



RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

**CHARLOTTESVILLE SHOWS NEED
TO CRUSH FASCISM WITH
COMMUNIST REVOLUTION,
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Immigrants, Refugees & Citizens

SOLIDARITY OR FASCISM

This past July 15 at the airport in Barcelona, Spain, an airplane, bound for Senegal, Africa, failed to take off at the scheduled time. Everything went as normal until a worker from Senegal boarded the plane in handcuffs. He had entered Spain on another flight “illegally.” He was being transported in the custody of the Civil Guard (police).

As the passengers on the plane heard the worker complaining, they stood up, protesting the action of the police. They demanded that his expulsion be canceled. The flight was paralyzed for several hours, forcing the captain to finally order all the passengers to disembark.

There are other examples of solidarity with immigrants: the women in Mexico who provide food and water to the workers who try to cross Mexico on top of freight trains known as “The Beast.” Another example is the the workers in Catania, Italy, who protested the docking of the anti-immigrant “Defend Europe” boat and the Tunisian

fishermen whose action stopped it. (see page 4)

Workers have a choice. This worker solidarity shows key aspects of the communist potential of our class. It is absolutely necessary to organize a communist revolution that puts an end to capitalism and all its evils. But it’s not automatic. Without a communist party, the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP), that struggles ideologically to fight and defeat the poisonous ideas of capitalism, our class can be won to racist-fascist ideas and to support the capitalists.

A clear example of this is what happened, the same week, in Antofagasta, Chile. Two Peruvian brothers were hospitalized after having been soaked with gasoline and set on fire by a crowd of Chilean fishermen. This racist incident is a product of increasing racial tensions fomented by the bosses’ press that incites hatred against immigrants, accusing them of being criminals and demanding their

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Farmworker Killed, Co-Workers Strike:

ONLY COMMUNISM CAN END EVERYDAY SLAUGHTER FOR PROFITS

WASHINGTON STATE (USA), August 14—Capitalism killed farmworker Honesto Silva Ibarra, a 28-year-old married father of three. Communism would never allow the conditions that led to his death.

Silva complained of debilitating headaches for three days as he picked blueberries near the Canadian border in Sumas, WA (USA). Forest fires from British Columbia, Canada covered the area with smoke as the temperature neared 100 for more than a week. The “contratados”—guest workers brought to the USA under the H-2A visa program—slaved from sunup to sundown in the broiling fields.

Silva complained to the bosses, but was told to go back to work. They threatened to charge him with “abandonment of work,” which would result in his deportation.

Eventually, he couldn’t take it anymore. He asked to go home to Mexico. But CSI Visa Processing, which recruited the 600-worker crew of which he was a part, lied about his visa. It had already expired when he tried to board the plane. He was sent to a nearby clinic, nearly incapacitated. They rushed him to Harborview Hospital in Seattle. He died shortly thereafter.

Alerted by comrades at Boeing, dozens of machinists in the Seattle area, about three hours south, placed the blame squarely on a system that puts profits above all else. The Sarbanand farm where this atrocity occurred is a subsidiary of Munger farms from Delano, CA, the biggest blueberry operation in the world. It exploits thousands of guest workers in partnership with CSI Visa, making millions.

“You drop dead, they just replace you,” said a Boeing worker. He was thinking about the death of a Boeing machinist just the week before. “You’re just a number to exploit!”

Silva’s death was the final straw for the farm workers. More than 70
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US Capitalism: Racist to the Core

FIGHT FOR A COMMUNIST WORLD TO CRUSH FASCISM

August 16— The fight against fascism in the US escalated sharply last weekend with a massive confrontation in Charlottesville, Virginia. This is a pivotal movement.

In the US, as in India and around the world, it's not enough to denounce or "resist" fascism. We must mobilize the angry anti-racist masses to crush fascism with communist revolution.

Hundreds of open Nazis, KKK and their fellow-travelers, many carrying arms, descended on Charlottesville from across the US. Thousands of anti-racists showed up to stop them. Many physically attacked the first Nazis who showed up for their scheduled rally.

Even the cops and the National Guard couldn't save the fascists from the masses. They declared the rally an unlawful assembly. As the fascists retreated, one Nazi rammed his car into the anti-fascist crowd, killing 32-year-old Heather Heyer and injuring 19 others.

Masses have marched in solidarity with the Charlottesville anti-fascists across the US and as far away as London. This movement has grown in numbers and in fury as US President Trump has openly supported the Nazis.

Trump outrageously blamed "many sides" for the racist violence in Charlottesville. Liberal politicians, preachers, media and organizers echo this same theme when they call for "nonviolence" in the face of fascism. They want to maintain the capitalist government's monopoly on the use of force to suppress the masses. They hope to prevent revolutionary anti-racist action against fascist capitalism.

Amid mass anti-racist fury, Trump was forced to read a speech that said, "Those who spread violence in the name of bigotry strike at the very core of America." No, they don't! They act on the very values that US capitalism was built on: racist genocide. The White House itself was built by slave labor on land stolen from indigenous people who'd been massacred.

The anti-fascist masses have shown determination, valor and willingness to confront the fascists violently. But too many are rallying around slogans that call fascism "un-American." Their demands and direct actions to tear down Confederate statues are misdirected into patriotic attacks on "traitors." And the liberal rulers are determined to twist their commitment to multi-racial unity into a willingness to fight in a multi-racial

US army (see box at left).

These cynical bosses find it useful to criticize Nazis in order to cover the system's institutional racism. Let's remember that liberal Obama's administration deported a record 2.5 million people. Meanwhile, police murdered black and latino workers with impunity. Obama supervised US imperialism's military massacres in Afghanistan, Libya, Syria, Yemen, and Somalia.

Communism: Workers' Dream, Bosses' Nightmare

The capitalists' worst nightmare is that workers, soldiers and youth of all "races" will see the need for working-class unity to destroy their racist system and its Nazi shock-troops. They try to divert angry anti-racists from mobilizing for communism. But that is exactly what the masses must do to crush racism and build a system that meets our needs.

Some anti-fascists already understand that – as a sign in Los Angeles (US) said – "Trump is the symptom. Capitalism is the disease." They need to spread the understanding that racism is the lifeblood of the capitalist wage system everywhere. Capitalism, in all its forms, needs racism and sexism to terrorize and super-exploit some sectors of the working class, while dividing us so that a handful of exploiters can continue to rule.

Communism will abolish the wage system. We have to be able to work collectively to produce and share what we need, without bosses or borders. That demands a fight to the end to destroy racism, sexism and xenophobia. It requires an armed revolution to build communist workers' power and a communist society.

Today we must spread *Red Flag* and build the ICWP in the factories, schools, and the military. We must prepare ourselves and our friends to take on the racists wherever they show up, as the brave anti-fascists did in Virginia. Our aim in every action and conversation must be to mobilize for communism. We must prepare to take power and start to build communist society.

Once communist-led masses take power anywhere, we'll organize workplaces, housing and all of society to break down the walls that divide us. We'll mobilize masses from the production centers, barracks and neighborhoods as necessary to crush any attempt to organize racism. We'll use all the cultural and educational means at our disposal to defeat capitalism's ideologies.

Join us!

Build the International Communist Workers' Party!

Only communism can defeat fascism.

Capitalist Crisis and War Create Disarray among Imperialist US Rulers

The dominant wing of US imperialism is having a field day attacking Trump. They see him as an unreliable defender of US imperialism's main interests. But the anti-Trump chorus can't entirely drown out critical disagreements among US rulers. These include the best place and time to confront an increasingly more powerful Russia and China, and how to rebuild their army.

The material basis of the disarray in Washington is the economic, political and military decline of US imperialism. The US rulers are losing their world empire to their most feared rivals: the Chinese and Russian imperialists. They know they must fight sooner rather than later. The logic of capitalism's competition to the death for maximum profit means that imperialist wars, including world war, are inevitable.

Some capitalists, like Trump, embrace open Nazis. They want to use the racist fascist "white power" movement to try to prevent us from rebelling and to terrorize us into conforming to their plans. They hope to win white workers to act against their class interests and attack their black, Latin and immigrant sisters and brothers.

Others capitalists and their politicians pretend to be anti-racist in order to win us to willingly sacrifice, fight and die for their empire.

Wall Street's mouthpiece Tom Friedman, embedded with US troops in Qatar, declared that "I am a pluralism supremacist." He continued, "The very reason America is the supreme power in this region is that the US military can take all of these different [ethnically diverse men and women] and make them into a fist."

Both groups face enormous obstacles. Capitalism worldwide is mired in a deepening economic crisis of over production. This is drastically reducing the standards of living of US workers. The money for waging wars must come from taxing workers and cutting back on services they receive.

This risks working-class rebellion. It intensifies the rulers' need to push racism. It makes them worry about their ability to field a reliable multi-racial army large enough to fight another world war for their profits and empire.

The capitalists had better worry! Young communists organizing inside the bosses' military can and will win soldiers and sailors to fight on the side of the working class—for communist revolution.



**MOBILIZE THE
MASSES FOR
COMMUNISM**

International Communist Workers' Party

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FROM "WE DON'T WANT TO BE CHEAP LABOR!" TO "ABOLISH ALL WAGE SLAVERY!"

"We don't want to be cheap labor," was a rallying cry of striking auto workers in Kragujevac, Serbia. They returned to work after a three-week strike when the union accepted a 9% wage increase.

The Serbian government, which owns a 1/3 stake in the plant, of course backed Fiat. *It's not hard to relate to that story wherever you live.*

Before the strike, workers earned about \$362 per month. It was the same last year. The difference between then and now is that at the end of last year 700 workers were laid off and now the remaining 2,500 still produce the same 400 cars per day!

Intense speed up on top of cheap labor! *Again, the details differ but the story is the same the world over.*

No-one should be forced to live like that. The workers were demanding a raise to about \$476 a month, better transportation to work and a functional health and safety system.

Who is the enemy?

But workers are only striking against the company. They are only waging a trade union battle. They are not fighting against the wage system. Fiat didn't create the bleak conditions in Kragujevac, although it certainly took advantage of them.

Capitalism cannot function unless masses are forced to work for wages. And under the system no-one gets a wage unless it makes a profit for the capitalist

The desperation that drove thousands of industrial wage workers to offer themselves as the cheapest of cheap labor to the billionaires of Fiat-Chrysler was the deadly rivalry between Russian and US-European imperialism.

In 1999, during the war against what was then Yugoslavia, NATO bombed the Kragujevac auto

plant. Almost overnight thousands lost their \$500 a month jobs with perks like no-layoffs. Their union contract was useless against the predatory forces of capitalism. *The details differ but the story is the same the world over.*

Who is the victim?

The bombs rained down on Yugoslavia but they were aimed at the whole of Eastern Europe. From now on, the war announced, US and European (not Russian) imperialists were going to exploit the workers of the region.

The billionaires at Volkswagen, Ford, Fiat, General Motors and Toyota swarmed in. Between 2000 and 2011 the region's auto production doubled. Now one in every four cars sold in Europe is made in Eastern Europe.

The (cheaper) wage work that went to East Europe, was lost to the (higher) wage workers in Western Europe. Their union contracts were just useless against the predatory forces of capitalism. Within a year of the war, Ford announced plans to close a plant in Belgium and two in England, while GM planned to cut 6,000 jobs.

One set of workers were played off against the other. *Different details, same story.*

Communism is the answer

And the story we have to painfully relearn is that we, the international working class, are the creators of all wealth but are we not the masters of our lives. We don't decide what should, or should not, be built. The bosses even own what we produce!

"Abolish Wage Slavery" should be one of the slogans of our strikes. We aim to turn labor disputes into political strikes against imperialism and the capitalist wage system. That is the revolutionary logic of the communism that **Red Flag** is promoting.



Fiat Strikers, June, 2017

In communism, without money, nothing will be bought or sold. Without wage slavery, we will collectively decide what, where, and how to produce everything, and distribute it to satisfy everyone's needs.

Capitalism will never do this. For example, the auto industry is the single greatest engine of economic growth in the world. It puts over \$2 trillion annually in the hands of a few hundred billionaires yet the auto workers in Kragujevac, Serbia, only make \$362 per month (and in that they are not alone).

They are not alone in being exploited, but they are isolated. Capitalists, even while locked in bitter rivalry, have built a layered network of institutions that unite their control of the world. The working class has institutions like the unions that defend the wage system (with the lie that good wages can set you free) and build disunity among workers of the world.

Whatever unity we get, we will build ourselves and **Red Flag** is spearheading that movement. We are cementing communist ties across continents. "Workers of the world, unite! We have nothing to lose but the chains of wage slavery!"

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contratados went on strike. They too experienced headaches. Some workers fainted in the fields. No wonder, with no shade, warm drinking water, dirty bathrooms in the fields and smoke that made it hard to breathe!

Alfredo Urbano Martinez, 20, from Michoacan, said he worked from 6 AM until 7 or 8 PM. He had just been diagnosed with a bacterial infection in his feet. The clinic told him he was minutes away from getting his toes amputated.

Communist Collective Work Means Nobody Will Be Worked to Death

A half dozen Boeing workers joined about thirty other workers and their families at the ICWP summer barbecue last Sunday. Friends from Boeing who were born in Laos, Vietnam, China, and the US joined others born in East Africa, South Africa, Mexico and cities throughout the US. The hot question was: What to do about this attack?

We know communist society would never allow conditions like this to exist. If we had an emergency and had to pick blueberries in the heat and smoke, many of these aerospace workers and others would volunteer to help, so nobody would

have to work 12-14 hour days. We could empty the factories and mobilize the youth. That may very well be the way we deal with all harvests.

"But the threat of deportation was management's ace in the hole," commented another Boeing worker. Simple answer: communism will smash borders and nations, welcoming all workers everywhere.

Communist Healthcare Designed for Masses, Not Profits

So far, the authorities won't say what ailment finally killed Silva. There are rumors of complications from diabetes. CSI's website blames meningitis. Communist healthcare will be designed to prevent death from conditions like these.

Shortly after the Chinese revolution, there was virtually no healthcare in the vast countryside where many millions lived and grew food. There was an opening to develop communist healthcare. A million "barefoot" doctors rushed in.

Work brigades chose one or two workers from their ranks for a three-year medical training program. Popularly referred to as barefoot doctors, these candidates would get formal medical training for six months during the winter and return to their work brigades during the growing and harvest seasons.

Initially, they were trained to spot and diagnose common ailments and perform preventive medicine. They also held mass



Farmworkers strike in Sumas, Washington, August 8

meetings to train all workers in family planning and sanitation. Soon they were teaching the more traditional doctors what the farmworkers (peasants) really needed in the form of medical care.

As socialism was consolidated, this mass experiment with communist healthcare was squashed. But the lessons learned are invaluable. The striking workers demanded more accessible medical care that serves their needs. The communist barefoot-doctor program points the way. But to get there we need communist revolution.

When the farmworkers struck, the company immediately fired them. They are camping out in a small backyard in Sumas. Donations have flowed in from all over western Washington.

We ended our discussion by planning to visit these farmworkers. We will take our communist vision (and this article!) to the fight near the border along with the material support of workers from the Seattle area.



Capitalism Kills 70 Children in India

FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM – OUR LIVES DEPEND ON IT

August 12— Over seventy critically ill children died in a government-run hospital in the north India state of Uttar Pradesh when their oxygen was cut off. The hospital, which serves mainly Dalit, Muslim and other poor workers, was behind in paying its profit-hungry suppliers.

The state government is run by Adityanath, a fascist supporter of BJP, which came to power in March 2017. He is known for his anti-Muslim hate speeches and for forming an armed militia. This militia has terrorized the Muslim population in Uttar Pradesh by burning homes, buses, trains and shops.

Adityanath tried to excuse the murder of seventy children, mostly minorities, by telling reporters that the number was “small” compared to the 500 children who die of encephalitis every year in the same hospital. For shame!

The World Health Organization estimates that three million children under the age of five die every year from conditions that could be prevented or treated easily and cheaply. They, and millions of

older children and adults, are condemned to death by a capitalist system that coldly calculates that it is not profitable to save their lives. Many more die in the capitalist rulers’ profit wars.

In capitalism, medicines and hospitals are run for profit. Even oxygen and water are sold for profit! Food is produced primarily for profit. This causes hunger and starvation in many corners of the earth. It causes obesity, cancer, diabetes and heart disease in others. Stress and harassment at work – and lack of work — are key factors in depression, alcoholism and drug abuse.

ICWP is organizing workers, soldiers and students in India and around the world to end this homicidal capitalist profit system. We plan to build a communist society based on working and planning collectively to produce for the needs of the masses.

In communism, there will be no drug companies or insurance industry—no companies or money or profits at all. The entire society, based on collectives, will create healthy work and social environ-

ments. Masses will study and learn the science of health, diet and exercise.

In fighting for communist revolution and a communist society, we have to patiently overcome the obstacles we encounter in building our party. In India, for example, we have over 500 readers of Red Flag. Some in several different cities have joined the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP). However, we can do much better.

In India, like everywhere else, the bosses use fascism to keep workers in fear. But at the same time, they keep liberal opposition alive to spread the illusion that capitalism can be reformed. We have been able to fearlessly confront fascists by spreading our literature. We have to take the ideological battle against liberals and their reformist outlook with same determination and courage.

The working class is looking for change and only we can offer them the chance to fight for a communist future. We aim to increase our readership in India to thousands and recruit scores of workers and students by May Day.

IMMIGRANTS, REFUGEES & CITIZENS

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expulsion.

Unfortunately, these racist incidents are not unique. They are multiplied in all parts of the world where the capitalist crisis intensifies and the number of immigrants and refugees is increasing.

In all parts of the world the working class is being exploited, massacred and enslaved. Today there are more refugees than during World War II. About 5 million workers and their families have left Syria. Millions more in the rest of the world are forced to emigrate looking for a job in order to survive.

How did we get here? Capitalism has created this hell. Its chronic crises of overproduction lead to unemployment, homelessness and hunger. Then, to lower the cost of labor even more and divide the working class, capitalism unleashes racism, sexism and xenophobia. Moreover, imperialist competition for markets, natural resources, and the lowest labor cost inevitably ends in local, regional, and world wars.

The capitalist system is the enemy of the working class. The working class needs a change; it needs to face capitalism and defeat it. But how can we achieve it?

The answer is certain. Capitalism will be defeated with communist revolution. In a communist world, no one will be expelled from anywhere nor forced to flee to save their life or to look for a job. There will be no money or wage system. We will work collectively to meet the needs of everyone. There will not be nations, or borders, or citizenship and no one will be illegal. Once we win communism somewhere in the world, we will welcome all those who want to come—no matter where they come from, their “race,” or their religious belief.

How will we achieve a communist world? Workers must know that our enemies are the capitalists, not workers from another part of the world. To inculcate this understanding and present them with a vision of a communist world, we need to spread communist ideas. For that we need a massive ICWP.

With communist revolution, the working class will be able to put an end to all the capitalist bloodletting that exists today. The working class, led by a worldwide ICWP with dialectical materialism as our guide, and men and women worker leaders, can not only put an end to all the capitalists—local and imperialist—but also build the communist society that we so need and deserve worldwide.



TUNISIAN FISHERMEN STOP FASCIST ANTI-IMMIGRANT BOAT FROM DOCKING

ZARZIS, TUNISIA August 6— Tunisian fishermen blocked a boat carrying “Defend Europe” fascists from docking at their port, dealing one more blow to the campaign to stop migrants from reaching Europe from north Africa.

As the flow of migration from Africa, the Middle East and South Asia increases, over 10,000 desperate migrants have died in the Mediterranean since 2014. More than 600,000 people have been rescued from traffickers’ boats and taken to Italy.

In response, a number of privately funded and charity-run boats have joined a multinational search and rescue operation coordinated by the Italian Coast Guard.

The C-Star was chartered by the anti-immigrant and anti-Islam fascist group Generation Identity to block the boats who are saving migrants’ lives. It most recently harassed the Aquarius, operated by the French group SOS Méditerranée as it was conducting search and rescue operations off the coast of Libya.

But they have not gone unopposed.

Planned protests in Greece and in Italy convinced the rulers to deny the C-Star port access. The day the boat was to arrive at the port of Catania, Sicily, activists spoke out. “We are Sicilians, our home is the Mediterranean Sea...acceptance and saving people is of the highest importance. We firmly support the operations of the rescue boats. We are against those who want to block the rescue operations,” said activist Piero Mancuso.

Fishermen in the Tunisian port of Zarzis took it to the next level. ““If they come here we’ll close the refueling channel,” said Chamseddine Bourassine, the head of the local fishermen’s organization. “It is the least we can do given what is happening out in the Mediterranean. Muslims and Africans are dying.” The C-Star was unable to dock.

As the article “Immigrants, Refugees & Citizens” says, this solidarity shows the potential of our class to fight for a communist world without borders, nations, or refugees.

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US CAPITALISTS CREATE RIGHT-WING CHRISTIANITY TO SUPPORT THEIR RULE, PART III

Part II showed how US capitalists used evangelical Christianity to attack social welfare programs and promote sexism, anti-communism, the Cold War and the Vietnam War.

In the 1980s and 1990s the emphasis of the Christian Right shifted from opposing social welfare programs (even food stamps) and supporting US wars to promoting sexism. Organizations like Jerry Falwell's "Moral Majority," Phyllis Schlafly's "Eagle Forum" and James Dobson's "Focus on the Family" promoted male domination of women under the guise of "family values." These groups applied the usual evangelical view that husbands were the leaders and deciders in families and wives should submit to their husbands. One variation of this idea was that leaders were "servant leaders" of those they lead, so submitting is good for those who submit.

While more and more women began to work for wages (as well as at home), these Christian Right groups said that women should not work outside the home and attacked equal legal rights for women at work. They organized mass campaigns against abortion and homosexuals, seeing these as threats to husband-dominated families.

These groups' sexist ideas were adopted and promoted by Walmart, the giant retailer supposedly run on Christian principles. Walmart portrayed itself as a family. Walmart founder Walton said that "As servant-leaders, we must do all we can to exceed our associate-partners' [workers'] expectations daily, one on one." Like all capitalists, however, Walmart exists by exploiting workers' labor. Its mostly male managers rule over a mass of poorly paid workers who are mostly women. Both in the US and in Central America Walmart recruits managers extensively from Christian colleges, managers likely to buy into the company's "family" scam.

The Moral Majority and similar groups got significant support from big capitalists like Texas oilman Nelson Bunker Hunt. Together with Moral Majority leader Tim LaHaye, Hunt formed the secretive Council for National Policy in 1981.

Leaked membership lists show that this group has contained almost all of the leaders of the Christian Right, including Trump spokesperson Kellyanne Conway and Christian fascists like Trump advisor Steve Bannon. The CNR brings together right-wing activists and the capitalists that fund them. It interviewed the Republican presidential candidates and gave Trump a "thumbs up."

Christian Liberals

It is not only right-wing religion that serves US capitalism. US rulers constantly rely on ministers, especially black ministers, to hold back militant action and prevent protest from turning into rebellion or revolution. Liberal ministers urge people to pray, reject violence and vote for Democrats.

Like all religions, US Protestantism misleads workers. Right-wing versions defend capitalism, promote sexism and endorse the policies and wars of the US empire. It discourages people from fighting for a better future by denying that progress is possible or insisting that religious practices are the only way to achieve it. Liberal religion sometimes involves people in opposing racism and poverty, helping the homeless, etc., but it also preaches reformism and pacifism.

Belief that history is in God's hands does not help the masses, but undermines our efforts to fight our way out of the hell of capitalism. The idea that prophecy and sacred books contain real knowledge is refuted by the fact that those who interpret them can never agree about what they mean, and often change their interpretations to suit their politics, as Falwell did. Communists understand that knowledge comes from practice and from theories proved and improved by practice. Religious ideologies don't enlighten us. They keep us in the power of the capitalists, who create and change religious ideas and movements to suit



their interests. Religions can be bent to the rulers' needs precisely because they are not derived from reality.

In communism the suffering, oppression and social divisions that attract people to religion will end. Communism will mobilize the masses into a worldwide community that overcomes the corruptions of capitalism and provides the basis for great advances in human culture and values. Like racism and sexism, religious ideology will not disappear at once or without ideological struggle. With history in our own hands, however, the masses can use real knowledge to create the real millennium.

Further reading:

Frances Fitzgerald, *The Evangelicals: The Struggle to Shape America*.

Kevin Kruse, *One Nation Under God: How Corporate America Invented Christian America*.

Clyde Wilcox and Carin Robinson, *Onward Christian Soldiers? The Religious Right in American Politics*

Bethany Moreton, *To Serve God and Walmart: The Making of Christian Free Enterprise*

LETTERS

The Police: Capitalism's Executioners

From the time that we are children, they brainwash us with a lot of garbage that is only for the benefit of the rich capitalists and not for the working class, or people with low incomes. One example is the police. Supposedly they were put there to keep order and peace and to protect us from criminals, but the reality is different. Everything depends on several things, for example, what social class you belong to, what is your "race" and on which side of the city you live.

I live in East Los Angeles, a few blocks from a police station. You could think that being so close to police surveillance you would be safer, but it's the complete opposite: there is more crime, from prostitution to drugs, rape and even murder.

The bad thing about this is that many of these crimes have been committed by police, who without shame and without caring at all continue doing this. There are many stories that one can hear every day from people who have been victims or witnesses to these crimes. And to this day, although they have been denounced, these crimes continue to go unpunished, while many mothers continue suffering. I think the cruelest and most repugnant thing for them is to see the murderers of their

LETTERS

children patrolling the streets looking for their next victim.

And this happens every day, not only in East Los Angeles, but in many other US cities and all over the world wherever the working class lives. And why is all this happening? Not because of the excuses that they make us believe on the news and with the supposed experts on the subject.

All of this happens because capitalism needs to exploit the whole working class and super-exploit certain sections of workers using racism. In the US, they are African Americans and Latinos; in other countries they are Africans, Muslims, Turks, Filipinos, etc.

With racist police terror, they try to terrorize us so that we don't rebel against their wage slavery. Under capitalism, we will be poor all our lives, together with our children, and we will always be under the yoke of the capitalists (the bosses). We will be watched, harassed and hu-

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS



Los Angeles, USA
September 2016

miliated and some of our children will even be killed by one or several of the capitalists' executioners.

That is why we need a communist revolution to put an end to all of this. We need a communist society without police. In communism, there will be no exploitation, no money, no sale of anything, including drugs. This will eliminate many of the "crimes" that capitalist "justice" uses to jail and kill our class. The working class will guarantee our own security.

—A New Comrade

Constituent Assembly in Venezuela: Power to Reform Capitalism

THE WORKING CLASS NEEDS COMMUNIST WORKERS' POWER

On August 10, the Venezuelan Constituent Assembly was elected and declared to be the maximum authority in Venezuela. This is the political power that will reform the constitution.

The struggle between the capitalist opposition (supported by the US imperialists) and the Chavista capitalists (supported by the Russian and Chinese imperialists) is increasingly intense. However, the material basis of capitalism remains intact and unquestioned by either side. The limits of "21st Century Socialism" are becoming clearer, offering some small reforms to the working class to keep private property, exploitation and capitalism alive.

Real political power will only be forged through the masses mobilized for communism, on their road to building a society without exploitation, without money, or banks. That is, a society without bosses or wage slavery, where everything will be produced collectively to meet the needs of all workers and their families.

The Constituent Assembly is only one more attempt of "21st Century Socialism" to stay alive. This has been adding defeat after defeat of "leftist" politicians throughout Latin America. This is not for the reasons that the reactionary propaganda wants to paint, but instead because of its reformist program. They deny even the old principles of socialism; from the beginning, they distanced themselves from Marxist-Leninist processes. And history shows us that even the most radical processes of socialism (Russia and China) failed to advance towards communism, but instead built state capitalism.

Our confidence that the masses will accept communist ideas and make them their own and the decision to eliminate the material basis of capitalism immediately after an armed revolution is what sets us apart from all previous processes.

This will ensure the victory of communism.

Constituent Assembly or Communism

Since the beginning of Chavismo (the rule of President Hugo Chavez, starting in 1999), the Constituent Assembly was justified as a way of seeking dialogue with the ultra-right Venezuelan opposition. The new Constituent Assembly has 500 assembly members, of which 364 represent specific territories and 173 represent different sections (mostly workers, students and community leaders with five positions for entrepreneurs). President Nicolás Maduro states that the three objectives of this Constituent Assembly are "to achieve peace, legal security and perfecting and expanding the constitution of 1999." Some more militant sectors demand that the assembly members make decisions to stop the economic crisis and to advance to a socialist revolution. There are many illusions about a very fragile project.

The Constituent Assembly consolidates the power of Maduro and strikes a blow at the opposition, but it does not have the capacity or the intention to eliminate the material base of capitalism, which is the cause of the crisis that the working class in Venezuela is suffering.

Only the mobilization of the working class masses for communist revolution will make it possible to put an end to the capitalists' state power and put the means of production and control of the new society into the hands of the communist masses. This real power is through a communist party where the masses are directly involved in the decisions we will have to make to fight for and organize communist society.

Inter-Imperialist Rivalry in Venezuela

The political and economic crisis in Venezuela is the result of the intensification of the rival imperialists' struggle for control of this oil-rich ter-



ritory. Trump said there is a possibility of military intervention in Venezuela, while Russia has sent military officers in support of Maduro's government. This is not surprising. The country's oil reserves are the largest in the world, even greater than those of Saudi Arabia. This is a huge attraction for the imperialists.

Maduro and Chavismo, rather than being at the forefront of a revolutionary process, defend and maintain capitalist economic interests that in no way benefit our class. The direct conflict between the bosses in a world war is inevitable. The masses have no choice but to organize ourselves. Workers and soldiers in Venezuela will be decisive to in turning this scenario in our favor.

We don't need to go down the wrong road again. The direct struggle for communism is increasingly necessary in the eyes of thousands and thousands of people. Every member of the party has to strengthen their commitment to our project. Each of us must fight to organize every day for Communism. Spreading our ideas and our party will make possible the elimination of the roots of capitalism and the building of the communist society that we deserve.

LETTERS

LETTERS

LETTERS

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

Struggle With Friends Advances the Line

While I was working on the article above about Venezuela, a friend, Jesus, came to my house. We sat in the living room and my roommate, Pablo, was with us too. I said "Dudes, today I need your help. I'm writing something about Venezuela." This was not planned; it was an opportunity that I wanted to take advantage of.

They were astonished at what I had written.

Jesus told me, "How can you write that?"

Pablo commented, "I don't know much but I think that's an aberration."

I was not surprised. Their comments focused on Venezuela being in a difficult process. They posed reformist and idealistic solutions. What came after was very interesting.

As they commented, I answered based on the analysis the party has made of the whole process of "21st Century Socialism." One by one their arguments were refuted by our line. And they began to realize that there's no easy solution—that only communist revolution can achieve what we want.

After the three of us agreed on this, we discussed what a revolution of this type would mean.

"It's true, only by doing it that way can you make it work, but it's messed up," said Jesus.

"I think the time has come for each of us try to win someone else to these ideas," I commented.

"Even in the Bible it says that," Pablo said, laughing.

This discussion made me clarify many things for the article and I even made changes that they

suggested.

This discussion would not have been possible without the struggle that has taken place with them and many other friends during the period of more than I year that I've been living here. It was essential to win their trust as a friend.

The time I shared with the comrades in Los Angeles helped me to see the potential of the friends—male and female—that I have around me. I can easily distribute eight *Red Flags* of this new edition. Every day someone is waiting to be organized.

This morning I got a message, "Dude, I keep thinking about Venezuela. I'm going to your house right now." That's how it is.

—A Comrade

Capitalism and Imperialism

What always confuses me is to read in the *Red Flag* the term capitalist-imperialist as if capitalists and imperialists have equally to compete to exploit resources, markets and labour. From my understanding, capitalism and imperialism are two different stages of development in a process. Dialectically everything in every process has changes and development.

As Lenin mentioned, the development of capitalism to monopoly and finance capital led to imperialism.* Then the imperialist countries started the export of finance capital to control other capitalist countries through, for example, the International Monetary Fund, and other means of lending capital. By this method they bring the smallest capitalist countries in their sphere and manipulate the government to do whatever they

want them to do.

This is an important distinction and *Red Flag's* use of the term capitalist-imperialist just confuses things.

*See *Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism, Chapter X, "The Place of Imperialism in History"*

—A Comrade

Why We Use the Term "Capitalists-Imperialists"

All imperialists are capitalists and all capitalists want to be imperialists. Those that don't reach the rank of imperialists are, as the letter points out, willingly or by force tied to one imperialist or another.

The old communist movement, especially when fighting for national liberation, only attacked imperialism as the main enemy of the oppressed masses. They usually divided the national bourgeoisie or local capitalists into two camps: the reactionary ones that allied with the imperialists and the progressive ones that opposed the imperialists. These they considered "good capitalists" and welcomed them as allies of the working class in their national liberation struggle.

When we use the term capitalists-imperialists it is just to make clear that we make no such distinction and consider all capitalists – local or foreign – as deadly enemies of the toiling masses. Unlike the old communist movement, we are not only opposed to US imperialism but to all imperialists, including Russia, the European Union, Japan and China.

—A Comrade



Los Angeles, October 2013

twenty thousand per year. Your chances of being killed on the road in South Africa are much higher than in the US.

The communist collective forms of transport will be safe, non polluting (eg electric or

powered by biofuels), comfortable, and operated by trained, sober, alert operators. The switch to communist transport will save many millions from death, injury and disease. And from long hours driving, stressed out, isolated, and away from friends and family

Communism means today's auto workers will make things that serve the working class, not more millions of poison-spewing death traps.

—A Comrade

Liu Xiaobo: Good Riddance

On July 13 Liu Xiaobo, Chinese dissident, died of liver cancer while on medical release from prison. Liu was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2010 and his death was treated as tragic by US, United Nations and European politicians. Liu called for the "westernization" of China, that is, replacing the current Chinese capitalist system with US-style capitalism.

Like many Nobel Peace winners Liu was not an advocate of peace at all. He endorsed the US attack on Iraq, and its wars in Afghanistan, Korea and Vietnam. In his book *Lessons of the Cold War*, he wrote that "The free world led by the US fought almost all regimes that trampled on human rights ... The major wars that the US became involved in are all ethically defensible."

The Nobel "Peace" award has often been given to major capitalist war makers. Nobel winner Barack Obama was commander-in-chief during US wars in at least 5 different countries. Nobelist Henry Kissinger is notorious for war crimes in Cambodia and Indonesia, among others. Lying Myanmar politician Aung San Suu Kyi, Nobel winner in 1991, tries to cover up her army's mass racist violence against the Muslim Rohingya minority, and refuses to let United Nations representatives into the country to investigate it.

It should be no surprise that all these pro-capitalist "peace" heroes are really war makers and hypocrites. Capitalism's fights over profits make war an integral part of the capitalist system. Only communism can bring worldwide peace. The masses will be the real heroes of peace by mobilizing for communism.

—Comrade in the US

Communism will have no borders and no nations

At the southern border of Mexico, poverty converges with the reduction of natural areas due to the expansion of livestock, and crops of exotic species like palm oil and eucalyptus, sugar cane and forest plantations such as teak wood.

At the southern border, indigenous communities survive on natural resources and crops, mainly corn and beans, as well as by selling their labor power at ranches and pastures. Workers live in small houses of wood and lamina, floors of earth. Groups of evangelists, Christians, and Catholics, among others show how there's a road of salvation and hope for the workers.

This border is a border crossing where, day after day, 2 to 5 people walk along the Ceibo-Tenosique Highway in search of reaching the United States. Only some groups of people are visible. The rest walk through the mountains, go by train, in public vehicles, among others routes.

People travel with sadness in their eyes, dirty clothes, torn shoes, and a backpack on their backs, hoping that someone picks them up or gives them a little food. Usually the Migra stops them, puts them in their vans and takes them or asks them for money and lets them leave.

At the Southern border, criminal gangs transport drugs, weapons, and people. At the southern border some people become "illegals" and others nationalists. The southern border is only a reflection of all the borders that the capitalists use to delimit their economic areas.

In communism there will be no borders or nationalism. We workers will move freely from place to place when necessary, for pleasure or to help our class brothers and sisters.

In communism, nature will teach us new ways of relating to each other and the workers of the world will know how to take care of the earth and manage it depending on the conditions that they encounter.

A communist society has to be our hope and, for that, every day with actions, discussions, spreading the ideas, we can build it. Let's destroy and build ideas dialectically. Every day

weworkers see ourselves involved in reformist ideas, but by sharpening the struggle around these ideas we can advance politically. In appearance there is no change; in essence it creates a revolution in people.

—Young comrade in Mexico

What will auto workers do in communism?

For the most part, they won't build autos! Instead we'll build buses, trams, trains, subways, bicycles, scooters, wheelchairs, even planes and helicopters.

And buses etc aren't the only kind of vehicles we'll make. Until the bosses are wiped out world wide we'll have revolutionary civil wars to fight. We'll put plenty of resources into building tanks, APCs, jeeps, motorized artillery and the like.

But what about autos? Yes, we'll keep making them, but not on the ridiculous current scale.

Globally there are about ten million auto workers (including those making parts) and they make nearly seventy million cars a year. This means big profits for the auto bosses. The 'auto industrial complex' is at the heart of the world capitalist economy. It is the logical result of competition and the profit motive.

After the revolution we'll inherit it – the auto factories, the parts factories, the oil and gas industries, the road networks, the factories that produce steel, glass, plastic and rubber. With the bosses gone we'll be free to decide what to do with it. And the question will be, is workers' time spent building cars (and driving and maintaining them) well spent in terms of workers' needs?

It is not time well spent. There are already a billion cars on the planet (a quarter of them in the US). Every year more than a million people are killed in car accidents and thirty million or more are injured or disabled. Millions more are killed or sickened by air pollution. Of course in many countries (like South Africa) owning a car is, for average workers, an impossible dream. But not owning a car won't save you from being killed in or by one. In South Africa again, the real annual road fatality total is probably over

rialist war, we must get the international working class ready to end capitalism forever with communist revolution.

"North Korea is communist, right?" asked a US transit worker.

"No," replied a comrade. "It's a state-capitalist country, called socialist. Like here and all other capitalist countries, there are rich and poor. Communism won't have money or rich or poor. We won't be wage slaves – there or here. We will all work to meet our needs."

Communist power doesn't depend on weapons of mass murder and mass destruction. It depends on the masses who want to live and to build a world without racism, sexism, xenophobia, borders or nations or war. It depends on the leader-

ship of a massive International Communist Workers' Party.

We must grasp the urgency of the situation, and step up the distribution of *Red Flag* and the recruitment to our Party worldwide. Workers and youth on every continent are rising up against intensified exploitation and racist-fascist terror. They are looking for change. We must be amongst them showing always that the change they need is communism.

A mass communist party with branches worldwide will survive imperialist war. We'll build our communist society on capitalism's ashes.

KOREA from page 8

US imperialism is strategically on the defensive. That makes it all the more dangerous. Its only military options would be extremely deadly.

A non-nuclear massive bombing campaign would take at least several weeks to destroy North Korean firepower. The retaliation from China and the North would be devastating. Alternatively, the fallout from a surprise nuclear attack on the North Korean command and control center would affect China, Russia, South Korea and Japan.

Should we be afraid? No, but we should be prepared.

As the bosses get ready to unleash their impe-

Centennial of the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution:

YOUNG COMRADES LEAD

The October Revolution in Russia, led by the Bolshevik (communist) Party, happened a century ago. Maybe that's why we sometimes think of the revolutionaries as old people. But they weren't. Most Bolsheviks were in their teens or twenties in 1917. The main leaders were mostly between 20 and 40.

Stepan Shaumyan, for example, joined the party as a teen-age student. At 30 he was a Bolshevik leader in the Caucasus, where he campaigned against nationalism and led the 1914 Baku General Strike.

After the October Revolution, Stepan served on the Central Committee of the Bolshevik Party and as the Chair of the Baku Council of People's Commissars. He died in 1918 during the Civil War, at the age of 40.

Sofia Goncharaskaia, a miner's daughter from the Ukraine, was a 16-year-old activist in the unsuccessful 1905 revolution. Forced to emigrate to the US, she represented the Bolsheviks in the Socialist Party there for six years.

Sofia returned to Russia in 1917 after the February Revolution and led a union of 40,000 women laundry workers in Petrograd. During the Civil War, she was a political officer with the Red Army in the Urals. At the age of 31 she represented the Bolshevik government in the Far-Eastern Republic of the Soviet Union.

V. P. Nogin was 16 when he took on responsibility for setting up an illegal Bolshevik organization in Russia in 1910, during a period of severe repression. He soon joined the Bolshevik central committee.

During 1917, Nogin resigned from his leading posts in protest against the Bolshevik call for the overthrow of the Provisional Government. By October, however, he had come to support Lenin's call for insurrection. At the age of 23, he served in the first Soviet government as People's Commissar for Commerce and Industry. He was only 32 when he died in 1926.

The forerunner of the Bolshevik Party was the Russian Social-Democratic Labor Party. How old were the future Bolsheviks when they joined? Over a quarter of the women and almost half the men were 15-19 years old. About 42% of the

women and 36% of the men were 20-24 years old. Only about 15% of the men and 23% of the women were 25 or over.

Lenin's October 1917 letter from Finland, urging immediate insurrection, included the charge:

"The most determined elements (our "shock forces" and young workers, as well as the best of the sailors) must be formed into small detachments to occupy all the more important points and to take part everywhere in all important operations."

And they did.

The Petrograd Military Revolutionary Committee was headed by the 23-year-old Pavel Lazimir, though its other members were all older leading comrades.

The Bolshevik leader Lunacharsky described the scene at Smolny on the night of the revolution: "You found yourself surrounded by faces flushed with excitement and hands outstretched to receive some order or some mandate.... In a few minutes some young comrade, happy to have been entrusted with a task, would be racing through the night in a car driven at breakneck speed."

The US journalist John Reed reported that on November 10, "Up the Nevsky, as we passed, Red Guards were marching, all armed, some with bayonets and some without. ... Heads up they tramped in the chill mud, irregular lines of four, without music, without drums. A red flag crudely lettered in gold, "Peace! Land!" floated over them. They were very young."

There were thousands, tens of thousands of young heroes of the Bolshevik revolution. They were led, mistakenly, to fight for "peace" and "land" instead of for communism. Let's be inspired by their bravery and commitment. And let's honor their memory by learning from the mistakes of the pioneering party that led them.

Lenin told the Communist Youth Leagues in 1920: "The generation of those who are now fifteen will see a communist society, and will itself build this society. This generation should know that the entire purpose of their lives is to build a communist society."

The International Communist Workers' Party believes that this is true today. We invite you, young or old, to join us in mobilizing masses for a communist world.

LEARN FROM THE BOLSHEVIK REVOLUTION IN RUSSIA!

This Fall marks the 100th anniversary of the 1917 communist-led revolution in Russia (October 25 Old Style/November 7 New Style). This was a monumental event in the history of our class and our movement. We have so much to learn from its successes, its shortcomings, and its fatal errors.

We call on all collectives of the International Communist Workers' Party, and all *Red Flag* readers, to organize study groups, dinners, public forums, rallies and other events to promote the broadest and deepest possible understanding of the Bolshevik Revolution.

Let's inspire masses to join and strengthen our communist work among workers, youth, and especially among soldiers and sailors! Let's use this history to grasp more firmly the meaning and power of our slogan "Mobilize the Masses for Communism!"

SAVE THE DATE:
LOS ANGELES (US) MINI-CONFERENCE
AND DINNER
NOVEMBER 18, 2017 2:30-7:30 PM



War in Korea?

DON'T BE AFRAID—BE PREPARED

August 14 — "My wife and my co-worker are afraid of nuclear war with Korea, but I'm not," said a Los Angeles MTA driver, taking *Red Flag*.

"We shouldn't be afraid," replied the comrade, "but we need to be prepared. The rulers' wars are for world domination. We, the working class, have to be prepared for communist revolution. That's how we'll put an end to their system that makes war, including world war, inevitable."

The worker nodded as he entered the MTA premises.

This conversation, and many more like it, show how the deepening crisis between the US and China/North Korea is providing an unprecedented opportunity to win masses of workers to communism.

Behind the Crisis: Imperialist Competition.

The US mass media portray the North Korean dictator Kim Jong-un as an irrational madman. Mass media elsewhere portray the US president Donald Trump similarly.

Behind the blustering and the military maneuvers, the real cause is a fight mainly among Chinese, Russian and US imperialists for control of

the mineral-rich, heavily industrialized and strategic Korean peninsula.

Korea was ruled by Japan from 1910 to 1945. The day after dropping its second atomic bomb on Japan, with Soviet troops poised on the Korean border, the US rulers started dividing up Korea. The Soviets agreed.

In 1949, the Chinese workers made a revolution. US imperialism now faced the prospect of a Chinese/North Korean advance into South Korea.

In response, the US carpet-bombed and napalmed North Korea for three years. It dropped more bombs there than against Japan during World War II, annihilating one fifth of its population. U.S. bombers destroyed most buildings, hydroelectric and irrigation dams, flooding farmland and destroying crops.

When US forces got too close to the Chinese border, the Chinese Red Army intervened, soundly defeating them. US military experts then debated using atomic bombs. But this and all their firepower couldn't intimidate the communist-led masses of Asia. US imperialism was

forced to accept a truce. North and South Korea have remained on the brink of war ever since.

War: Sooner Rather than Later

Today South Korea is the world's fifth-largest export economy. It's home to strategically important US army, navy and air force bases. But it does \$220 billion/year in deals with China, double its trade with the US. Its populous capital is only 38 miles from the North Korean border. Chinese constitute half of South Korea's tourism. China is an economic power that South Korea cannot ignore.

Last year South Korea and the US agreed to deploy the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missile system, supposedly to counter North Korean threats. Really it is aimed at China, which retaliated with economic sanctions.

Chinese imperialism wants the US out of the Korean peninsula. It says that if North Korea attacks the US with nuclear weapons, China will remain neutral. However, China is prepared to counter a US-South Korean pre-emptive strike against North Korea. It's helping North Korea build bomb shelters.

See [KOREA](#), page 7