

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM



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



May Day
Los Angeles 2016

BUILDING A COMMUNIST BASE IN THE WORKING CLASS

LOS ANGELES, USA — Comrades at MTA (public transit workers) are mobilizing our fellow workers for communism. Workers are reading and distributing *Red Flag*, supporting it with their donations, joining and taking leadership in the Party.

In recent months, the workers' club of MTA, members of ICWP, has been very active studying the political line of the party. We have discussed the philosophy of dialectical materialism. We have also emphasized combining communist theory and practice.

In other study groups, we have investigated the inevitability of economic crises and wars under the capitalist system. We have discussed nationalism and racism, and especially the history of the class struggle, its triumphs and failures. Among the triumphs, we highlighted the ability and correctness of the communist understanding that it is the industrial workers and farmworkers and soldiers who are indispensable to ensuring the victory of a revolution.

We workers are the ones who produce everything in capitalist society. And the soldiers have the military training and weapons needed for revolution. What we want to point out here is that our party needs a base in those groups and that the work that other comrades and friends carry out distributing newspapers and leaflets outside the factories, barracks, or bus divisions is very important. Some new communists at MTA have been recruited based on our outside work.

Among the failures of the old communist movement, the main failure was that they fought for socialism, a system that tried to be the mother of all reforms and gradually move toward communism. They fought and they tried, but they were destined to fail because the production relations of the capitalist system were kept intact.

Because of this, our club struggles ideologically with all our co-workers, mechanics, service attendants, and bus drivers, to win them politically to the idea of fighting directly

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BREAKING RACIAL BARRIERS & TAKING ON CAPITALISM

SOUTH AFRICA, April 7 — “We’ve just come from the ‘Zuma Must Fall’ protest. A large number of people of all different races and age groups were there, the working class, the students. People were really interested, asking ‘What’s this?’”

Eight young comrades from the ICWP youth collective in South Africa distributed *Red Flag* and our Communist May Day call at the protest against Zuma, the South African President. This is their report:

*We thought that white people were not going to respond well because the majority there was white and all of us distributing *Red Flag* were black. I thought they were going to be racist but they responded well and wanted to talk and ask questions. That’s when we engaged in one-on-one conversations. Many were very interested in knowing more about the party.

Ever since we’ve started this ICWP work, our focus has been in industrial areas. South Africa re-

mains very segregated. We hadn’t found a scenario where we could find so many white, black, Indian and coloured people all in one area. So, as we always say, every crisis in capitalist society presents us communists with an opportunity. This crisis shows the sharpness of the contradictions within the ruling party, the ANC, and within the tripartite alliance as we move towards the general election in 2019.

The idea that ‘Zuma is the whole problem’ is wrong. Zuma is only the symptom of the disease, which is the whole capitalist system. We don’t agree with only targeting him but we were there because it presented us the opportunity to interact with different people from different racial backgrounds.

*I didn’t expect this much enthusiasm especially when we talked to them about communism and ICWP. It shows that regardless of one’s skin color, one’s background, everyone can be won to communism.

I met this one guy in the protest who was talking to my comrade,

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LET'S MARCH THIS MAY DAY FOR COMMUNISM

The International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) invites the workers of the world to join us in marching this May Day for communism.

Communism: A society based on the principle of from each according to their commitment and ability, to each according to their need. A society without money, wages or privileges of any kind. A society without racism, sexism or xenophobia.

A society in which everyone will work – contributing based on their commitment. Collective work will abolish the rigid lines between mental and manual labor. Without capitalism's necessity to maximize profits, communism will not condemn anyone to unemployment. A society in which life will be filled with gratifying struggle on behalf of workers around the world. Joyful lives worth living.

We don't have communism yet, but we can still celebrate and mobilize for our bright future!

Capitalism continues to be "horror without end." Most recently, we've seen the escalation of the war in Syria – gas attacks, US bombings – that has killed hundreds of thousands and created more than five million refugees. Add the wars in Iraq, Yemen, South Sudan, ... and always the danger of a direct confrontation between major imperialists: a third world war.

As if war was not enough, 60 million of us are refugees in camps and on the roads. There are racist police killings and xenophobia from the U.S. to Europe to South Africa and elsewhere. There is relentless unemployment everywhere, from France to El Salvador, the sharpening crisis of overproduction that threatens whole industries, the breakdown of healthcare from Greece to the UK, millions without even clean drinking water from Brazil to Flint, Michigan ... we could fill this whole page with a catalogue of such horrors.

But the horror is just one side of the story. All over the world millions are on the move. The rebellion in French Guiana, the general strike in Argentina, the giant global Women's Marches, the anti-ban airport rallies in the US, history's biggest strike in India, the "fees/Zuma must fall" uprisings in South Africa, the anti-Labour law demonstrations in France ... these could also fill a page.

This rebellious spirit could produce one of the biggest global May Day demonstrations ever. But what should we demonstrate for? For communism!

May Day was established as "International Workers' Day" in 1889 by the Second Communist International to commemorate the 1886 police attack on a march in Chicago (USA) for the 8-hour day. After the Russian revolution of 1917 it became a communist day of struggle.



Russian and Chinese socialism never fulfilled their promise. Socialism is, after all, state capitalism and can never be anything else, but May Day is still celebrated worldwide.

These days most May Day marches do not put forward communism, and most May Day marchers are not communists. The ICWP plans to change that. You can help: by distributing this *Red Flag* editorial wherever you are, by marching with us on May Day where possible, by donating money and by joining the ICWP or a *Red Flag* collective. And you can follow us on Facebook or at our website www.icwpredflag.org and on our blog icwpweb.wordpress.com.

In communism, production will be organized around the needs of our class, not the profits of the bosses. Collective work will replace exploitative jobs. Commitment to our class will replace wage slavery with its harassment, firings, mass unemployment and speed-up.

In communism, everything, not just work, will be reorganized and collectivized. The ICWP will mobilize the masses to provide housing and sanitation (including clean water) for the hundreds of millions of workers who now live in squalor. Housing organized to facilitate collective sharing of necessary chores and maintenance. No mortgages or rent...and no more homeless workers! Even under the harshest conditions, we must begin this process. Society as a whole will be responsible for the care of everyone, children and adults.

In communism, the only wars we'll fight will be against the capitalists and their supporters. Eventually, we'll beat them worldwide. Mass armed conflict will end with the demise of the profit motive.

In communism, there will be no countries or borders, no citizenship and no one will be "illegal." These things are inventions of the capitalists to justify their imperialist ambitions. Those fleeing capitalist rule will be welcomed as comrades.

Learning will be available to everyone

throughout their lifetime and integrated with doing (productive labor, including by young people). We will abolish exams, grades, and degrees, substituting collective evaluation for these divisive tests and certifications. Rather than segregate "educated" elites, we will learn how to mobilize masses to provide for our collective needs.

Communism will immediately strike a blow against sexism and racism, so vital to capitalism. Ending production for profits and wage slavery will end capitalist racist/sexist wage differentials. No wages, no wage differentials! Segregation by "race," religion or ethnicity will be abolished. Racism and sexism won't disappear overnight, but revolution will lay the basis for the long struggle to wipe them out.

As one young marcher said at a Black Lives Matter march in Seattle (USA) if you want communism "you have to re-think everything."

How do we get there? There is only one way: armed revolution, led by workers and soldiers that smashes the bosses' state and establishes communist workers' power.

This will be a hard fight, but others have made revolutions before us. Winning this fight requires hundreds of millions of communists in the ICWP.

Joining the ICWP or a *Red Flag* collective brings the revolution a little bit closer. Closer still if you recruit friends, family, co-workers, and fellow soldiers as well.

If you like this paper, and have read and agree with our manifesto "Mobilize the Masses for Communism" (available on our website) you should immediately join a collective with party members and friends or build a new one. Help us make political decisions about how to mobilize for communism. If you are ready to commit to carrying out these collective decisions, join our Party.

Long live Communism! Long live ICWP! Long live May Day!



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WOMEN GARMENT WORKERS LEAD THE FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM

EL SALVADOR — This May Day, more women and men workers will join the march in the streets of San Salvador. And each year more are joining the fight for a communist society, convinced that it is the only alternative for humanity.

This constant advance in the struggle for the construction of a new society would not be possible without the active participation of the communist women workers in the sweat shops in El Salvador. Under capitalism, women workers are doubly exploited due to their status as women and as workers. Only the organization of the whole working class for Communism will put an end to this exploitation.

“From the beginning we resisted the bosses’ attacks, reading *Red Flag*, going to meetings, listening to the comrades from other countries.

“Then, over time, I began taking responsibility as a leader of the party inside the maquila,” recounted a woman comrade in a meeting of the industrial club.

Communists have intensified the class struggle inside the maquilas of metropolitan San Salvador. Mobilizing for communism, the comrades are building the party that will put an end to class society and the material basis of sexism.

As we know, living conditions for women workers worldwide are unbearable. From Poland

to Bangladesh, Argentina to Mexico, India to Los Angeles, women are taking to the streets to intensify the struggle. This provides opportunities to mobilize more women workers for communism, as those who work in the

maquilas are doing, giving leadership to men and women workers alike.

The politics of the liberal wing of capitalism try to expand like a germ inside women’s struggles. They want us to believe that bourgeois woman and working woman suffer equally and are “sisters.” The only sisters of working woman are women workers from the fields and cities, students, soldiers, housewives—the women of our class. The women workers, together with the men workers and the rest of our class brothers and sisters, will build the Party that will bury capitalism.

Capitalism fosters division and hostility within the working class. The gender division in this so-



ciety prevents us from seeing ourselves as members of the same class and identifying our executioners. Inequality and violence toward women workers has a function within the system. Capitalism provides the material conditions to promote a sexist society in order to keep the relations of production as they are at present.

Ending class society is the first huge step toward the elimination of sexism. The elimination of divisions based on gender begins when we think about building a new way of organizing production, housing, health, and all the rest of humanity’s

needs. Advancing directly to communism, we will put into practice new social relations, a different way of seeing each other. Without wages, without money, without classes, we will not be able to repeat the mistakes of the past.

All this seems very far away, but on the maquilas’ production lines, these ideas are more and more frequently heard. We must continue building communist clubs in the factories, universities, schools, everywhere. When the working class starts to move as a single force, the ruling class will know that it’s days are numbered.

Communist Revolution is inevitable! Let’s advance towards it!

COMMUNISM: THE ONLY ECONOMY THAT WORKS FOR WORKERS

SEATTLE (USA), April 16 — Thousands marched with Black Lives Matter to “speak out for an economy that works for all.” The International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP) was there to say that the only economy that works for workers is a communist economy.

One young man wanted to know more about how such an economy would work. By the end of the discussion, the comrade distributing *Red Flag* had talked about several aspects of communism.

“I agree with most of what you say,” the young man said. “That’s what I want.” After a short pause he added, “To imagine what communism would be you really have to re-think everything!”

“You got that right!” our comrade agreed. The young man took a paper and began reading it immediately.

Another guy, a veteran who had just left the army, was intrigued by the articles about turning the guns on the capitalists. He wanted to organize to leaflet the nearby army base. He gave us his contact information so we could send him more literature on organizing inside the bosses’ army. He too took a paper and vowed to catch up with us at May Day.

We distributed almost all our papers we brought and about 50 copies of the ICWP pamphlet “To End Racism, Mobilize the Masses for

Communism.”

The weekend before, we had a party Potluck dinner. Two topics of discussion stood out.

First, a comrade teacher helped get the union delegate assembly to vote for a strike on May Day. The union leadership insisted the resolution be brought up for a general vote. If it was a normal vote, it would have passed.

But the union leaders would not allow this to happen. They refused to call a strike unless 75% voted for it.

“That’s just like our union!” said a Boeing worker at the dinner. Others at the factory had identical reactions, showing their disgust with union politics.

A comrade suggested the teacher show the May Day poster from South Africa to his students. He was trying to get something for May Day going at his school anyway. Students are key!

Second, a new comrade at the dinner has many relatives from Syria. Naturally she was appalled by the continued carnage (as were we all). “Workers have been fleeing Syria [for years now] by the hundreds of thousands and it seems nobody is willing to help!” she said in frustration.

We talked about our communist vision of a world without borders and nations: how communism would welcome every worker, everywhere.

for communism.

But we also struggle to involve ourselves in practice. Many workers help distribute *Red Flag*. We struggle for them to donate money to the party as a communist political act. Donations have been collected for the work in South Africa and El Salvador, because this builds internationalism and loyalty to ICWP.

Our club is multi-racial—whites, blacks and latinos—because to win we need to destroy the racial barriers which the ruling class has artificially created. We are struggling to recruit women. Unfortunately, there are not many women mechanics. However, we are trying to recruit two women workers as soon as possible because we know that our club with communist women workers will be a dagger in the heart of the enemy and a blow to sexism.

Recently we had a meeting with comrades from El Salvador. We met to prepare the speech for the May Day dinner that a black comrade mechanic will give. We talked about his personal experiences, how he joined the party, and the need to give more leadership. We also had a bar-b-q in a park in which black, latin and white mechanics and drivers participated.

Two mechanics went to visit workers of another division to invite them to the dinner and the May Day March. We have also communicated with *Red Flag* readers from the trains to invite them to the dinner as well as the march.

The process of raising communist consciousness is not automatic. It requires constant struggle with the comrades, and especially with ourselves. It is a daily struggle to be able to destroy the capitalist ideas and practices that infect the workers’

To End Racism, Mobilize the Masses for Communism



Pamphlet available at icwpredflag.org/RP/rpe.pdf

We downloaded an English version of our global leaflet on the refugee crisis from the ICWP website. She’s going to get some of her relatives to translate it into Arabic to send to the Middle East.

Then we discussed how modern wars are a result of the capitalist profit motive. Even more importantly, we can finally end these wars after we’ve defeated all the capitalists and had communist production for need, not profit. Then she agreed to sell *Red Flag* at May Day.

We can’t let up for a minute. On to May Day and beyond!

movement. But when the workers begin to join ICWP, convinced that a communist society is the only solution, and are willing to spread the ideas of the party and feel proud to be called comrades, they are like a flame that spreads to devour the forest.

Perhaps this article doesn’t fully reflect the communist atmosphere that exists in our workplace, but our ICWP is respected and *Red Flag* is very popular. We will continue writing to tell you about more ideological struggles that take place everyday and the actions we have taken to denounce capitalism when the workers have been attacked, as well as the terror that the bosses have of our communist analysis.

Long live the International Working Class! Long Live May Day! Long Live Communism!

Elections: Deadly Trap for Workers

LET'S JOIN ICWP AND MOBILIZE FOR COMMUNISM

MEXICO — On June 4, elections will be held for the governorships of the states of Coahuila, Mexico and Nayarit. With the usual promises and lies, the Mexican capitalist politicians launched their candidacies and began their campaigns.

We workers must be clear that no capitalist party will change our situation. We need to build our own Party, the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP), to destroy the capitalists, put an end to their money and wage slavery, and build a world without borders or nations where our needs are met.

We must also understand the two important roles that the capitalist electoral circus plays. Both seek to prevent us from mobilizing for communist revolution.

First, elections are a way for capitalists to resolve their disagreements without going to civil war. Civil wars, with millions of city workers and farmworkers armed like in the Mexican Revolution of 1910, create the potential for a communist revolution.

Second, elections channel our class' anger and hatred of capitalism into the dead end of the election booth. Instead of armed revolution for communism, they want us to vote for their "peaceful change."

MoReNa is the most popular party because it can better deceive us with its populist politics. In addition, its program coincides with the economic and political interests of an important section of Mexican capitalists and their imperialist allies.

MoReNa is more useful to them now that the dispute over capitalist markets is getting sharper. This dispute leads to wider wars and eventually to

world war. It also urges our class to form our worldwide party, ICWP.

The capitalist mouthpieces want to deceive us by saying that the big imperialists can divide up the world peacefully. Lenin refuted this idea saying that war between the big powers is inevitable. The First and Second World Wars confirmed it.

But capitalist wars and crises open opportunities to free ourselves from the chains of wage slavery, as our brothers and sisters showed in Russia and China. They both made a revolution, the first in 1917 during World War I, the second soon after World War II. Their mistake was fighting for socialism instead of communism.

The current worldwide capitalist crisis hastens our opportunity. We will not commit the mistakes of the past. The collective experience of the workers around the world assures us a future in which we will all contribute our work and thinking and enjoy collectively its products.

As in Syria (see article page 8), in Mexico the capitalist groups and their respective imperialist allies are fighting over control of the labor power of our class, the oil wealth, manufacturing and raw materials.

Under the attack of the US imperialists led by Trump, the Mexican capitalists have returned to the diversification of their companies: looking for investments other than with the USA, "strengthening the internal market" while supporting exports, which also should not focus only on the USA.

The current dispute over the North Atlantic Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) is because the US wants to deny NAFTA privileges to other foreign

producers in Mexico, especially the German, Japanese and Chinese automakers.

They don't look kindly on the fact that the At-lacomulco group, one of the pillars of the Revolutionary Institutional Party (PRI), has done business with European industries like Daimler-Benz, or that they have signed contracts with China to build the high-speed train that would go from Mexico City to Queretaro, or the failed "Dragon Mall" in Cancún, both stopped by US pressure.

In addition, the US bosses are losing huge profits in the auto industry, displaced by European, Japanese, and now Chinese imperialists, this time producing cars in the City of Sahagún with joint investments from Carlos Slim, the richest capitalist in Mexico.

The rival imperialists to the US are not standing by idly. China offered its support if the US withdrew from NAFTA. The Europeans said they would not take their industries out of Mexico, even if they were charged with a 35% tariff. All of them are exploiters.

The devaluation of the peso, which hits our class very hard, benefits the Mexican capitalists and the imperialist investors because the products assembled in Mexico are sold more in the US and in the rest of the world.

As we can see, capitalist loyalty is only to money and to keep us exploited. Our loyalty is to our class and to the communist revolution that will destroy capitalism forever.

We invite you to join the effort to build ICWP. Get organized with us to give the final blow to capitalism, and together we will build a communist world!

SOUTH AFRICA from page 1

holding *Red Flag* and our May Day leaflet. His first question was, "Are you guys affiliated with the South African Communist Party (SACP)?"

I said, "We are not, we are a totally independent movement."

When this guy was young he lived in Zambia. During the independence movement in the 70's his father's farm was nationalized. They lost everything and came to South Africa to start over. He wanted to know the communists' answer to the issue of land, of mining, and of classes. He asked whether we would have a problem with the middle class working independently, paying its taxes, etc.

We collectively explained that in communism the social relationships in our society today will cease to exist. There will be a major shift in social relations between human beings. There will no longer be different classes, no longer a middle class as we know it today. These ideas excited him. We exchanged numbers and he wants to come to our May Day.

*Another guy had a vast knowledge of the history of the communist movement. I thought to myself, "some white folks, they know these things." Even though we live in different places, some of them know what is happening! It struck me that we need to know more history, that I must read some more.

*One white lady asked us how we are different from Russia and China, since they were fighting for communism, but it never really worked. We explained that they didn't implement communism, so you can't say that communism failed. They implemented socialism, which is state capitalism. We told her that we have to fight our oppressors and build one international communist workers' party. She said she had never seen a

movement like ours. She will go to the web site to find out more and call if she likes it. She was impressed that we were so young.

*Some people approached us instead of us approaching them. I was intrigued that white Afrikaners were so interested in knowing what communism is. There was a middle-aged man who came to me smiling as he read *Red Flag*. He wasn't speaking English, so I could only imagine that he was so excited to see youth with *Red Flags* in their hands.

*I met a white guy our exact age. He took *Red Flag* and read it. The first question he asked was "Are we going to be Marxists or Leninists?" And I was like, ok, he knows about communism. He listened to me and was quite interested. He had communist ideas but he didn't know where to go with them. There's no one around him who he speaks to about this. So he was quite moved that there are people with these ideas. He's going to read more of the *Red Flag* and we're going to call him.

*This was really an opportunity to mobilize more people of different races to show that we want to and can build a world free of racism. We distributed more *Red Flags* than we expected. We gave out the invitation for May Day and some people were interested in going to our communist May Day.



Jacob Zuma, the South African President, is embroiled in a fight among the rulers within the African National Congress (ANC) and with the Democratic Alliance (DA). He is accused of corruption, which is true of him as well as those accusing him, and all capitalist politicians. Zuma supports Russian and Chinese capitalists' exploitation in South Africa and in turn has their support. NUMSA, the National Union of Metalworkers, is supporting Zuma. The Zuma faction might fall.

The other faction controls much of the media and is mounting a sustained campaign to oust him. The pro-US Democratic Alliance is spearheading the "Zuma Must Fall" movement.

This movement also includes the billionaire exploiter Cyril Ramaphosa, who has served on the Board of British-owned Lonmin Mine, which ordered the attack on the striking miners in Marikana, where 34 miners were killed. He is also invested in McDonald's and many other companies.

Zuma fired his economic minister, Pravin Gordhan, who is deeply invested in US/UK/Europe, including companies like Nestles and Johnny Walker. The "Zuma Must Fall" movement sharply attacked this firing as arbitrary.

Both factions represent rulers fighting to control workers' growing exploitation and to gain the confidence of the masses whose increasing anger they cannot contain. At the same time they represent the dangerous and sharpening fight between the world's major imperialists, which is leading to WWII.

The working class cannot side with any of these capitalists and imperialist exploiters and murderers. Our fight is to use this opportunity to mobilize for a communist world that eliminates capitalism-imperialism and builds the communist power of the working class.

Earth Day March for Science:

COMMUNISM WILL CREATE SCIENCE FOR THE MASSES, NOT FOR PROFITS

April 19 — Thousands in the US and elsewhere will “March for Science” on April 22. They will march for the joy of exploring the natural world and our place in it. They will march for the creation of new technologies that can potentially extend and improve our lives. But wait! Why do they think they have to march for this?

They are marching because of “an alarming trend toward discrediting scientific consensus and restricting scientific discovery” in the US. The march will support the 99% of scientists around the world who say that human activity—really capitalism—is responsible for global warming.

The Trump-Pence administration and Republicans in Congress are threatening major cuts in funding to scientific research, including climate science and medical research. Their stated belief in “alternate facts” (convenient lies) contradicts basic principles of scientific inquiry. It serves powerful capitalist interests that profit mightily from hiding the truth. Big corporations use their money and political power to suppress or attack research that hurts their profits. The oil companies don’t want limitations on fossil fuels. Cigarette companies want to keep killing people with tobacco. The National Football League attacks researchers that show that football leads to brain injury.

Religious groups try to prevent teaching biological evolution, and preventing research on stem cells, as the G. W. Bush administration did. Religion is not the only threat to scientific materialism, which is opposed by idealism in many forms. Religions insist on the absolute truth of texts they hold sacred. Science, in contrast, recognizes that the world is always changing and our knowledge is always partial. The knowledge we have is always based on practical experiment and observation, not on divine revelation.

But many liberal secular academic theories are also

idealist and anti-science. College students are often instructed in “interpreting texts” with no reference to social or material reality. The capitalist model of “division of labor,” applied to human knowledge, creates this contradiction between the “humanities” and the “sciences.”

The assault on science is not simply the product of greedy capitalists and religious reactionaries. It is a general feature of the crisis of world capitalism, of fascism, of a stinking carcass that needs to be buried — and soon!

Science and Class Society

Humans have learned from our interactions with the rest of the natural world as long as we have walked the earth. But with the rise of class society came a division between “folk” knowledge and “priestly” or elite knowledge that separated practice from theory. Theory was dominated by religious ideology that served the rulers. Practical knowledge of things like agriculture and midwifery became “traditional” rather than innovative.

This began to change with the rise of trade in the Islamic world (from Africa to east Asia) between the 8th and the 13th centuries. The Abbasid caliphs used their growing wealth to support scholars who conducted real-world studies of medicine, light and optics, geography and more.

As merchant capitalism spread to Europe, these early-scientific seeds began to sprout. Lens grinders invented telescopes, for example, to provide a competitive advantage in spotting cargo ships. Galileo turned his toward the sky. He revolutionized our understanding of our place in the cosmos.

When industrial capitalism rose to dominance over merchant capitalism in the 19th century, science as we know it really took off. Capitalist competition placed a premium on innovation and therefore on re-

search. Physics and chemistry grew to serve capitalist interests, as medicine and biology do now.

Much of that knowledge could be useful to the masses once we have power. In capitalist society, however, it has always been the working class

that suffered most from industrial pollution, workplace illnesses and injuries, and the de-skilling of work. Capitalism has excluded masses around the world from whatever benefits flow from its science.

And capitalist science is fundamentally incapable of helping us understand society. Mainstream sociology, economics, “political science” and the rest are committed to stability, not to change. We can only understand history — social change — through the lens of communist dialectical materialism.

We understand the enthusiasm that many feel for science. But communism will remove the chains placed on science in the service of profits. It will enlist the working masses in the reconnection of theory and practice in the context of industrial production and beyond. It will unleash the imagination and creative potential of billions, who will take science far beyond what we see today.

And so we say: to March for science.... March for communism! March on May Day with the International Communist Workers’ Party.



Comrade in South Africa putting our May Day poster over his House of Prayer poster

Capitalism’s Community Colleges Serve Capitalist Goals

LEARNING ON THE PATHWAY TO COMMUNISM

LOS ANGELES, USA — Tracy (not her real name) was eighteen and recently out of prison. She had no parents, no high school diploma, no job, no money, no home. She desperately wanted to go to community college because “it’s where you learn things.”

But Tracy wasn’t able to pass an “ability to benefit” literacy test. She couldn’t get financial aid. The college doors slammed shut.

Imagine how different Tracy’s life would be in a real communist system without money! Like everyone else, she would have a home — without needing wages from a job to pay for it. There would be useful work for her to do. Even if her parents were gone, her co-workers and other comrades would provide loving support. She would never have been imprisoned.

And communism would provide Tracy with many opportunities to learn. She would learn new skills at work — perhaps many different kinds of work. She would get the help she needed to learn to read. She would take part in study groups on political themes and other things that interested her.

In communism, Tracy would teach others things that she already knew. All the learning resources available today — books, videos, labs, studios etc. — would be at her disposal. So would other methods and materials that communist-led workers will invent and create.

Communist education will build and reinforce the social relationships of collectivity and comradeship at the core of communist society.

Pathways to Exploitation

Are capitalism’s community colleges really places “to learn things”? Not so much.

Capitalism’s schools and colleges build and rein-

force the social relationships of exploitation at the core of capitalist society. For example, those attended mainly by working-class students promote the illusion that “anyone can make it” and the lie that “if you don’t make it, it’s your own fault.”

Often students (like Tracy) are passed along from year to year without ever really learning basic skills in reading, writing and math. Teachers are told to blame students and their parents. Parents are told to blame teachers. But these “failures” are really a success for the capitalist rulers, who need an obedient, passive and uncritical workforce and army.

The big buzz-word in US community colleges today is “pathways.” Last fall the California Community Colleges trumpeted their “improved transfer pathways ... as part of a historic pilot program aimed at meeting the needs of the state’s changing economy.”

The same report bragged of new community college bachelor’s degree programs in “career technical education fields... that are hiring and need more skilled workers.” For example, “Antelope Valley College’s new airframe manufacturing technology degree embraces the unique training needs of the Antelope Valley’s aerospace economy.”

In the past, factories and other workplaces trained young workers on the job. Now the government uses workers’ tax money to save the employers the expense of training. Increasingly, community college is where you learn the things that big capitalists need you to know so they can exploit your labor.

Education for liberation... Or liberation before education?

It’s not surprising that many students have absorbed the bosses’ message that schooling is not about “learning” at all. Instead, it’s mainly about showing

up on time and doing the routine tasks you’re assigned. Why? To get “points” that get you “grades” so that you can “earn a degree.”

That is, capitalist schooling for workers’ children (especially black and immigrant children) is training for wage slavery.

Some students and their parents, though, trust the bosses’ hype. They see schooling and a professional career as the pathway to “helping my people.” Many teachers push this idea.

We can all learn a lot from the struggle against Apartheid schools in South Africa in the 1970s-1980s. Masses of young anti-racist rebels embraced the slogan, “liberation before education.” They played a key role in bringing down Apartheid.

In contrast, the opposing “education before liberation” faction helped to build the black bourgeoisie that participates in oppressing and exploiting masses of black and other workers in South Africa today.

Today we see things differently. Our best opportunities for education are in the very process of mobilizing the masses for communism — now and in the future.

Today that includes party study groups and communist schools. It includes reading, discussing, producing, and writing for *Red Flag*. It means active participation in party collectives that plan, carry out and evaluate our political work.

Opportunities for communist education will continue to expand as communist class struggle breaks through to communist revolution. And even more as we organize communist production and build communist society.

Fighting for communism is really where we learn things.

South Africa: Massive Disgust, Anger and Hatred of the ANC

THE FUTURE FOR YOUTH IS TO BUILD ICWP

66% of South Africa's population of 55 million is under 35 years old. Therefore the majority of people in South Africa were born in 1982 and after. So when the African National Congress (ANC) took power in 1994 the majority of the population were less than 13 years old, or hadn't been born yet. They did not experience apartheid.

The ANC has maintained its majority and power on the basis that they fought apartheid. A person may say that they will never criticize the ANC because it fought for them and gave them a RDP house (8m x 4m in size), and that it enabled them to go to places like the beach which they couldn't before 1994.

But most youth have lived almost their entire lives under ANC rule. They have experienced its failures, corruption and inability to provide FOR the needs of the masses. They are disgruntled by it and looking for alternatives.

This provides us with a great opportunity to mobilize and show them that the only alternative is to put an end to capitalism and fight for communism. Looking at their present and future life, many can definitely tell that the ANC does not represent their needs, or prosperity. Hence they have no trust in it.

There is a general way of thinking here that you have to finish school, then go to the university, then get a good job. Then your life will become better. In turn the lives of the working class become better. They have always been brain-

washed with that.

The ANC has always been able to sell the illusion that they represent the interest of the working class. They do not. Rather they represent their own interest and that of their allies, many of the Black capitalists and foreign investors.

It is our task as young communists to fight the capitalists whether they are black or green, especially fighting their wrong ideas. Ideas that are downgrading to the working class, that influence individualistic and nationalist tendencies. The growing inequality in our society is the result of capitalism, administered by the ANC's black elites. After they won power in 1994, they have continued to enrich themselves, at the expense of us, the working class.

This decline in power that the ANC faces was always going to happen, whatever party was in power, because they were not fighting to end capitalism. They fought the wrong struggle. They were not fighting capitalism that was administered by the white supremacists of the apartheid regime. They were opportunistic from the start. They rallied support as if they were fighting for the interest of the oppressed majority, but they were fighting so that they could be the ones who share in the dividends of exploitation.

As a result today, South African capitalists are both black and white. They are united in exploiting the masses regardless of the color of their skin.

The history of apartheid (racism on a higher grade) has made it easy for them to use race in order to divide and rule, to prevent the workers and students from uniting. It is our target to unite white and black workers because that is key in defeating racism along with capitalism. We are materialists, scientists. We know that there is only one race, the HUMAN RACE.

We are one working class with similar interests, being exploited, being forced to live under unbearable conditions because of capitalists globally in their pursuit of profit and power.

The falling and failings of the ANC provide us here in South Africa with a big opportunity to mobilize the disgruntled masses for communism and fight to put an end to this "horror with no end: capitalism."

We, the working class, need to fight for communism internationally because we do not live in isolation. We cannot succeed in fighting for communism if we take the nationalistic approach. History shows this. Capitalism is global. In order to defeat it, we have to be an unstoppable international force fighting for communism. Communism that will break all the evils faced by the masses, that will unleash a world with no poverty, no borders, where human needs are met and prioritized. A world based on objective reality to provide for the needs of the working class, the ones who create all the value and worth.

LETTERS

LETTERS

LETTERS

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS



Young Lions Take Leadership

I am a leader of the youth collective here in South Africa. I just want to commend the maturity the young lions have shown in the two years since we started this collective. It's as if it's been many years.

The comrades can lead a meeting even if I'm not present. Last week I was not present; I was

called to work at the last moment and we had planned a general meeting of our collective. But the comrades managed to lead the meeting. This maturity shows even in our organizing and the lack of competition and jealousy between us. Because we have the same line, we want the same thing: the eradication of capitalism. We want to advance the line of the party, not our own interest.

In the last two years we have expanded the club to about ten young comrades. We meet every Sunday. Comrades have different personalities but when it comes to our political work, they show initiative and aggressively carry out work with dedication. This has created a new relationship among each other of trust and being able to help each other.

I believe this is a communist relationship and it will deepen as we do more work and mobilize the masses for communism. This kind of communist relationship and collective work when grasped and practiced by millions, will create a communist society that will relentlessly struggle until individualism,

racism, and xenophobia are rooted out forever.
--a Comrade

Building Communist Collectivity

The house of a leading comrade of the youth collective was vandalized and burnt down by anti-social elements. A few days later, a cell phone and a computer were stolen, another

cell phone robbed.

A comrade who lives in the neighborhood opened his house for the comrade. This house has now become a lively center of all our activities. It is always open to all where political struggle and comradeship deepens. Serious political discussion is always followed by struggle to overcome weaknesses. Eagerness to support each other with criticism and self-criticism creates openness and confidence in the collective.

Each comrade has a different personality but as a collective plans are made, implemented and checked with precision. Comrades are so serious about the task that if they miss a meeting due to work, the first thing they want to know afterwards is the report of the collective. The comrades have learned to expect more from each other by example. This work, as exciting as it is, is not without huge obstacles and struggle to overcome them.

One of the most energetic comrades never stops until the last of the **Red Flags** is distributed. He was deeply religious. Another comrade grew up in a family of staunch AMC support. Yet another comrade was influenced by fiercely nationalist pan African movement. They are all dedicated members of ICWP. This consistent work is creating immense potential for our party to grow. Two of the comrades are going to relocate to the two largest industrial cities of South Africa.

Our May Day event and the communist school is a way to dramatically advance our work. In preparation for the communist school we are asking each comrade to prepare a report of their work, look at their strength and weakness of their work and their collective. This will deepen our resolve to build a mass party to create communist world.

--Comrade in South Africa

LETTERS

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CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

MOBILIZING THE MASSES FOR A COMMUNIST MAY DAY IN SOUTH AFRICA

One of our collective's newest members said, "I never knew I could be so passionate about something. Thank you, ICWP, for giving me hope and a dream for a better world. We as youngsters of this community had given up but now we will work hard to live in a communist society. Every day we will work hard to mobilize the masses for communism."

On Monday, April 10, our collective went on a street-to-street, door-to-door mobilization.

We met a shop owner from Somalia who said, "I am very happy to meet you guys. I am looking forward to the day communism will take over because I know on that day xenophobia will be over. We foreign nationals live in fear of our lives day in and day out. Forward, Communists!"

Then we went into a house where two older ladies live. They said, "Who are you? We are not interested in any political party."

As soon as we explained, we got their attention. I was surprised. They know so much about communism but did not know where to find communists. Now that they know, they said, "Where do we sign to become members?"

When we explained to them that we don't have membership cards, they complimented us and said that we are true communists.

--A comrade in south africa



SYRIA from page 8

So far, over 400,000 Syrians are dead. Millions are displaced. Yet, neither pipeline has been built, and not one cubic foot of natural gas has been sold - either in US dollars or Euros! Private property- the right to own and control the resources of the world- is a major feature of capitalism. What's 400,000 dead next to the projection of profits! That's the way capitalists think.

Everything in common—that's the way communists think. The need to share and share alike those resources is a defining feature of the communist world our revolution will build. As they expand their global wars, the imperialists will be forced to draft into their armies the young students and workers who they attack at every turn. These young soldiers, won to a vision of a world without borders and exploitation, can turn the capitalists' global wars into revolutionary wars for communism. Let the capitalists expand their wars! We will finish them!

Trump:

WARMAKER FOR THE US RULING CLASS

Before the US Presidential election in November 2016, *Red Flag* warned that the choice at the ballot-box was between war (Clinton) or fascism (Trump), but that whatever they chose, they'd get the other thrown in for free.

That's because the interests of the capitalist class in the US (and around the world) dictate the policies of the capitalist state. Capitalist crisis leads to fascism and imperialist war. It's the bosses' only strategy to get out of their crisis. It's not a question of choice, or personality—but their only plan for survival.

We've got another plan—to put an end to capitalism, its crises and wars by mobilizing the masses for communism.

Trump started his presidency with a series of fascist attacks: the refugee travel ban, deportations of immigrants, closing women's health care clinics around the world, declaring open-season for racist police murders, attacks on the lives of LGBTQ Americans.

But it's only been in the past two weeks that Trump has become a war-maker as well, with US missile strikes on Shayrat airbase in Syria, dropping the "Mother of all Bombs" in Afghanistan, and

mobilizing an "armada" to the Korean Peninsula.

Although Trump ran his campaign on echoing the "America First" isolationism of the openly fascist Steve Bannon alt-right, the events of the past two weeks seem to signal a real change. What the media is posing as a fight between Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner and former Breitbart editor Steve Bannon is not personal, but political. It's the main wing of the US ruling class beginning to exercise some control over the President in the realm of foreign policy.

Bannon has been forced off the National Security Council by the generals in charge of national security. When Hillary Clinton called for Trump to "take out Assad's airfields," he did so, two hours later. The Democrats in Congress supported this attack. The bosses' media, including New York Times and the Washington Post loved it.

When Trump ran for office, he said NATO was obsolete. Now he says it's not. The missile attack on Syria intensifies the contradictions between the US and Russian imperialists and brings us closer to World War III. It makes it more urgent for us to build the International Communist Workers' Party to mobilize the masses for communism as the only force that can put an end to imperialist war.



BORDERS:

WHAT ARE THEY AND WHO DO THEY SERVE?

For the working class, borders are nothing but monuments to the wasted lives of workers the world over. It was the trench warfare of World War I in Europe which wiped millions of young soldiers off the face of the earth. To carve out the borders that we know today in Africa and the Persian Gulf area: Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Palestine/Israel.

For the capitalists-imperialists these borders created their nations and their empires.

Four million people were killed and 35 million became refugees when the India/Pakistan border was created.

The genocide of some 90 million Native Americans from Argentina to Canada set the stage for carving out borders by the US and European imperialists throughout the Americas.

If the graves of these dead workers, soldiers and native populations had voices they too would surely chant like the activists today “We want a world without borders!” “No human being is illegal!”

Masses worldwide are beginning to raise these slogans. They are expressing their aspirations for a world without nations, borders or immigration laws.

Only worldwide communist revolution can make these aspirations a reality. Communism will eliminate all these artificial barriers, including fences and private property, created by class societies’ rulers to exploit and rule over us.

In communism no human being will ever exploit another. Exploitation was the material basis for the rise of class societies: slavery, feudalism, capitalism, and socialism.

Communism will destroy capitalism, its wage slavery, money and markets. Nothing will be bought or sold, especially our labor power. We will collectively plan, produce and distribute the fruits of our labor according to need.

Racism: an exclusive product of capitalism.

Without racism the capitalists couldn’t exploit and oppress us. They are the smallest weakest ruling class in history. Yet they must exploit and rule over ever increasing billions of us. Our historical task, however, is to be their grave diggers.

This contradiction puts them into a very precarious situation. We run their industrial complex. They train and arm us to defend them from other capitalists, to put down working class rebellions and revolutions, and to fight their wars for empires and profits.

We can win our brother and sister soldiers, as Russian soldiers were won one hundred years ago, to turn the guns around to make a revolution – this time for communism, not socialism.

Racism’s main role is to divide and weaken us, and especially try to prevent us from successfully organizing for communism.

Thus there are aspects of racism in all capitalist laws and policies. Immigration laws are no exception. From their very inception they were racist and anti-working class to the core.

The first immigration law was passed by US imperialism. It was the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 which excluded Chinese laborers from immigrating to the US. In 1901 Australia passed its first immigration law, called “white Australia policy.” Then came the US Immigration Quota Law of 1924 which restricted immigration from Southern and Eastern Europe, and in practice prohibited it from

Asia, Latin America and Africa.

Patriotism: a product of the creation of borders and nations

Patriotism elevates the homeland or nation above everything else. Patriotism blinds us into supporting our capitalist class enemies against our working class brothers and sisters, nationally and internationally.

Nationally, it leads us into suppressing any revolutionary organizing to overthrow our capitalist masters. Internationally, it leads us to fight and die for the interests of one group of capitalists-imperialists against another.

Patriotism also engenders Xenophobia, which turns our immigrant brothers and sisters into enemies. It scapegoats them for the unemployment, rotten working conditions and lack of benefits that the capitalists impose on us to exploit us all.

The fight for communism is ever more urgent

As the capitalists’ crisis of over production intensifies, it pushes them to bigger and bigger wars, including world war. The capitalists will spare no efforts to win us to their rabid racism, xenophobia and patriotism.

We should also spare no efforts in organizing for communism: distributing *Red Flag* and recruiting to our Party. This will enable us to respond as a class to all anti-immigrant attacks by organizing political strikes against capitalism and for communism.

Our goal should be to put an end to capitalism-imperialism that needs racist immigration laws, borders and nations, and to build a communist world.

We are mobilizing the masses for a world where all workers are welcome everywhere. Instead of competing for slave labor jobs, we will cooperate as brothers and sisters, to work collectively to meet everyone’s needs—everywhere. We need a world where we learn from each other’s experience to create the best for our class, without money or profits. A world where all workers can travel anywhere to share with other workers, but where no one will be forced to leave their home and family to survive.

Join ICWP to fight for this communist world!



Syria, Afghanistan, Yemen...

ONLY COMMUNISM CAN END MURDEROUS IMPERIALIST WARS

As a *Red Flag* reader in Syria put it, “Not far from where I am there is a constant barrage of gun fire.../received your newspaper online. I cannot sleep tonight, not because of the gunfire, but the fire of the communist world that is our future. One hundred years ago our class demolished the power of the capitalists in Russia. Today we have to finish the work of our class that was smashed. Long live communism. Communism and nothing but communism!”

They have gassed and barrel-bombed them. They have bombarded them with white phosphorus and depleted uranium shells. They have blown up their houses, occupied and terrorized whole neighborhoods. They have stuck them in tents in refugee camps. They have destroyed farms, schools, factories and all the ways people make a living.

And where have they done all this? We could be talking about Syria, Iraq, Gaza, Yemen, Libya, Afghanistan Northern Nigeria. Southern Sudan, Kashmir, Ukraine ... just to name the hot spots of the last few years. And what’s the result of it all?

So far, they have solved nothing! There is no end to their wars.

And who are they? Capitalists. Syrian or Saudi capitalists, Israeli or Palestinian or Yemeni or Iranian or Iraqi capitalists and so on. The media frames their conflicts as civil wars or regional wars or illegal invasions because they have to hide the reality that these are capitalist versus capitalist wars.

The way they are characterized channels the way we talk about them. That’s why *Red Flag* plays such a vital role. Understanding them as capitalist versus capitalist wars immediately puts the need for communist revolution front and center.

They are fought to bring profits to this or that capitalist group. And the local capitalists are backed by imperialists like the US, China, Russia and one or two others who control or want to control the world!

The immediate cause of the war in Syria is which pipeline will carry whose gas to Europe. Two proposed pipelines cross in Syria -one

backed by Russia carrying natural gas from Iran through Iraq and Syria to Europe and one backed by the US carrying natural gas from Qatar through Syria to Turkey and Europe.

Depending on which pipeline wins out, the gas will either be sold in US Dollars (strengthening the Dollar as the world’s reserve currency) or in Euros (weakening it.)

Even more crucially, the US wants its pipeline to take Qatar’s gas to Europe to break Russia’s chokehold on energy to Europe. As long as Russia controls Europe’s source of natural gas, the European Union is unable to defy Russia and side with the US on issues that affects Russia’s interests, especially war. This is a life and death question for the Russians, who are fighting to make sure they can keep Europe at their mercy.

The pipelines are the immediate cause of the war in Syria but they have everything to do with the sharpening rivalry between the main imperialist powers, whose overall cause is the general crisis of world capitalism.

See SYRIA, page 7