

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM



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

FIGHT FOR A COMMUNIST WORLD!

Celebrate May Day 2018 by joining the International

Communist Workers' Party (ICWP)

The ICWP mobilizes for communism - a classless society without money, private property or the wage system. In communism, all - of every age and gender, every "race" and birthplace - will work collectively to supply all our needs.

We will all work as we are willing and able. We will share the fruits of our labor according to need. The masses, organized as the communist party, will make all decisions based on what's best for us all.

Communism will end war and exploitation, crime and violence, wealth and poverty, racism and sexism, nations and borders.

The Paris Commune of 1871 showed that workers could take power. The Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 showed they could use that power to transform society. The Chinese Cultural Revolution in the 1960s showed that masses hungered for real communism.

You can't change the world alone. But we can succeed together.

For this we need a mass party - the International Communist Workers' Party - of millions. We need you and everyone you know who wants to end capitalism's increasingly destructive horrors.

Everywhere there is a vast potential to recruit communists and build communist collectives. *Red Flag* is already read in over forty countries on five continents.

It unites aerospace workers in the US and Brazil; garment work-

ers in Bangladesh and El Salvador; students in Mexico and South Africa; anti-racist youth in the US and India; construction workers in Qatar, transit workers in the US, miners in South Africa and many more.

The ICWP builds on the communist history of our class, but we are a party of a new type. We mobilize for communism and nothing less. Not reforms, national liberation, democracy, or socialism. These all maintain capitalism's wage system and commodity production. Socialism is state capitalism.

Winning communism will take armed revolution and more. It will take masses uniting to figure out how to make communist society work. That starts now!

How will communist production work? Healthcare? Education? Sports, recreation, arts and culture?

How will communism transform personal relationships and everyday life?

How will we end racism, sexism and xenophobia?

How will we win soldiers and sailors to turn imperialist wars into communist revolution?

A communist vision will motivate millions but it won't arise spontaneously. It requires that communists build close personal ties with many people and interact with many more.

See COMMUNIST WORLD page 2



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1871 Paris Commune, page 2



South Africa, pages 4, 7



France, May '68, page 8



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Working-Class History: The Paris Commune of 1871 (Part III)**THE INTERNATIONAL MASS COMMUNIST PARTY
SHALL BE THE HUMAN RACE**

The Paris Commune of 1871 marked the first time in history that the working class, acting in its own class interests, took state power, if only for two months. It did not and could not – given the objective and subjective conditions at the time – fully achieve its goal of creating a new society in the communist vision that they held.

It nevertheless blazed new trails in our class' struggle for its emancipation from capitalist exploitation, leaving invaluable lessons for future generations of communist revolutionaries.

On March 18, 1871, the Central Committee of the Paris National Guard proclaimed, "The proletarians of Paris have understood that it is their duty to render themselves masters of their own destinies by seizing upon the governmental power.

Unlike many radicals then and now, the Communards boldly declared that only the working class can liberate the working class. As they embarked on this path, increasing numbers saw that they needed to destroy the capitalist state apparatus. They saw and understood that its essence is armed violence against the

masses to keep them exploited and oppressed.

Therefore, the very first act of the Commune Council was to declare that the National Guard (a workers' militia) should replace the capitalists' permanent armies, which were instruments of oppression.

Working-class women played a key role in every aspect of the Commune from its beginning to its final battles. They were political as well as military leaders. They were key in convincing soldiers in the government army to side with the Paris masses on March 18. Women helped build barricades and fought heroically to the end to defend them. Many times they led charges against the enemy.

The Commune's struggle was mainly restricted to Paris and they failed to immediately march on Versailles to defeat the French government. But the revolutionary workers believed the struggle had to be international. The Commune fought for and practiced internationalism. At a time when French nationalism was at fever pitch in the war against Germany, they welcomed German, Polish, Russian and Italian communards as part of the Commune Council.

As Marx wrote, the communards were "ready to storm the heavens."

As the last article explained, the capitalists feared the Commune (see icwpredflag.org/parcom). They brutally attacked it to try to drown in blood its heroic example and crucial lessons. They shed rivers of workers' blood — but wipe out its memory? Never!

Eugene Pottier, a communard in hiding, wrote "The Internationale" in June, 1871. Translated into many languages, it is the anthem of the worldwide communist movement. It confidently predicts that "The Internationale Shall Be the Human Race."

Twenty years later, on the first international celebration of May Day, Marx's son-in-law helped prepare for the Paris demonstration: "On this day the frontiers must be abolished; on all the earth we will see that what must be united is united, and decided what must be decided."

Russian Revolutionaries Inspired by the Commune

"Mindful of the lessons of the Commune," Lenin wrote in 1908, the Russian workers "knew that the proletariat... must never forget that in certain conditions the class struggle assumes the form of armed conflict and civil war; the interests of the proletariat call for ruthless extermination of its enemies in open armed clashes.

"There will be another uprising," Lenin predicted, "in face of which the forces of the enemies of the proletariat will prove ineffective, and from which the socialist proletariat will emerge completely victorious."

Only nine years later, during World War I, the Russian workers led by the Bolsheviks "stormed the heavens" again. They consolidated workers' power over one-sixth of the world's surface and inspired an epoch of revolutionary struggle worldwide.

Russian communists, and later Chinese communists, learned from the Commune that the working class needs its own communist party to lead it to victory. Russian communists built the Bolshevik Party, especially among industrial workers and soldiers. The Chinese organized mainly among the rural proletariat.

But they fought for and built socialism, which they thought would lead to communism, and which kept money and banks. This was a fatal mistake.

The party that they built to fight for socialism is not the party we need to fight for communism. That's why we are building ICWP as a party of a new type: one that forges unbreakable ties among workers and soldiers everywhere.

A party with millions of communist critical thinkers and doers that mobilizes the masses for communism.

A party in which the masses are more and more active in creatively and enthusiastically building communism.

The Paris Commune showed that capitalism-imperialism's inevitable wars are an opportunity for communist revolution. Masses under attack can and must be won to mobilize for communism and nothing less.

This May Day, let's celebrate the Paris Commune by marching for communist workers' power!

**FIGHT FOR A COMMUNIST
WORLD from page 1**

The ICWP fights to activate the initiative, creativity, confidence and leadership of the working class now — and always. Industrial workers, soldiers and sailors are key to mobilizing the broader masses for every communist advance.

To build the world you want, you need to join or organize a communist collective linked

globally into one unified mass party—ICWP.

The Party today is organized in line with our communist goal. We want you to join if you share that goal. We don't have "stars" or "experts." We all have questions. We will answer them together as we carry out the struggle.

Communist collectives meet regularly to make and carry out plans. They distribute and write for *Red Flag* and use it to struggle for a communist political line.

We rely on a process of criticism and self-

criticism to keep ourselves on the communist road. Joining the Party means we are committed to building these collectives.

Party decisions are made after the fullest possible discussion in the collectives. We agree to carry them out, even when we disagree, so we can collectively evaluate the results. We can succeed together!

We invite you to celebrate May Day 2018 by joining the International Communist Workers' Party!



**JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST
WORKERS' PARTY (ICWP)**
WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG — (310) 913-9704
E-MAIL: ICWP@ANONYMOUSSPEECH.COM
WRITE TO: P.M.B. 362
3006 S. VERMONT AVE., LOS ANGELES, CA
90007, USA

Operators Denounce MTA's Insults, Abuses and Humiliations:

COMMUNISM WILL END RACISM AND SEXISM—WE'LL TREAT EACH OTHER WITH RESPECT, DIGNITY AND LOVE

"When you print about stopping the insults, abuse and humiliation of operators then I will read your paper," shouted an operator while exiting the MTA parking lot.

"If you write something, we would gladly print it..." began the *Red Flag* distributor.

"I'm telling you now so you can print it!" she interrupted, driving off.

"Yes," added another operator. "We are constantly being insulted and humiliated both by MTA's management and the passengers. MTA always takes the passengers' side, claiming that 'the customer is always right.'"

The first operator was African-American, the second Latina. It is not surprising that they are so outspoken about these vicious attacks. Because of racism and sexism, non-white and women workers – especially women workers of color — experience these attacks more frequently and more brutally.

Capitalism's Wage Slavery: Source of These Problems

Our class – the working class – was created when capitalism first came into existence about 500 years ago. We own nothing except our labor power. We must sell ourselves to the capitalists for a wage, just to survive. Knowing this, the capitalists and their administrators-supervisors use the threat of firing to intimidate and terrorize us, intensify our exploitation and keep us from rebelling.

Wage slavery is also the source of racism, sexism and xenophobia. All poisonous ideologies used by our modern slave masters to pay non-white workers less, and work them harder with little or no benefits.

But most important, racism, sexism and xenophobia are used to divide us to prevent us from organizing a communist revolution that would end their reign of terror forever.

Workers Have Never Accepted Capitalist Despotism Passively

Ever since capitalism's birth, the working class and the capitalists have been locked in a life-and-death struggle. Confronted with capitalism's reign of terror, workers saw the need to speak and act as one unified force.

Some saw trade unions as the solution. Others concluded that to resolve our problems permanently our class has to violently overthrow the capitalists and become the collective ruler of society.

History has proven that trade unions can temporarily limit but never end capitalism's despotism. History has also proven that overthrowing the capitalist class doesn't guarantee a permanent resolution to our problems.

The Russian and Chinese working classes overthrew their capitalist masters in 1917 and 1949, respectively. Yet, the capitalists are back in power in those countries. Workers are just as exploited, abused and humiliated as everywhere else.

The problem was that those socialist revolutions did not eliminate wage slavery. They kept money. Workers worked for the state for wages to buy the things they needed. Therefore, workers remained wage slaves and the communists administering the state eventually became the new capitalist slave masters. The material basis of racism, sexism and all anti-working-class ideologies remained.

Only Communism Can Abolish Wage Slavery and Liberate Us Forever

In communism, our class will collectively manage all the means of production: machinery, buildings, land, mines and all natural resources. We will use them collectively to produce everything we need and share it according to need with



our global family.

With no money, everything will be free. Nothing will be bought or sold in a world without nations or borders. By abolishing private property and wage slavery, we will end the material basis for racism, sexism and xenophobia.

Those poisonous ideologies, however, won't die overnight. It will take an organized, massive, resolute and relentless struggle to eradicate them from everyone's consciousness and collective social practice.

There will be no stress or fear of losing one's livelihood. If someone doesn't like or can't perform a given task there will always be something else they can do. Everyone's contribution, no matter how little or big, will be appreciated and welcomed.

With no privileges for anyone, no one will be a boss. We will work collectively learning from each other – locally, regionally and worldwide – while treating each other with respect, dignity and love.

We call on MTA workers and all workers to join ICWP to hasten the creation of this communist world. We would love to hear from all of you and are more than glad to print your letters, your suggestions, criticism, questions or concerns.

Another Lesson of the Paris Commune:

FOLLOW UP SMALL COMMUNIST GAINS

SEATTLE (USA), April 14—Our pre-May Day dinner featured a presentation by a comrade on the Paris Commune. Both the presentation and the discussion afterwards were very useful and led to suggestions for our current everyday work.

Most, including new comrades, had never heard of the Commune before we started organizing for this potluck.

People were especially interested when the comrade talked about Louise Michel, one of the most famous communards. She led the group of women up Montmartre hill to protect the Commune's cannons. This sparked the Commune's seizure of power.

Later Michel suggested sending someone to Versailles (where the bourgeois government had fled) to assassinate Thiers, its president. Her comrades argued (rightly) that this was not a good idea.

They also said it was not possible to get to Versailles, and here Michel proved them wrong. She disguised herself, sneaked through the lines and made it to a staging ground where government troops were being prepared for the assault. She didn't miss the opportunity to present the Commune's case to some soldiers.

Then she made it back to Paris, where she was among the Communards who made their last stand in the Montmartre cemetery. She is well known in France as a life-long revolutionary.

Fifty thousand workers attended her funeral in 1905.

Someone asked if the Commune had followed up on Michel's exploit. Did they send other people across the lines to talk to government soldiers? Apparently not.

Follow Up Is Key in War and Party Building

This led to a discussion of the principle of following up on successes. We agreed that not only is follow-up vital, but also that it's vital to plan for follow-up.

We prepared posters about the commune for the dinner. Everybody took some to distribute to their friends and co-workers. As soon as the torrential rains let up, comrades went to the local high school to distribute *Red Flag* and the commune posters. A Boeing worker organized students to distribute more inside the school. A third of the student body got both the poster and the paper.

Students from another high school asked if communism had ever worked. They took papers. They were studying communism (actually the Soviet Union) in school. (The Soviet Union was socialist, not communist.) We suggested they take the papers to class and have some discussion.

At Boeing, a shop steward fell ill and couldn't make it to the dinner. First thing the next week, she asked how it went.

We also gave her the poster and the latest issue of the paper. Then we started talking about

Louise Michel and the need for communists to follow up on every success. She wanted details about the Commune.

After a thorough discussion, a comrade made the ill-advised comment, "You won't find out about this communist history from the union."

"I know that!" she answered.

Then the discussion got serious. She wanted to know how we got the paper out and who wrote the articles. We talked about how the editorial collective tries to build collectives all around the world to report on our communist work. And how we learned a good deal about collective leadership from the communards in Paris.

She noticed that *Red Flag* was different, not only in content, but also in the way it is produced. We even showed her a mock layout to emphasize that we all contribute to every aspect of producing the paper. We invited her to write and donate to the paper.

"How do you distribute this?" she asked. "In stores?"

"Not usually. We rely on workers like you," answered a comrade. She was particularly interested in how the party and our friends in the shop got so many papers distributed at the local high school.

The discussion was cut short by work. We plan to follow up on these tasks: writing, distributing and donating. But most importantly, we plan to invite her to join the ICWP.

Six Years After the Marikana Massacre:

MASSES NEED POLITICAL STRIKES WORLDWIDE FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

RUSTENBURG, SOUTH AFRICA, April 18 — Almost six years ago, the miners of Marikana put tools down and demanded a wage increase. The union which claimed to protect them was the first one to order them back to work. The workers refused. It was the current billionaire president of South Africa, Cyril Ramaphosa, with extensive connection to mining capitalists, who ordered the police to shoot the miners, killing over thirty.

Four comrades, including myself, took a journey to the mining region where it all happened to mobilise the masses and recruit them to join ICWP.

We had a discussion with some of the taxi drivers and we explained our line as a party to fight for communism to end horrors of capitalism. We explained that we do not contest in elections because Capitalism will not be defeated by voting. Voting means choosing which boss to exploit you.

We met with comrade Robert, who has been in communication with us for the last year. He raised the question of the unions and their role in workers' day to day struggles. We explained that unions protect the bosses from the working class. Their role is to make sure that the workers do not turn against the bosses.

We gave him an example of the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (AMCU) which was opportunistic during the Marikana massacre. The Union acted as if they were on the side of the workers and as a result the workers which belonged to the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (Numsa) joined the AMCU.

When over 100,000 miners defied the bosses, unions and police, and armed themselves, it was the time to call and expand political strikes around the world for communist revolution. The unions will never do it. It is our job to win the masses to do it.

Robert promised to carefully read all our literature. He was also very helpful in providing information about different mines and how to approach the miners.

Immigrant Workers Discuss Communism

The next day we distributed *Red Flag* to miners. We encountered a group of miners who were not paid for over a month. There was a miner from South Africa and others from Zimbabwe. The bosses were taking advantage of the immigrants without documents.

We had a long discussion with one of the workers. He told us that he's not allowed to enter the mine premises. They call him a "trouble maker" for demanding his wages. The rest who were undocumented were afraid to demand their wages as the mine bosses threaten to report them to the police. This raises the need to demolish borders.

One of the bosses' puppets took a picture of us, obviously to show his bosses and maybe be rewarded.

The "trouble maker" said he would read *Red Flag* and mobilize the masses for communism. He said he would be thrown out of his room that he was renting because he was not paid.

In the face of very dire conditions, this miner was not afraid of the bosses. He was defiant and full of hope in a communist alternative. He had recorded proof that the bosses had physically threatened him but he knew that it was no good because the police always side with the bosses.

We need many more comrades like him on our side to join and be active organizers. His resilience and defiant attitude gives us the strength to continue to mobilize the masses for communism.

We are going to keep in contact with him and many others we met. This experience has changed all of us.



Marikana, August 2012



Marikana, April 2018

Young Autoworker Comrade Writes:

IN COMMUNISM, MASSES WILL SHARE AND ENJOY THE THINGS WE MAKE

SOUTH AFRICA, April 22—I joined ICWP in 2013 when my friends told me about the Party. They gave me literature. I got interested by reading the dialectics material. I was absorbed by it and said, guys, now as I've read this, how do I join? What do you do?

They explained more. Sharing is one of the things that I used to do, even before I joined the Party. Now it's the political line that we have to share and not be selfish. It is a very profound thing to do as a human being because we all have that that human need of not just thinking about ourselves but to look after other people also. We are all humble, we are all workers.

I enjoyed going to mobilize to some events, hanging out with people and answering their questions. We can end this capitalist system that is so brutal.

Those bosses that we work for are exploiting our labor. It's the only thing they need because everything that we are surrounded by was built by the workers. Now we're not enjoying or using the things that we built. These things are being

used by the bosses, which is why I joined the ICWP. So we can make and use and enjoy those things. The masses need to see this system was built for exploitation.

I recently joined the auto industry. I'm starting to learn. I see this as another tool the bosses use. You work and study for half your life, then train for five years and that's when you get paid. What bugs me is that in a workplace you can't say the things that matter the most because these things can get you fired. And I think these things are what make the work environment tense.

People have this tendency that you work there and you have money. But money is not everything. Time is everything. And being told what to do is not within human nature.

I've only been working in this industry for three weeks. I thought that it's not possible to organize in the factory around communist ideas, that it's possible to organize people outside but not inside the premises of the workshop because they work with the system that is exploiting people.

But the auto industry is key for the bosses' system; it's very important for our work. With struggle, I decided that it is possible if I can branch out, I can come up with other members from there—through the way that I communicate with others—by making friends and finding out what they think.

I will try by all means. I will bring problems I face to our collective so they can help to overcome them. I have to find some comfort zone in the spot, to be comfortable enough so that I can talk deeper. I have to conjoin the ICWP with what they want. That's why I have to get to know them first. It's the early days now. I don't have much time to socialize yet, but when I get there I will definitely love to have some *Red Flags* and let them read them and see their response.

The goal is to have many *Red Flag* readers and to recruit ICWP members in the auto industry. You have to live the party, to be the party everywhere you go, not just when you're with the other comrades. I always make sure that I represent the party wherever I am.

JOIN ICWP TO FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM HERE AND NOW

EL SALVADOR—This May Day the International Communist Workers' Party calls on the international working class to join us to mobilize the masses for communism.

On this May Day we remember the Paris Commune: the first time the working class took state power with the goal of building a new society based on the communist vision that they had. It was the first workers' revolution led by communists.

On this day we also remember the armed insurrection of 1932 led by the Communist Party of El Salvador. We remember Farabundo Martí, Zapata and the thousands of city workers and indigenous rural workers massacred by the Salvadoran bourgeoisie.

These insurrections didn't achieve their goals and were drowned in blood. But their self-sacrifice and heroism inspire us not to falter in our fight to mobilize the masses for communism.

We fight for Communism here and now. The old communist movement and the different expressions of the left believed that the masses could not be organized with communist ideas. The experiences of the past have shown us that this was a fatal mistake.

Organizing the masses with communist ideas means making discussions about the most essential aspects of the construction of the new society

into mass discussions.

In the fields and in the factories, the ICWP clubs relate communist ideas to the workers' material reality.

"What most surprises people is that we talk about eliminating money and living without bosses. It's hard for them to imagine a world like this," commented a comrade maquila worker. She was analyzing the way the party's ideas are received inside the factories.

The clubs in the maquilas constantly discuss how production will be in Communism, how it is now in capitalism, and what is needed to bring about this change.

Young students are reading and discussing this newspaper, *Red Flag*. They also participate in meetings with workers, men and women, to learn together about communism and how to spread these ideas.

In the fields, the farmworkers' club is talking about how to bring communist ideas to the agricultural collective that they have initiated.

These initiatives and questions are basic to start a process of collective learning about the experiences of the communist movement in the past and the challenges of a revolution of the magnitude that ICWP is trying to organize.

The ICWP is a mass party. We break with the idea that only the most "advanced" of the work-

ing class can be part of our organization. The Party is open to all those who see in the struggle for communism an alternative to the economic, social and environmental crisis that capitalism generates.

The electoral "left" is in the midst of a crisis since the March 4th elections. It's the same crisis that "left" electoral parties in the rest of the world are suffering. These parties are being thrown out for not being able to administer the crisis of capitalism.

The crisis of overproduction is slashing the few basic services that the States allow the masses. They are forced to implement the measures of the IMF and World Bank. The masses are the ones who suffer because of the politics of the electoral left: trying to reform capitalism. We are the ones who must build new instruments of politicization and communist struggle.

ICWP continues to work to be the instrument for the struggle for a new Communist society. We invite ALL those who want to be part of this effort to join. With humility, learning from the sacrifice and efforts of the revolutionary movements of the past from all over the world, we reaffirm our commitment to the struggle for Communism.

Communist revolution is no longer a dream. It is a necessity.



April 23 – Masses of students, retirees and other workers took to the streets of Managua, Nicaragua on April 18 to protest cuts in social security. Their numbers swelled after government troops killed at least 27 protesters. Today demonstrations rocked the capital, leading to the evacuation of the US embassy. President Ortega had to scrap the cuts.

In Nicaragua, as in South Africa, El Salvador and elsewhere, socialists and former guerrilla fighters became the new capitalist bosses.

Business groups helped organize today's protest, although they have generally allied with Ortega. Clearly, they want to prevent mass anger at Ortega's socialist government from taking a radical turn towards communism.

Nicaragua has a tremendous potential – and an urgent need – for communist mobilization. We ask *Red Flag* readers with family and friends in Nicaragua to do as much as possible to spread this paper there and everywhere.



WORKERS NEED COMMUNIST COLLECTIVITY, NOT CAPITALIST GREED

MEXICO—This May Day we fight to end wage slavery with communist revolution. The only way to get rid of our problems is to get rid of the capitalists who use our labor power as a commodity, to reproduce their domination over us.

We need a world where nothing is bought or sold, a world without money where we produce, freely associated, to meet our needs, without capitalists who live off us.

Hundreds of thousands of workers and students, women and men, are taking to the streets to protest aspects of capitalism: wages, water, health, safety, security, etc. These masses are, in essence, hungry for a new society. That is the communist society we fight for.

In capitalist society, the endless fight over wealth and control among the great capitalist-imperialist powers has resulted in the US bombing of Syria, bringing closer its direct confrontation with Russia and China. This would have dire consequences for all the workers of the world. But World War is also an opportunity for masses all over the world to mobilize for communist revolution.

In Mexico, greed — the drive for profits by the national capitalists and the imperialists — has also intensified, bringing death for the working class. Different groups of capitalists are fighting for control of the government, trying to secure their businesses.

In the electoral dispute the currently governing electoral faction seeks to continue in power by making JA Meade (PRI) win, regardless of

who they step on. The electoral fraud appears obvious.

There is another section of capitalists, underestimated by the financial oligarchy and displaced from important businesses (drug trafficking, electronics manufacturing, print media). These mostly medium- and small capitalists, displaced by voracious corporations, support Anaya (PAN-PRD-MC) or Lopez Obrador (MoReNa-PT-PES).

This July 1st, 15 million youth who have only heard demagoguery and electoral politicking, will vote for the first time in the presidential elections. Some have become "disillusioned with democracy." They have no confidence in the electoral institutions and feel an "insidious detachment" from political life.

Many workers are angry with the government and have illusions about a change with Lopez Obrador. Others, a good portion of those who still believe in elections, will only vote for him because they are angry with the PRI.

The elections will not resolve our situation of being wage slaves. They only serve for us to elect our next hangman. They try to divert us from mobilizing for communism, the only way to end our wage slavery and build a world where we produce collectively solely to meet the needs of all workers everywhere.

To achieve that, we need to organize ourselves in the Party of the international working class, ICWP, to liberate ourselves and to help liberate our working-class family around the world.

ONE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY TO FIGHT FOR A WORLD WITHOUT BORDERS

BARCELONA, SPAIN —May Day is the workers' day, the day that the whole working class takes to the streets to demonstrate our strength!

In Catalonia, the working class is living with the results of the separatist/independence movement and fascist repression by the national government. The Spanish President Mariano Rajoy and his henchmen violently attacked masses deceived by separatism, arresting the independence leaders. In addition, Carles Puigdemont, ex-president of Catalonia, and his crew went into exile, abandoning the masses.

Comrades of ICWP showed once again that the politicians only crave the votes that generate juicy salaries for them and a big slice of the pie of profits that the workers sacrifice for their coffers.

We, the working class, live with uncertainty.

We live each day worse off due to the creation, through garbage contracts, of jobs that don't pay enough to live to the end of the month.

We live in a society in which capitalism is responsible for fomenting racism among our class. Every day racism intensifies due to the crisis created by the bosses and their need to divide our class. We live every day under the influence of the bosses' fascism.

Both the independence movement and Spanish nationalism are nothing more than strategies to keep different sectors of the working class busy, divided and distracted from the miseries that the system generates. We don't need any bosses—neither from Spain, nor from Catalonia, nor from anywhere in the world.

We need communism, where we the workers resolve our own needs. We will use our own force of production to truly meet the needs of the

working class.

We don't need borders or nations or wages. We need only our own labor power and an international party, the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP).

The ICWP fights directly for communism. It mobilizes the masses to defeat capitalism and does not waste efforts for the reforms that are offered by the swindler capitalist politicians.

Today is the time to unite, no matter our skin color or "race" or social status. It only matters that we are one class and that we must be united to resolve all the calamities imposed by capitalism. Let's build a mass army willing to vanquish capitalism and build a communist society.

Join the Red Army of the workers of the world for a society that meets our needs. JOIN ICWP! LONG LIVE MAY DAY!

To End Exploitation and Imperialist Wars:

SHIPYARD WORKERS NEED TO FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM

SAN DIEGO, USA—Many workers understand that capitalism is a racket. Workers do all the work and the capitalists pay us only a part of the value our work creates. They keep the rest for themselves as profit.

It is easy to lose sight of just how much the bosses rip us off. NASSCO and BAE Systems, two shipyards in San Diego, are good examples. Both are divisions of giant corporations (NASSCO is owned by General Dynamics) that do most of their business selling to the US and UK military and their allies, including Saudi Arabia.

General Dynamics reported a profit of \$ 4.177 billion before taxes in 2017, but that wasn't all of it. They also paid \$ 43 million to five top executives, mostly in company stock. Those payments weren't wages, but a share of the profits. The rate of profit on the capital invested works out to 23%! The company bragged that an investment made in their stock in 2012 would produce more than triple the original value by 2017 if dividends were reinvested.

Since General Dynamics has 98,800 workers, the profit per worker was \$ 42,700 per worker in 2017. That means that the value that workers created that was NOT paid for by the company (surplus value) was nearly as large as the wages that many workers were actually paid!

BAE Systems was a little less successful in exploiting its workforce. Their profits were \$ 3.043 billion, plus \$14.1 million for the top execs. They employed 83,200 workers, for an average of \$ 33,173 of unpaid value per worker.

Last month the US Congress approved a huge increase in military spending, including 14 new Navy ships, and a new aircraft carrier. Some of these ships will be built in San Diego and both NASSCO and BAE will be hiring. Workers need these jobs but like any job, **signing up means being exploited, since much of our work is unpaid.**

Building ships can be an important benefit for humanity, and under communism it will be. Under capitalism, however, all work is organized to benefit the capitalists. Even jobs like health care or teaching have to be done to make a profit or prepare workers to be used to make profits.

War industry workers live under an extra contradiction: most of us don't want wars or threats of war, but that is what the bosses will use our work for. The US is building a bigger Navy to confront rising capitalist powers, especially China, that want a bigger slice of capitalist profits. China, India and other rising powers are building up their navies, too.

None of this military buildup aims to protect the masses anywhere, even in the country where it was built. The US plan for a 350-ship navy is to make it easier to project its military power over the whole earth. The only reason for US Navy ships to sail the Persian Gulf or the South China Sea is to control those places (especially their oil) and protect the investments and profits of US big business. Over the last decade thousands of civilians have been killed by US forces in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Yemen, many by bombers and missiles from Navy ships.

So, what do we do about it? We have to recognize that capitalism can't be fixed. Capitalists exploit workers and fight to maintain profits. It is the nature of the beast. Trade unionism, elections, trade deals,

peace treaties and compromises can't change it. Our only choice is to organize communist revolution and bring about a whole new situation. Unlike socialism in Russia and China, that still had exploitation, inequality, money, nations and international conflict, communism is organized around everyone working and sharing what they make to meet everyone's needs.

Communism can't be won without revolution, that is, revolutionary war to destroy capitalism. But it will produce a future where all the ships are designed and built to serve the working class. They won't fight in greedy battles between capitalists that kill masses of workers.

ICWP recognizes that industrial workers are the key force in this communist movement. We are already distributing over 200 copies of every issue of *Red Flag* to shipyard workers. Young revolutionaries should get jobs in the shipyards and other industries to mobilize workers for communism. As a BAE worker told us recently, "Something's got to change." The change we need is communism. Join us and make it happen.

WORK IN A SHIPYARD? TELL US WHAT YOU THINK OR WOULD LIKE TO KNOW ABOUT ICWP. TALK TO A RED FLAG DISTRIBUTOR OR CONTACT ICWP@AnonymousSpeech.com



November 1972, San Diego—An anti-racist mutiny aboard the US Constellation rocks the US Navy. Hundreds of black sailors and a handful of white supporters stage a sit-in to protest racist discipline policies and less-than-honorable discharges. The leaders have been meeting for two months. Some had been reading communist papers they'd received in Long Beach. Anti-war feelings were running high among sailors. These included young black sailors from cities recently shaken by urban rebellions. Shipboard arson and sabotage were increasingly common. The Constellation was the ship involved in the 1964 Tonkin Gulf incident, instigated by the US to justify escalation of its war on Vietnam.

We have much to learn today from the rebellion on the Constellation! It shows the need and opportunity to organize in the military to turn the guns against the imperialists for communist revolution.

WOMEN COMRADES PLAY KEY ROLE BUILDING ICWP IN INDIA

**Women fighters
in the
communist-led
Telangana
(Hyderabad)
peasant revolt,
1946-1951**



Women comrades in the ICWP in India today are giving critical leadership in the fight to end capitalism's racist and sexist terror by mobilizing for communism.

Masses were outraged by a recent heinous gang-rape, torture and murder of an 8-year-old girl by racist thugs trying to terrorize her nomadic Muslim community. To make matters worse, the fascist BJP ruling party organized mobs to support the criminals.

Another among many atrocities: Men associated with the BJP raped a 17-year-old Dalit woman. When her father went to complain, he died in police custody.

When hundreds, then thousands, then millions more join and build a mass International Communist Workers' Party in India, we can end fascist capitalism once and for all. We can win the armed struggle for a communist world.

In communism we will be organized worldwide to produce and share the things we all need, without wages or markets or profits. Communism will empower us to end the divisions of racism, sexism, communalism and religion. Communist production will be the material basis for transforming the working class into one human family.

Join the ICWP! Recruit co-workers, relatives and friends to the ICWP! Help translate *Red Flag* into many languages and spread it worldwide!

Greetings to all the Comrades out there. I am from India ICWP. I've been a part of the ICWP movement for two years, through an ICWP Comrade who introduced me to a lot of different kinds of struggles going on all over the world and the working class struggle and the social struggle. It's almost the same in every part of the world.

I belong to the Dalit marginalized group. So education was also a very difficult task. The kind of struggle that I went through and my parents went through—it's very difficult to go through this. The whole reason for this is the capitalist movement.

I think the Communist movement has played an important role in the formation of the world—like in the Soviet Union and other examples. As a part of the communist movement, I will be a very very progressive person who will help to organize and fight against the capitalist world and help up-bring the communist world to a different level. This is my struggle and the struggle should go on to the whole working class. Capitalism should be ended as soon as possible.

Signing off from India, Red Salute. Revolution!

Another greeting: *Red Flag* and ICWP are struggling to get rid of oppression and exploitation happening against the workers by organizing the international working class. The struggle must continue so that the world's workers are not exploited and oppressed. Congratulations to the *Red Flag*. Red Salute!

LETTERS

Disloyalty of the Unions

I would like to talk about my personal experience with the union and how it manipulated me and my colleagues. I used to work for a big company as a technical worker. The company first decreased our salary scale. Soon after, they stopped our gain sharing bonus. We usually got this bonus every three months when we reached the sales. The company also eliminated the incentive bonus which we usually got every six months. And finally the company stopped overtime. We were so devastated that we decided to go on strike.

We were called upon and they said we must immediately go back to our work stations because it was an unprotected strike. Even our union told us to go back to work. We asked how we could return to our work stations when we are not satisfied with what's happening.

Then we were charged. Our union said they couldn't do anything for us because they had already signed the agreement about all these things that were happening—without our knowledge. I feel they used us, completely misled us, and betrayed us. I don't see any use for the union. They deduct money from our salary each and every month to protect you, to fight for your rights. But the union is working with management while they are disguised as if they are looking out for the employees. I decided to quit the company. I can't be a slave because we were doing all the work but getting peanuts, and the management got all the bonuses.

I would like the youth of South Africa to consider that the unions serve the management—pretending they are fighting for us.

I met a comrade later and he introduced me to ICWP. I liked the fact that he said they wanted to abolish the bosses' system. He ex-

LETTERS

plained the manifesto of the organization.

That's what made me interested to join ICWP—because it happened to me personally.

—A new Comrade in South Africa

May Day in Mexico: Join Our Hearts and Our Fists

"Arise all men and women workers of the world, arise all to fight. With proletarian justice a new world must be created." These words resound loudly this May Day.

How can we be afraid to defend life? How can we be afraid of our historic opportunity to take off the chains to be free? To be completely human?

Today, May Day, our heart sings and our eyes wait to see a new dawn. The bosses will not fill us with fear. Let them fight their wars, elect their politicians, let them devour whatever they require, their days are numbered!

Day by day, our communist work is advancing. For example, I talked with a friend about the war and what political actions to take. I mentioned that sometimes doing some activity of dissent is not enough; what is required is political clarity. I gave the example of the earthquakes a few months ago. I said that many people helped or collected donations and stood in solidarity. However, what political

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

gain did these actions have, what was the advance?

"None," responded my friend.

He commented that it was necessary to know history, and for that reason he liked to read it. That way, he could generate an informed opinion and not let himself get fooled so easily.

I said that sometimes it is not only necessary to know history and form opinions, but that perhaps a second step was to write.

He looked at me with surprise and I said, yes, sometimes we can formulate ideas in our heads. Some ideas will be wrong, others correct, but it is an individual task. The best way is to collectivize it. If there is a contradiction there is an advance, even more if this is distributed and read around the world.

I told him that to speak is a political action. Speaking requires practice and prior knowledge. Therefore, speaking is a need, and so is political activity like writing. I am struggling with him to write for our newspaper *Red Flag*.

Comrades, let's speak as long as we have words in our mouths! This May Day let's join our hearts and our fists, United for Communist Revolution.

—Comrade in Mexico

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Paris, France, 1968:

IT IS RIGHT TO REBEL AND BETTER TO TURN REBELLION INTO COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

Fifty thousand students marched against police brutality in Paris on May 7, 1968. The march quickly turned into a daylong battle in the Latin Quarter (Left Bank), home to big Paris universities and tens of thousands of students.

Thus began a week-long worker-student uprising. It would have been a revolutionary situation — if there had been a revolutionary communist party capable of seizing the moment.

Cops (“les flics”) attacked the students with tear gas. The students fought back with paving stones and Molotov cocktails. They responded to orders to disperse with chants of “long live the Paris Commune!” (See p. 2)

It all started on March 22, when radical working-class students at Nanterre University occupied the university council chambers to protest class discrimination in education. The struggle continued, and on May 2 the administration closed Nanterre.

On May 6, students from Nanterre and the elite Sorbonne joined forces. The vicious French paramilitary police (CRS) attacked. In the pitched battle that followed, hundreds were injured on both sides.

Sporadic fighting continued until the night of May 10. Then students threw up barricades (the first in Paris since 1944) and chased the cops out of the Latin Quarter. Many young workers joined the students. One city worker, for example, showed the students how to use a jackhammer to dig up paving stones.

On Monday, May 13 a million people marched in Paris, at one point singing the Internationale.

The next day aerospace workers in Nantes occupied the Sud-Aviation factory and locked the management in their offices. They were soon followed by Renault autoworkers in Rouen and then Paris. By Thursday, workers had occupied over fifty factories all over France.

On Monday, May 20, ten million workers were on strike — out of fourteen million in all. It was the biggest general strike in European history. And they weren’t on strike just for reforms. One worker told the press that the rebels wanted “a new society.”

“Toward a Mass Leftism”

Workers and students held meetings in the factory halls and universities they had occupied.

These echoed the local assemblies of the Paris Commune and the soviets in Russia in 1917.

A Council for Maintaining the Occupations called on May 22 for a federation of Workers’ Councils to become “the sole deliberative and executive power over the entire country.” They envisioned re-starting railroads, print shops and other sectors of the economy “under workers’ control” as the basis for this power. They thought seriously about how to requisition and distribute food and other necessities using vouchers instead of money.

A survey taken immediately after the crisis found that 20% of the French would have actively supported a revolution. About a third would have fought a military intervention.

Clearly, this revolutionary moment demanded communist leadership. But the rotten so-called ‘Communist’ party (PCF) used its mass base to sabotage the movement.

Amidst the rebellion, the PCF-controlled CGT union exposed itself as “a mechanism for integrating the workers into capitalist society” and “the main protection of this shaken capitalism.” For example, when students marched to factories they often found the gates locked and guarded by CGT thugs.

President De Gaulle fled to Germany on May 29. He met with General Massu (a notorious Algerian War torturer) who assured him he had the support of the brass. But most of the troops were young conscripts. The government couldn’t rely on them.

De Gaulle relied instead on the PCF and reforms like a 35% rise in the minimum wage to get things



under control. He proposed new elections, and the PCF agreed. The new young communist groups were not yet ready to step up.

Particular grievances provoked the May 1968 rebellion. But to find the causes we must look around the world. 1968 was a year of rebellion (see below). French workers and students saw what was happening and drew the lesson that “it is right to rebel.”

A group of young Parisian communists declared in June 1968: “The world revolution is now knocking on the doors of the developed capitalist countries.... What counts is that every day the proletarian revolutionary communist party is built in the struggle.”

The same is true today. As protests and rebellions break out around us, we must always bring communism to the fore. Our everyday discussions, social activities and struggle must help us prepare to mobilize for communism.

We have a world to win!



1968: A YEAR OF REBELLION

Fifty years ago, intense struggle raged around the world. 1968 was the high point of more than a decade of mass rebellions that began with anti-imperialist uprisings in Asia and Africa against French and British colonialism.

The political and economic “golden era” of capitalism had ended. The imperialist victors of World War II were exhausting the advantage they had wrested from mass devastation and close to 80 million deaths.

Globally, the rate of profit was falling — and with it the political order. Masses were questioning capitalism.

In the US, uprisings against racism and the Vietnam War ranged from walk-outs of Mexican-American students in Los Angeles to the Dodge Revolutionary Union Movement among black auto workers in Detroit. Following the April assassination of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., rebellions rocked cities across the US and surged among active-duty US soldiers and sailors.

In Mexico City, struggles against racism and Apartheid at the 1968 Olympics led to mass stu-

dent protests against exploitation and repression.

Many were questioning socialism, too. They saw that Russia was state-capitalist (or social-imperialist). Chinese students stopped Russian supply trains on their way to Vietnam, seeing them as a means to coopt the revolutionary struggle there.

When the Soviet imperialists sent troops to suppress the “Prague Spring” uprising in Czechoslovakia, Czech youths fraternized with the soldiers. As protests spread, including general strikes in France and Austria, some troops defied orders to disperse crowds.

During the Chinese Cultural Revolution, starting in 1966, masses mobilized against Soviet socialism and capitalist roaders in China itself. Many took up the cause of moving quickly toward communism.

In France in May 1968, as elsewhere, mass anti-war and anti-imperialist movements transformed the political landscape and gave rise of a generation of activists.

What inspired these uprisings? The Viet-

namese peasant army in homemade sandals that was taking on — and defeating! — the US army, the mightiest military machine the world had ever seen.

Everything we do is connected to the working-class struggle internationally. That’s why *Red Flag* is so important today. This newspaper is written, developed and distributed by communists and friends in many countries.

As mass movements explode around the world today, the International Communist Workers’ Party that we’re building today must prepare to lead the way to communist revolution.

