

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM



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

August 8, 2018—Workers of Ahmadabad Railway block railway line in Rafsanjan, Iran

STRIKE WAVE IN IRAN



"We are hungry. Our tables don't have bread. We don't have job security."

September 19—As we go to press, strikes continue in Iran. Industrial workers and others have walked out in the face of the crisis of skyrocketing inflation and withholding of workers' pay. In some factories, workers haven't been paid for 12 months. The protests are a continuation of the uprising in December of the poor and unemployed.

Strikers include beet farmers who haven't been paid for one year for planting, harvesting and delivering the product to the Azar Gand Sugar Factory. In August, they blocked the roads and doors to the factory demanding to be paid.

Railroad workers of Ahmadabad Railway blocked the railway line in Rafsanjan because they haven't been paid in 2 to 3 months. Railway workers in Sirjan and Kaheh also struck in August in protest of non-payment of their salaries. Truckers have waged a series of strikes since May 22 over the low fares they receive. Internet workers have also struck for non-payment of wages.

These strikes and workers' growing anger show that capitalism in crisis is the mortal enemy of all workers. Capitalism makes workers wage slaves, chained to the bosses' system for survival. They show that workers, who make everything of value, have the power to put an end to capitalism's exploitation.

Fighting for improvements to the murderous wage system won't end wage slavery. The striking workers have the tremendous potential to mobilize to get ride of capitalist wage slavery. Then we can build a communist world without money or wages where the masses produce and share what we make to meet the needs of our class, not for the capitalists' profits.

To do that, workers in Iran and everywhere need to join and build ICWP to mobilize for communism. We call on readers to help spread *Red Flag*. We ask that readers who know Farsi or other languages translate *Red Flag* and *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*.

Report on South Africa:

BLACK INDUSTRIAL WORKERS PLAY KEY ROLE IN MOBILIZING FOR COMMUNISM

September 16— Motherwell, near Port Elizabeth, is home to some 140,000 workers and their families, almost all of them black South Africans. It's also home to a growing collective of industrial workers who are spreading communist ideas in auto factories, a heavy metal plant and in the industrial area where many factories are located.

The Coega Industrial Development Zone, only 13 km (8 miles) from Motherwell, is a major regional investment initiative that includes the deep-water Port of Ngqura. Port Elizabeth is the heart of the South African auto industry. And its auto workers are central to the growth of the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) in South Africa and potentially worldwide.

New auto worker comrades have quickly started spreading communist ideas and literature at their plant. Each one of them has brought new energy and the morale of the party is very high due to their eagerness to talk about communism.

Rustenberg, near Johannesburg, is the fastest-growing city in South Africa. It is the center of the mining industry and it, too, is in the process of becoming a center for communist organizing.

About two hundred copies of *Red Flag* are passed from hand to hand each issue, mainly among miners. Comrades are consistently following up with workers who have given us contact information. Future visits are being discussed now.

Student comrades have contributed tremendously to the growth of the ICWP among industrial workers. They have also had good success organizing female and male students on their campuses in Cape Town and Port Elizabeth, where they are recruiting new members. They have ambitious plans to distribute 2000 copies of *Red Flag* in the next 6 months and have a campus conference.

Learning to Be Communists

Since May Day, the work of our party has advanced in quality and quantity. If we recognize the potential that exists, we can transform the party into a mass organization that can propel ICWP's communist work all around the world.

This requires a critical look at the obstacles that we face. We recognized that workers and students in South Africa are relatively more open to communist ideas. We developed a one-sided view that this enthusiasm would automatically translate into the growth of the party.

Now we have realized that what was missing in our work was consistency. Consistency in building communist base, in distribution of *Red Flag*, in meetings, and especially in developing communist relationships.

Throughout our lives, we make close relationship with our family, neighbors, friends from school and work and many others. Capitalist

See SOUTH AFRICA REPORT, page 3

**REVOLUTION
NOT ELECTIONS
PAGE 2**

**COSTA RICA
STRIKES SHOW
COMMUNIST
POTENTIAL
PAGE 3**

**1968-2018
STUDENT
STRUGGLES
IN MEXICO
PAGE 4**

**U.S., CHINESE
RULERS
PREPARE FOR
WAR
PAGE 8**

Revolution in Germany, 1918-1919 (Part II)

TODAY LET'S MOBILIZE DIRECTLY FOR A COMMUNIST WORLD

German socialists who stuck to the line of workers' revolution during World War I split from the pro-war Social Democrats (SPD) in 1916. In April, 1917, as communists fought socialists for leadership of the Russian Revolution, their German comrades formed the "Independent Social Democratic Party" (USPD).

By January 1918, the Bolsheviks (communists) were consolidating power in Russia. In Austria-Hungary, left-wing industrial workers led hundreds of thousands in political strikes demanding an unconditional end to the war. Social-democrat union leaders scrambled to help the capitalists restore order.

In Berlin, over a million – many led by USPD— went on strike against the war. Tens of thousands struck in over 50 other cities. In less than a year, the USPD reached 120,000 members.

The German emperor was losing control. In October he formed a liberal government, including SPD leaders. The imprisoned communist Karl Liebknecht called for the formation of workers' and soldiers' soviets (councils).

Five thousand workers marched with USPD in Berlin around the slogan: Overthrow the government! Navy sailors mutinied in Kiel. Forty thousand sailors, soldiers and workers formed themselves into soviets. Demonstrations and general strikes spread to other port cities.

The German revolution had begun.

Uprisings spread throughout Germany. More soviets formed. The Bavarian monarchy was overthrown. In Munich, a coalition of the SPD, the USPD and the Peasants' League declared a republic.

In Berlin, too, a republic replaced the monarchy. The Social-Democrat Ebert became Chancellor. His SPD-USPD coalition government declared its intention of "implementing the socialist program."

The German capitalists surrendered and ended the war. The socialist government called elections for January 19, 1919. It promised "imme-

diately socialization measures."

But the revolutionary upsurge continued. Political strikes started in Saxony and the industrial Ruhr. On December 23, an elite military unit that included radical Kiel sailors mutinied in Berlin.

Ebert had secretly allied with the imperial generals to "put down anarchy and Bolshevism." Now they organized the anti-communist Freikorps, led by former officers. The Freikorps tried but failed to crush the rebellion.

USPD leaders resigned from Ebert's government. More importantly, communists and left-wing socialists met on December 29-30 and formed the Communist Party of Germany (KPD).

Democracy or Revolution?

The SPD had already urged workers to attack the German Bolsheviks: "Socialism cannot be erected on bayonets and machine guns. If it is to last, it must be realised with democratic means.... Therefore we must draw a thick, visible dividing line between us and the Bolsheviks."

The Spartacist Manifesto (1918) echoed this line. The question, it said, was "bourgeois democracy or socialist democracy. For the dictatorship of the proletariat ... means using all instruments of political power to achieve socialism..."

The new KPD fought bitterly over whether to participate in the January elections or to fight for power in the streets. Rosa Luxemburg and others fought for elections and "socialist democracy." But revolutionary communists won a resolution to prepare for armed insurrection.

Days later, the SPD government fired Police Chief Eichhorn, who had supported the mutinous troops in Berlin. An estimated 100,000 marched in protest.

A communist leaflet proclaimed: "The undersigned revolutionary committee, representing the revolutionary workers and soldiers, proclaims [the government's] removal. The undersigned revolutionary committee assumes provisionally the functions of government."

The Luxemburg group, in contrast, insisted on "avoid[ing] all slogans that might lead to the overthrow of the government at this point."

But the "Spartacist Uprising" was underway. Workers and soldiers barricaded streets. However, they didn't try to seize power. There is a big difference between mass political strikes and rebellions (on one hand) and revolution.

Again Ebert called in the Freikorps. This time, the workers' rebellion was crushed. Luxemburg and Liebknecht were murdered.

The KPD boycotted the January 19 elections. Socialists got 45% of the vote, and Ebert became president of the Weimar Republic. The second national Congress of Workers', Peasants' and Soldiers' Councils supported this bourgeois republic.

The struggle didn't end there. A Bavarian Soviet Republic was proclaimed in Munich in April; it, too was crushed by the Freikorps and the Army.

German communists opposed the Weimar Constitution, ratified in August. Like the US Constitution, it enshrined the "right of private property." Its Article 48 allowed the president to suspend all civil rights in an "emergency."

But by 1920, the KPD was running candidates in national elections. It merged with the USPD in 1922. The Communist International encouraged this electoral strategy.

The failure of the Spartacist uprising – the failure of the Bolshevik revolution to spread much beyond Russia – had weakened the communists' confidence in the masses. Ebert and the socialists hadn't crushed communism. They had coopted it with bourgeois democracy.

Lessons of the German Revolution

Some say the uprising was a mistake. We disagree. The external conditions for communist revolution were there. The Russian Revolution was in progress. The German ruling class was in crisis. The masses were in motion. The KPD had a mass base—though, as it turned out, not massive enough. Too often, communist parties have held back at a critical moment – and lost their chance. But, having called for revolution, the KPD should have tried to lead a real fight for power.

Looking back a century later, we see that the KPD should have mobilized masses directly for communism – not only for "workers' revolution." Nobody back then saw that possibility. Russian "war communism" was a temporary emergency measure, not a mass mobilization to build communist society. It didn't end the wage system.

A huge mistake the German communists made was retreating to an electoral political strategy.

When the 1905 Russian Revolution was crushed, communists regrouped and organized underground for revolution. In contrast, German communists in 1919 took the Weimar government's bait and chose to become a legal party. And when Hitler invoked Article 48 in 1933, they weren't prepared to defeat fascism with communist revolution.

Let's not make that mistake ever again.



Soldiers and sailors rebel—Berlin, December 1918



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THIRSTY FOR COMMUNISM

It was hot at the local high school football practice that I help out at. Students bought drinks from a truck parked nearby. I noticed one student didn't buy anything from the truck. He told me he didn't have any money.

I told him I knew these communists that said we wouldn't need any money in communism. He asked me, "How will that work?"

My first response was to say we'd need a revolution and that it would have to be violent, but that didn't satisfy his curiosity. So, I told him he should talk to my friends in the International Communist Workers Party (ICWP) to find out the details.

The next day I was talking with a comrade at work. I began to think about my childhood in the Detroit Housing Projects. If some of my neighbors were hungry, we'd feed them. I can

still taste the goulash my neighbor made Friday nights for the whole neighborhood.

Nobody ever thought of asking for money and nobody starved. Many would have if it came down to whether or not you had money. Collective survival was our way of life. We shared everything, even the roaches.

My grandparents told me how they came north to work in the auto plants from Alabama. They could only travel at night between 11:30 pm and 5:00 am. Volunteers had houses for them to stay at during the dangerous hours of the day. No money was exchanged.

When they finally got jobs at Ford they were not allowed to work on day or swing shift because they were black. They worked the same night hours that they traveled on through the south.

The ICWP will never have as much money as the corporations and the politicians that serve them. We have something greater: a communist vision and plan to build a society where a kid gets fluids without worrying about money. A society where there is no money, only help for our fellow workers and students.

A society without money can be a great motivator. My comrade asked me to explain this to the student, using the stories of my childhood and grandparents. High school students don't like to be lectured to, but they will listen to personal stories. I distribute dozens of Red Flags. My question is, "What do I do now to build a movement for this vision of a society without money with this student and others?"

—Boeing worker and youth coach

COSTA RICA: STRIKES SHOW NEED FOR A LIFE OF STRUGGLE

COSTA RICA—"If they want war, war is what they'll get," said an irate worker, after the police threw tear gas bombs on the striking workers, also affecting their families at home. There have been dozens of confrontations between the police and demonstrators blocking the roads. Dozens have been arrested. Many riot cops have been stoned.

Since September 10, thousands of government workers (teachers, electricians, and other public employees), men and women, as well as students, truck drivers, fishers and farmworkers have been in an indefinite general strike against the government's new fiscal plan that attacks the working masses..

This plan would increase taxes on all products, including the basic food basket, by 13%. Other aspects of life like rent, professional jobs, soccer and online sales will also be affected. Everyone knows that all products will be more expensive and life will deteriorate even more.

Many protesters are furious about the high pensions that are paid to magistrates, deputies, and high government officials. For example, they say that the pension of a laborer is \$150, and that of an office worker is \$440, that of a magistrate is \$15,000 and that of other officials can reach \$30,000 a month!

The government is saying that it is in an economic crisis and to be able to pay its internal and external debts (to international banks), it needs this plan, where workers must tighten their belts.



Costa Rica, Sept. 13 "No to the Fiscal Adjustment! Let the rich pay for the crisis!"

These kinds of attacks are not only happening in Costa Rica. The rebellion in Nicaragua, the mass demonstrations in Argentina, and the pacts in Mexico show the crisis of capitalism worldwide.

Costa Rican workers, men and women together, have blocked roads, confronted the riot police and gone massively into the streets. But the union leaders do not attack capitalism as the cause of this situation and do not say that communism is the solution. Instead they only attack the president and his government. Their demand is to stop these attacks and have a dialogue to negotiate the terms of exploitation and lower the fis-

cal attacks a little.

The mobilization of the working class in Costa Rica shows the potential to fight for a system without exploitation, a communist world. A world where money won't exist, where there won't be taxes to pay. We will produce collectively to meet the needs of all.

We have made a modest advance with *Red Flag* readers in Costa Rica. These workers must take communist ideas as their own and join us to build our International Communist Workers' Party. They should begin by distributing *Red Flag* and organizing ICWP clubs.

SOUTH AFRICA REPORT

from page 1

culture promotes alienation and isolation, but we estimate that an average adult has social relationship with hundreds.

We must have a broad outlook of struggling with a very large number of them to win them to communist ideas. Each party member should be working with at least fifty people with an outlook of involving them in reading and circulating *Red Flag*, writing for the paper, participating in study groups and socials and joining the party.

In doing this we begin to build the social relations of production that will characterize communist society. As we learn to do communist work, we are training ourselves and those around us for a world based on the principle, "From each according to ability and commitment – to each according to need."

Strong Communist Collectives Build Commitment, Consistency

After May Day, the Party in South Africa con-

fronted the problem of consistency by struggling to make strong collectives. It started with the leadership collective. Internal struggle made each person more accountable and, at the same time, more confident. Weaknesses were no longer seen as personal failures, something to be ashamed of or hide from.

Each person and each collective made concrete goals of increasing *Red Flag* readership, visits, recruitment, etc. JOIN ICWP became the battle cry in a very serious way. The collectives have matured and deepened their commitment to each other, to the working class and to communism.

The consolidation of the new comrades is no longer taken for granted. Rather, the hard work of training the new comrades to write for RF and to recruit new members is taken with utmost seriousness. Classes about communist philosophy (dialectical materialism), collective reading and writing for *Red Flag* have become regular and consistent habits.

We continue to emphasize the strength of concentration. As much as possible, each member is

mobilized to do both the student work and industrial RF distribution.

We all have a lot to learn from the process of the growth of the auto workers. The comrades who have joined recently are more like than different from the thousands who are not yet members of the party. Their recruitment was a result of a year-long struggle with a comrade who is very religious. If we fully grasp the dialectical process of this development, we can advance to the next level.

And the masses in South Africa are more like than different from millions more around the world.

In our party today and in future communist society, the broadest possible masses must be involved in thinking about the work, setting goals, making plans, carrying them out and evaluating the results. There is active party-wide discussion going on now to define our concrete goals of recruitment and *Red Flag* distribution.

We are sitting on the edge of an avalanche!

1968-2018 Students in Mexico Fight Rulers' Attacks

BUILD THE ORGANIZATION OF THE EXPLOITED TO DESTROY THE CAPITALIST STATE

MEXICO—On the afternoon of September 3, 2018, a group of goons in the service of the government of the capitalist ruling class savagely dissolved a meeting of high school students in front of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) Administration. The students were protesting the aggressions suffered initially in the Azcapozalco campus of the College of Sciences and Humanities (CCH). They were protesting the lack of teachers, forcing employees to enroll in banks which charged more than what is stipulated in their own legislation to receive their paychecks, elimination of murals, interruption of union meetings of teachers and attacks by groups of goons. The purpose of the meeting was to deliver their list of petitions to the Administration as well as to demand a stop to the killing of women, like Miranda Mendoza F., a student of the Oriente campus of the CCH.

All the governments of the world organize and use these types of thugs and goons against their opponents, to ensure the use of the wage labor power by which capitalism is sustained. Such shock troops are part of the structure of capitalism, an indispensable complement to the means of legal control. Their purpose is to intimidate the oppressed and exploited, and they exist not only in most schools but in workplaces and living spaces also.

The exploited and oppressed have never yielded to this policy of intimidation. These conditions of exploitation and oppression forge anger and rebellion against it every day. To combat it adequately, an alliance with the working class (which in schools includes teachers) is needed.

The goal needs to be the emancipation of the working-class wage slaves, the proletarian class. For this we need to build the political clubs, the cells of the International Communist Workers' Party. We should not aim for the democratization of capitalism. Democracy since its origin in



The great mobilization of thousands of students in Mexico in 1968 showed that youth could have organized the struggle for communist revolution. Instead, they only fought for the freedom of political prisoners and against authoritarianism.

This movement left us with the clear need for an international party like the ICWP, to fight against all the attacks of the bosses and their repressive governments. The massacre of October 2 is not forgotten. That's why we fight for communism, for a society without exploitation or money.

Greece was a slave regime. Under capitalism it is the government of an oligarchy over the exploited majority. We do not need to use the bourgeois state apparatus but to destroy it to build a state of free workers, never again wage workers, never again proletarians.

"It is the last straw, flattery ... totally unnecessary to the Rector for having given 'answers' to the students of CCH Azcapozalco ... they almost put a pedestal with flowers, incredible! From the 7th floor-Rector's office, certainly, on September 3, they saw the goons arrive, they saw them attacking the students savagely, and they did nothing to prevent it," commented a teacher who reads *Red Flag*.

The State is an organ of oppression of one

class over another. It is a deception to preach that with adequate laws (the so-called "rule of law") the government will defend the workers. We oppose those who spread the dangerous lie that the correct policy is "to demand the wolf not to attack the sheep." Such deception disarms the masses. It is not only a naive approach, it promotes the continuity of the salary-mercantile regime.

What we need is to build the organization of the exploited, clearly and consciously separated from the capitalists, their government and their parties. The capitalists will not dissolve their shock troops. They will organize them in any other way; only the class struggle will make them retreat. We need to take power to make them disappear. JOIN US!

US POLITICAL CRISIS DEMANDS COMMUNIST RESPONSE

September 3: Ayanna Pressley won an upset victory in the Massachusetts Democratic primary, promising "activist leadership." She will become the first black woman to represent the state in the House of Representatives.

September 5: In an anonymous *New York Times* op-ed piece, a top White House official described Trump as incompetent and out of control. But don't worry! There are "adults" like the author in the room.

What do the insurgent Democrat and the conservative "establishment" Republican have in common?

They are both terribly anxious to build patriotism and make sure that the masses put their trust in capitalist democracy.

"We have together ushered in something incredible," Pressley told supporters. "People [especially black people and women] who feel seen and heard for the first time in their lives, a stakehold in democracy and a promise for our future," she said. "That is the real victory."

Anonymous cited the late imperialist icon Sen. John McCain: "All Americans should [have] the high aim of uniting through our shared values and love of this great nation.... The real difference will be made by everyday citizens rising above politics, reaching across the aisle and resolving to shed the labels in favor of a single one: Americans."

Don't believe them.

Democracy's promise is a lie. We live in a cap-

italist dictatorship over the masses that only communist revolution can end. In communist society, the masses will not just "feel seen and heard." We will have real power.

Capitalism's patriotism is a lie. Workers in the US have everything important in common with workers in the rest of the world. We have nothing important in common with the tenth of a percent of the US population—the ruling class—that owns as much wealth as the bottom 90%.

The values shared by most workers – community, cooperation, mutual assistance, meaningful work and relationships—are in essence communist values. The only things that the capitalist class truly values are wealth and the power to keep increasing their wealth.

Is communist revolution – and communist society – possible?

Even in the US, most workers cannot continue to live in the old way. Close to one quarter of families with children face food insecurity. Over a third of the US population lives in poverty or near poverty. Three out of four worry about losing their homes.

No wonder that so many – especially among young adults – are embracing the most radical alternatives they see before them.

The rulers' disarray shows that they can't rule in the old way. Many admit as much when they warn of a "constitutional crisis." McCain orchestrated his own funeral as a response.

But the crisis is not only political. It stems

from a general crisis of world capitalism – a crisis of overproduction, not only of goods but of capital. Within and because of this crisis, sharpening contradictions among imperialist powers are leading to world war. US imperialism has the most at risk and the most reason to fight.

The US ruling class, through both major political parties, is pulling out all stops to mobilize the masses – to vote in November. Sooner than you might think, they will have to mobilize us for war.

Is this a revolutionary situation? What's missing?

What's missing is you.

An International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) that's large enough and rooted enough in the working class would be organizing political strikes for communism right now. It would be preparing the masses for armed insurrection and revolution.

A mass ICWP with an even more massive base would have plans in place to begin building, immediately, a society without buying and selling, without borders and nations. A communist society based on voluntary collective work to meet everyone's needs. Mass direct participation, organized and led by ICWP, in making and carrying out the decisions that affect our lives.

Communism – not impeachment, or Article 25, or the November elections – is the answer to the capitalist crisis. We need you to join and build the ICWP!

ONE WORLD, ONE WORKING CLASS

From Africa, where we were born, human beings spread to inhabit the whole globe. In their gigantic journey, they encountered no barriers or obstacles except nature's landscape and climates which they relentlessly and successfully conquered.

Then, for thousands of years, the world belonged to humanity. They collectively worked, and shared according to need, the products of their labor, taking from nature only what they needed.

Class society changed this. When humans were able to consistently produce more than what they needed to survive for one day, the material basis for private property and exploitation were created. Society was divided into exploiters and exploited, and the world became the private property of the exploiters and oppressors.

This has been perpetuated throughout written history, from slavery to feudalism to now capitalism-imperialism. However, the division of the world – of the rulers' private property – into

nations with borders and immigration laws is solely a creation of capitalism's commodity production.

Capitalism first developed in Europe. Not surprisingly, it was these rulers who in the 16th century divided the world into continents. As capitalism spread worldwide, the capitalists then divided these continents into nations with borders. This started in the 17th century. By the end of the 19th century when they carved out Africa for themselves, the world had been completely divided into nations.

At first nations were developed to guarantee an internal market for the local capitalists, enacting laws and tariffs to exclude or make more expensive their competitors' goods. But, by the end of the 19th and early 20th century, they saw how they could be used politically mainly to create patriotism for their predatory and imperialist wars. Thus, the capitalists-imperialists enacted their immigration laws and policies, using them also to further divide the working class, super-exploit immigrant workers and

lower the wages and working conditions of so-called citizens.

Given this history, our Party fights all attacks on our immigrant brothers and sisters by calling for a communist revolution to destroy the capitalists'-imperialists' nations, borders and immigration laws. We fight for a communist classless society that will destroy their private ownership of the world. The world will once again belong to humanity to work collectively and share the product of our labor and nature's resources responsibly and according to need.

To this end, we must mobilize the masses for communism and nothing else. We shouldn't raise any reformist demands like green cards for any particular immigrants, amnesty for all undocumented workers or to abolish ICE.

Our slogans should be: Fight for a communist world without nations, borders or immigration laws! Only communism can unite our global family as one race without racism, sexism or xenophobia!

—Comrade in US



ICWP comrades in mass march against deportations in 2013. We fight for a communist world without nations or borders



Hamburg, Germany, September 2, 2018—Pro-migrant demonstration calls for open ports and rescue of migrants at sea

CAPITALISM USES RACISM TO DIVIDE AND EXPLOIT ALL WORKERS

On August 26 in Chemnitz, Germany, a man of German nationality and of Cuban origin was killed after a brawl at the hands of a Syrian and an Iraqi.

This has encouraged the ultra-right movements. Two days after the incident there was a demonstration attended by several fascist groups with their typical slogans against the arrival of immigrants to Europe. These groups promote the lie that the overflow of refugees in Europe has stagnated wages and has lowered the "quality of life" of citizens.

We know that it is the capitalist system that uses racism to divide immigrant workers and citizens, and thus be able to exploit them all.

A Honduran worker residing in Germany, who is a **Red Flag** reader, told us that we need "more tolerance," that "extremes in societies are bad" and "that we should all abide by the rules."

This thinking comes from the capitalists who have imposed the idea of tolerance as well as racist ideas on us, in order to continue with their system of exploitation. Also tolerance

does not apply in the class struggle; the bosses will never have tolerance with the working class.

The European capitalists are rubbing their hands together over these situations, seeing how they can profit from the division of the working class. The German liberal bosses and politicians call for a better police force and better laws. But that is not going to help us solve the problems and meet the needs of the workers.

The international working class has a tremendous history of solidarity and violent struggle against racism and fascism.

To destroy racism and exploitation, we must fight for Communism. Today we continue to fight in many parts of the world to build a Communist society without exploitation or racism.

One way to understand this struggle for communism is to understand that dialectically our class enemy is the bosses and that we need to destroy capitalism in order to have a true improvement in our quality of life. To read more about Dialectical Materialism go to our website,

(icwpredflag.org/DiaMagEngIC.pdf)

Join the ICWP and be part of this inevitable history:

WORKERS TO POWER!

—Comrade in Spain

**COMMUNIST
DIALECTICS**



**The Philosophy of
Struggle**

International Communist Workers Party

icwpredflag.org/DiaMagEngIC.pdf

LETTERS

LETTERS

LETTERS

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

The Political Struggle Against Sexist Behavior on the Job

"I am a male comrade. At work I have observed sexist behavior on the part of my fellow workers. For example, comments always come out about how you should behave if you are a man or a woman (the man must always be strong and the woman is weak).

"Sometimes I have laughed at comments like: only women cry, the men do not complain about being hit, the women must do all the cleaning. Sometimes out of fear I don't say anything about it. Sometimes I even thought they were normal.

"However, I have reflected on these behaviors. We all have different skills with which we can contribute and make a better world, we all need everyone."

The comrade wrote this while we were thinking about what to write for the paper. We concluded that we need to be sharper in the fight against sexism. We are happy because we are forming a new and good collective. We have limitations that little by little we are beginning to understand and are moving forward. We do not have formal study circles like we had planned, but the work allows us to be close and we are continuously analyzing different topics. In discussions with other co-workers we can take a more political position on these issues.

In a later talk with a woman friend I told her about our pamphlet about fighting sexism. She agrees that we do not need therapists to be aware of our actions. She said that social relationships and experience help us to become aware and be able to help other people.

As a self-criticism I should have said that we need a communist political line, the political line of the party, to have more clarity in making the analyses. She is the partner of an ex-soldier who we get together with frequently. They are notable for their solidarity. Usually, she agrees with what we discussed with the comrade mentioned above, except when we talk about religion. In her spare time, she says, she reads the *Red Flag* articles that talk about sexism. There is an intense struggle on several fronts, but we are happy to share our work.

—For a communist society, comrades in Mexico.

Travel to Palo Alto Opens Eyes to Working-Class Misery

Sitting under the light poles which contain



banners heralding Stanford Athletics, the Stanford Credit Union or Stanford Medicine, shocking examples of working class misery can be found in Palo Alto, California.

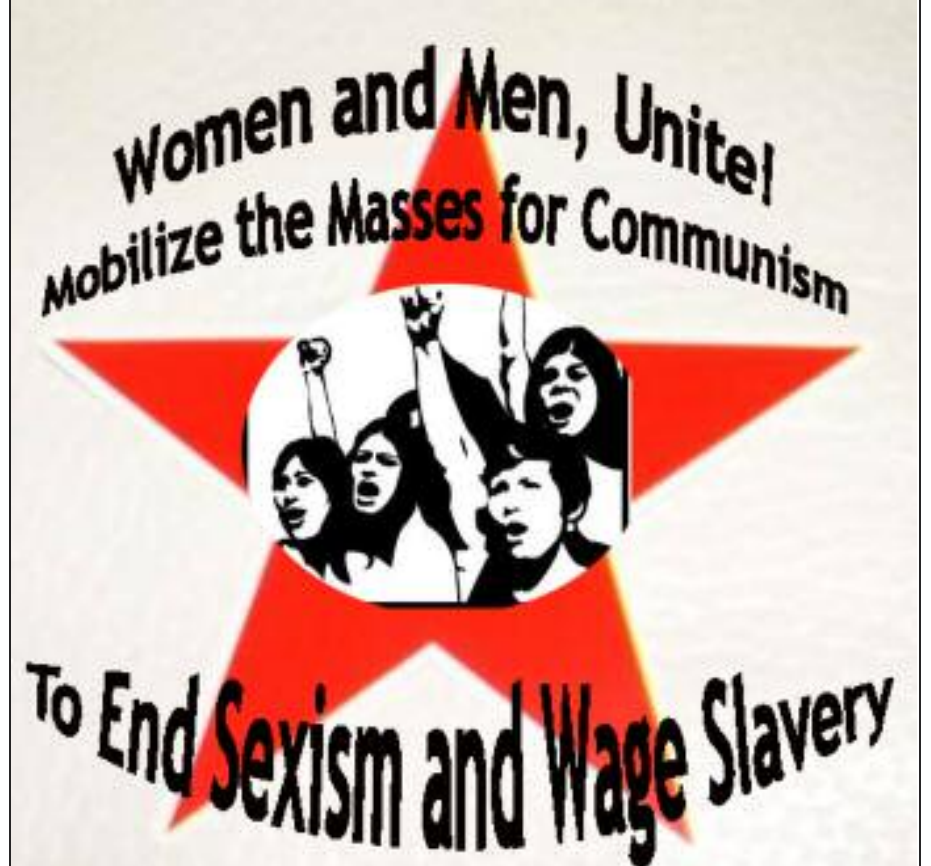
While driving near the private university (which boasts a US\$24.8 billion endowment), I noticed a large number of older recreational vehicles (RVs) parked on a major urban street. I saw no fewer than 25 older RVs parked within a four block area. This kindled conversations with a radical news editor about Silicon Valley and the immiseration of the working class. Homelessness in this region does not only take the form of women and men and children sleeping in shelters. It also can be seen in the life of working poor people, people who have jobs but who cannot afford the astronomical rents in the San Francisco Bay Area and who, thus, live in recreational vehicles or their cars.

Palo Alto, CA has a median income of \$137,000 and a population of over 66,000. With the average rent listed as over \$2300 per month, one wonders where do the workers live who work the blue-collar jobs paying \$15 per hour. Some, perhaps many, are in these RVs on this major street in one of California's wealthiest university-dominated cities.

Along this short span of road near the Stanford Campus, one finds a Verizon store, restaurants ranging from McDonald's to trendy ethnic eateries, along with hotels such as Travelodge. There are no graffiti, no boarded-up windows, no signs of poverty. The streets are relatively clean, people walk or drive by, going to the gym, to eat, or about their normal daily affairs. A multiplex cinema is on the avenue. People can be seen wearing Stanford University clothing in preparation to attend an athletic event.

There is no reason for such a sight. But there is a reason, and it is capitalism. Capitalism has created many crises in its lifetime, and homelessness is one of them. Internationally the working class and the poor are being forced to live in the streets, in mountains, wherever they can find shelter because of the ruthlessness of the system.

Capitalism has no solution to the crisis of housing, the shortage of affordable housing and the gouging of rents and home purchasing costs. So, the working class survives paycheck to paycheck, with many unable to pay the rent landlords and property management companies demand.



We need a new system—a communist system where we produce for human need not for profit. Shelter is a human necessity and when we do away with wages and money and markets we can guarantee that everyone's needs are met. Join ICWP—communist revolution is the only solution!

—Comrade in US

Hybrid Articles: A New Way to Reach More Readers

I'd like to describe a new type of article made possible by the ICWP blog (icwpweb.wordpress.com): the hybrid article, one part of which is printed and the other part posted on the blog. Normally, the printed part of the article directs the reader to the blog, and the blog part links back to the online version of the printed article.

There are many reasons for writing hybrid rather than pure print articles (or letters). One is to save space in the print version. *Red Flag* is a small newspaper (8 pages in each language) and only appears every 3 weeks. Thus every column inch is precious. Often there is too much material and articles and even letters are held over to following issues and sometimes never appear. Furthermore authors submit items that are just too long.

The blog supplement to this letter will describe further uses and advantages of hybrid articles.

Hybrid articles could leverage the power of both the printed paper and the blog and should be a very effective tool for mobilizing the masses for communism. For more on this subject look for "Hybrid Articles" on the blog

I'm sure there are other advantages to hybrids and different ways to use supplements but I'll leave these to future updates to this post
—ICWP blog moderator

Editorial Note: Thank you for the suggestion. The new ICWP social media collective will discuss how to best use the blog.

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LETTERS

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CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

Mobilize the Masses for Communism and Nothing Else

In the last issue of *Red Flag*, the editorial note introducing three letters on page 14 and the article from Seattle on page 1, said that they “are part of an ongoing discussion about communist class struggle and how to organize it.”

More plainly, it is really a debate of whether we should “mobilize the masses for communism and nothing else,” or mobilize them with class struggles putting forward reformist demands.

The authors of the letters “Imagine this scenario” and “An air conditioning scenario” argue that we should participate in the class struggle and if necessary put forward our own reformist demands or support those put forward by the workers.

We argue for participating as communists in all class struggles, initiating them or organizing them without supporting the workers’ reformist demands or putting forward our own.

The two following examples from our work at Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) prove this point:

In one Division, management was taking advantage of a mechanic’s many petty faults - like tardiness, turning in paperwork late, etc. - to hound him in order to fire him. The real reason, however, was that he was a very meticulous inspector who sent too many buses to repair for minor defects.

We put forward writing an article in *Red Flag* about this case. His coworkers refused to be- cause they didn’t want to “defend” him because they disliked him because of his many petty faults. We argued that this was a capitalist at- tack against the working class which we could not accept passively.

In communism, we said, no one would be fired. Only if they were a danger to their co- workers or the public would they be removed from their work - maybe assigned to a different one, where they would be no threat - but never denied the basic needs of survival.

We won his co-workers to our position and wrote a series of articles in *Red Flag* exposing the inhumanity of capitalism and how communism would be different. We never demanded that he not be fired or that management stop hounding him. Hundreds of *Red Flags* were distributed to MTA workers in our regular mass distributions.

In another Division, a mechanic was publicly humiliated by his supervisor for not fixing the front and rear brakes of a bus in one day. Safety concerns require two days minimum. The mechanics here were upset about this de- grading incident, about the speed up being im- posed on them and about the threat to the safety of the drivers and passengers.

We wrote an article attacking the inhumanity of capitalism, and how communism would do everything possible to make things healthy and safe for mechanics, drivers and passengers. We raised no reformist demands - like de- manding an apology or two days for fixing the brakes. Hundreds of *Red Flags* were distrib- uted in our regular mass distributions at MTA divisions.

Class struggle is class war. We can’t control what the capitalist will do and shouldn’t try to. Our only concerns should be how to wage this war to advance the communist understanding of our class to organize the revolution we need and envision the communist society we must



build.

This helped us recruit two workers in the first division, consolidate the existing members there and increase the distribution of *Red Flag*. This did not happen in the second division but workers there and hundreds of MTA workers at other divisions got a better and more specific understanding of what a communist society would look like and how we must fight for it.

Faced with this communist counter attack, MTA management retreated. In the first case, they stopped hounding the mechanic and sent all mechanics in that Division to a retraining course in how to more carefully inspect buses.

In the second, the supervisor apologized publicly to the worker he had humiliated and told the mechanics they could continue to take two days to change the brakes.

—LA comrade

We Must Rely on Each Other

I joined the movement 6 or 7 years ago. I believe the movement was founded in my house. But I have not been active for a long time, not because I disagreed with the party line comrades. But I was a drug addict and it took me a long time to come to this conclusion.

I’m telling you comrades that without the support of my comrades maybe I’ll be dead by now. What affected me the most was the fact that these are the people I’ve hurt the most. Some of them I even stole from because of my addiction. Yet they went above and beyond for me, to try a get me out of this dark hole I was in.

At some point my actions were destabilising the movement. It was after comrade M sent me an article about Communist relationships that I understood. After reading that article it became clear to me why my comrades were still struggling with me to be a better person. It gave me another perspective about the importance of the collective and comradeship.

Without solid personal relationships that can withstand political struggle, I would not be calling myself a proud member of ICWP. I hope this letter will also help maybe other comrades who have a similar problem to mine. Whatever problem you might have it’s not too big for the collective. We must rely on each other. Individualism is our downfall. Only when we are united can we destroy capitalism.

—Comrade in South Africa

Focus More on Communism

Communism is a struggle, a struggle we need to live with each and every day of our lives. Capitalism has been reinforced to people to such an extent that they don’t even know that there are other ways to live and other

forms of governing.

A person grows up with the mentality that they will go to school, graduate, get a job that will make them afford to take their kids to private schools, private hospitals and stay in the suburbs driving luxury cars, with phones and fancy offices.

No one grows up with the mentality that I will go to school, graduate, help my community with my skills from school so that we as the community could have a better life.

That is the problem with capitalism: it kills peoples’ minds and limits them from reaching their full potential and the most important thing of all is that it turns people to be SELFISH.

We as communists have a duty to change that and to enlighten people about Communism by means of distributing the *Red Flag* and organizing the masses to join ICWP and fight for Communism. Turning our dreams as Communists into reality can happen by mobilizing masses and distributing *Red Flag*.

I have started my journey of distributing *Red Flag* and it’s an amazing and complicated journey where you get to meet up with different people with different attitudes. It is important to know when to raise the topic about Communism and how to deal with different people.

When talking about Communism you should not present it as part of Capitalism because it raises a lot of debate and leaves some unanswered questions because people are desperate and tired of exploitation. So they just want a quick or instant change. They might just miss your point and see it like these unions. Just present communism as it is and its ideas and let the people conclude.

And the most important point is they must know the value of life, and they must know that this system is not permanent. That it’s in our hands to change this horror society we are in and be in a society where everyone is equal, where there will be no race and no class, where people will be valued for their different skills. Where they will make means of production for themselves, not for a few individuals. By doing so there will be no poverty. Then there will be no crime, not to mention unemployment.

So it’s wise to present Communism as it is and its goodness. Focus more on Communism and leave capitalism. You will see that they conclude themselves.

It’s important to do follow-ups after distributing *Red Flag*. Ask them how it is and what they think of it. And take their contact details and invite them to meetings and give them a political line. What’s important are the results, which is quality. That’s how I do it at work and everywhere.

—Comrade in South Africa

U.S., Chinese Rulers Prepare for War

WORKERS WORLDWIDE MUST PREPARE FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

Last May, the US Pentagon sent two warships, the USS Higgins and the USS Antietam, close to one of the newly fortified Paracel Islands in the South China Sea that the Chinese claim as their own. The Chinese rushed to send their own warships to challenge them. They claimed the US “seriously violated Chinese sovereignty.” Neither side is backing down.

Capitalism is a dog-eat-dog system where different capitalists and imperialists constantly compete for markets, natural resources and workers’ labor power in order to maximize profits. Capitalists that lose this competition go under. No capitalist wants to go under. This inevitably leads to general crises, wars and world war.

Today, the main contradiction in the world is US and Chinese inter-imperialist rivalry. It is getting sharper as both sides are increasing their military preparations to confront each other. Their claim to the contrary is to lull us into passivity.

The international working class needs to take this situation seriously so that we make our own preparations. We need to spread **Red Flag** and build ICWP clubs everywhere, especially in the factories, military and among the youth to mobilize the masses for communism, to turn the bosses’ war into a revolution for communist workers’ power.

China’s economy is already the world’s largest. It seeks to replace the US as the world’s dominant capitalist-imperialist power. The US has tried in vain to stop China’s rise through its dollar hegemony. The most recent example is Trump’s expanding trade war against China.

Thus, to continue to rise, China’s Yuan must replace the dollar as the world’s global reserve currency. In March, 2018, China launched the Petro Yuan to challenge the US dollar and the Petrodollar. Its “Belt and Road” infrastructure project will increase trade with Europe, further increasing the use of the Yuan and Euro to the detriment of the dollar. China, Russia, Iran and other capitalists-imperialists are creating a parallel financial system to dethrone the dollar from its pedestal.

At the same time, the Chinese imperialists are building up their military. They have modernized their navy and missile forces. Last year, China’s navy became the world’s largest in the number of ships. They are building aircraft carriers to deploy a “blue water” navy capable of defending Chinese expanding interests worldwide.

“China is now capable of controlling the South China Sea in all scenarios short of war with the United States,” the new commander of the US Indo-Pacific Command acknowledged in written remarks submitted during his Senate confirmation last March.

China has already developed an arsenal of high-speed ballistic missiles, known as “carrier killers,” designed to strike moving ships, including the powerful US ships and aircraft carriers.

On May 30, US Secretary of Defense James Mattis announced that the US Pacific Command (PACOM) which oversees all US military forces in Asia, will be called the Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM). It is “the latest move to counter Chinese economic and military pressure in the region.” (www.militarytimes.com).



“Think of it as a signal that the US military is already setting the stage for an eventual confrontation with China,” wrote one analyst.

Recently, the US Navy stepped up its patrols near Chinese-occupied islands in the South China Sea. So has China. Mattis said that the US plans “a steady drum beat” of naval operations in these waters. Departing Admiral Harris of the Pacific Command said at the May 30th Ceremony, “China remains our biggest long-term challenge...we should stand ready to confront them when we must.” To this end, the US is trying to build a military coalition with India, Japan, Indonesia, Vietnam and Australia.

All the bosses can be taken out by the masses mobilized for communist workers’ power. All the bosses are the enemy of the workers. Politically, all these capitalist-imperialists must try to build patriotism to win the masses to support their murderous war plans. But these are all the same bosses whose racist, sexist and xenophobic system exploits, attacks and terrorizes us daily.

Their sharpening competition and war plans are an opportunity to mobilize for communism—especially inside the factories and barracks and among youth—to show that we need a commu-

nist system based – not on mass murder for the profits of a handful of capitalists-imperialists – but on cooperation and collectivity to meet workers’ needs. A world without currencies, markets, profits or competition of any kind. A communist world – where workers share everything collectively as one global family – will eliminate all wars.

The war we need to fight is to get rid of capitalism and build communism. Our preparations to build this world must go forward with confidence. Let us build and expand ICWP clubs to show that only communist revolution can and will put an end to the bosses’ wars.

When capitalism resorts to war, the rulers have to mobilize the population to fight for them. When they are in motion, when the masses of workers, soldiers and sailors cannot survive in this system, there’s even greater opportunity to mobilize the masses for communism. During WWI, the Russian workers, sailors and soldiers, led by the Bolsheviks, took power in the Russian Revolution. Communist-led Chinese masses successfully took power after WWII. We need to build one mass ICWP to fight to turn the bosses’ imperialist war into revolutions for communism everywhere.



Sailors on the Battleship Potemkin played a key role in the Russian Revolution of 1905
Soldiers and sailors must mobilize for communist revolution today.