority they might rebel. Today, the international working class does not know how huge it is, or its potential for unity. **The RED FLAG, our Party’s paper, stands to become the key tool in this massive struggle to build a revolutionary movement of a new kind. With its international, communist perspective RED FLAG can build a revolutionary consciousness within the working class, a consciousness of its own size and power.**

THE CAPITALIST STATE IS ANTI-WORKING CLASS

As important as its size, however, is its function in society. Collectively the working class creates all value. Without a repressive capitalist state this arrangement which sees the majority (workers) produce profits for the minority (the capitalists) would not be sustainable. One of the key functions of that state is to throttle any development of class con-

sciousness. Here ideas that promote nationalism or legality play a key role because they undercut the internationalism so vital to our revolution.

Within this, the liberal debates calling for Amnesty, or some form of legalization, play a reactionary role. They suggest that Congress and the Courts can grant us security. In doing so, they lie about the nature of the capitalist state, whose main job, as regards workers, is to ensure the exact opposite: work discipline and insecurity of employment. Every capitalist state enacts laws that create what Marx called “the reserve army of the unemployed.” It’s this pool of desperate workers that disciplines the employed to accept the ‘despotism of the factory,’ or the auto managers ability to exact 57 seconds of work out of every minute the worker is in the plant. In China, it’s the hukou system; in India it’s the calorie starved urban workers; in the US and Europe, it is, in part, the creation of a mass of immigrant undocumented labor. Expecting the capitalist state to protect the undocumented worker is expecting the fox to guard the henhouse, or the ancient Roman Senate to coddle its slaves!

Don’t march to plead with the US government for legality or security. March as a section of the largest working class in the history of the world - a class that is currently fragmented, leaderless and more or less ignorant of its own potential. Yet, march as a class that is already beginning to organize as an international revolutionary class. March with the International Communist Workers Party around the slogan of “**One class, one flag, one Party!**” It’s a slogan that resonates today more than the day it was formulated. It, along with the other major planks of our Party, like fighting directly for communism and abolishing the wage system, show how we have been preparing for many years to build a new revolutionary movement from the ashes of the old. Our time has come. Join us!



LOS ANGELES, APRIL 16 —MASS PROTEST TO SUPPORT RIO TINTO MINERS

RALLY SUPPORTS RIO TINTO MINERS: WORKERS WELCOME RED FLAG

April 16, L.A.—Over 1200 workers demonstrated today at the British consulate to support the locked out miners from Rio Tinto. The demonstrators included these miners and workers from other Los Angeles unions. Workers gladly took and many paid for copies of RED FLAG. One miner told another, “This is a really good paper. You should check it out.” Another miner said he had read the previous issue and really liked it.

The sell out union leaders made the theme of the rally “America the Beautiful.” Our leaflet pointed out that America was exclusively for the rich and exposed that JP Morgan Chase and Citibank were investors and partners in crime with Rio Tinto. This angered, but did not surprise, many workers.

Two of the 13 Rio Tinto’s registered shareholders are subsidiaries of Citicorp, which is part of Citigroup, the major US financial company. Debra Valentine, Rio Tinto’s Executive for Legal and External Affairs, is also a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the US ruling class’s most important foreign policy think tank.

Workers responded positively to our leaflets and signs that called for workers’ worldwide to support the miners and destroy capitalism with communist revolution. The workers’ solidarity and fighting spirit, contrasted sharply with the speakers, including the head of the LA County Federation of Labor, who called for defending “American jobs” against the “British corporation”.

One speaker from the Ironworkers’ Union said the “US government should not let foreign corporations mistreat American workers.” This implied either a fascist call for the US rulers to nationalize the mine as they nationalized basic industry during World War II, or a call for the NLRB to prohibit specific abusive practices. Either way, this appeal to US nationalism is meant to tie US workers to the bosses’ drive to wider war with the lie that the US bosses will somehow protect US workers.

The conditions, however, imposed on miners at Rio Tinto are becoming the new “normal” in the US, whether the boss is Rio Tinto, Massey Mining Co., Boeing, MTA or a subcontractor. Contrary to defending workers, the capitalist state is forcing fascist

conditions on us. Revolution, not reform, is the answer to these attacks, which are inherent in the capitalist crisis.

Appeals to US patriotism and nationalism by the AFL-CIO leaders are meant to build fascist loyalty to US imperialism. The fact that so many workers warmly greeted our communist paper and leaflets shows that the Rio Tinto miners, and all workers under attack, are open to communist revolutionary ideas - when given this alternative. Our task in ICWP is to build these ideas into a material force that will smash this racist murderous system with a communist revolution. We plan to deepen our ties and build more solidarity with these miners who warmly greet **RED FLAG**.