



RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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



**BIHAR, INDIA,
October 6—Protesting
sexual assault of
women and girls.
See more about India,
page 4**

POSSIBLE LOS ANGELES SCHOOL STRIKE: FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST EDUCATION

CALIFORNIA (USA), Oct. 10—United Teachers Los Angeles voted overwhelmingly in August to authorize a strike if no contract agreement is reached. UTLA and the LAUSD Board are in mediation (mandated before a strike can legally start) but the talks are likely to stall. If UTLA leaders “play by the rules,” a strike – if there is one—would probably start between Thanksgiving and Christmas (late November to mid-December).

As we saw in the school strikes in West Virginia, Arizona, and Oklahoma earlier this year, strikes in the schools often spread beyond the schools into the communities. Immediate family members, many of them industrial workers, are directly involved. This creates opportunities to bring communist ideas to the masses.

The ICWP in Los Angeles has begun to strategize and organize around the schools so that whether or not there is a teacher strike, we can build our party and spread communist ideas.

The first step has been party meetings that have included high school students, worker comrades who were recruited as high school students, and teachers. They have produced a leaflet which we have begun circulating inside and outside the schools. It reads:

TEACHERS’ STRIKE! MOBILIZE FOR COMMUNISM!

Capitalism is a class dictatorship. The capitalists rule over the working masses. We are constantly confronted with the need to fight for our survival while being attacked by all forms of capitalist aggression: racist police terror, separation of families, sexist attacks on women and raging wars. This system is absolutely intolerable, the insanity of all that we see on a daily basis is unbearable.

The possible United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) strike is an example of the fightback for better schools, better working and learning conditions, better health benefits and better pay. But under capitalism the educational system is set up to reproduce capitalist relationships of class oppression.

See LOS ANGELES SCHOOLS, page 3

MAQUILA WORKERS ANALYZE FACTORY STRUGGLE FOR CLEAN WATER

EL SALVADOR—The recent struggle for clean water and an end to dirty water for the 700 workers of a factory gave us the opportunity to analyze our participation as communists.

Women and men workers from an ICWP club in the maquila factories met to analyze the class struggle and how to put forward communism as the order of the day.

First, the members of the club took the opportunity to talk with women and men workers about the dirty water problem and organize more workers for the struggle for communism. Many workers came to this meeting to listen to the discussion of the water problem that was affecting all the workers and to see the solution that was given to this type of problem. All the workers decided under the leadership of the party that if the boss did not solve the problem immediately, they would stop working.

In the face of the threat, the bosses arrived with a bag of water for each worker and thus tried to

calm our thirst for struggle. Water in plastic bags? This bothered our class more, and, seeing this, the bosses brought technicians to repair, (now yes) the water pump, so that now it did not come out so dirty.

We have been discussing our participation in this activity. In the meeting of the local central committee that was held a weekend later, the meeting was supposed to end at a certain time of the afternoon, due to the distances to where each one of us lives. But the meeting was so intense and instructive that night came and we did not even realize it.

In this meeting there was a report on the discussions that took place in a meeting of the leadership of the party about this type of struggle and referred to our participation in this type of action. There was criticism that the reform, and not the communist revolution, was primary.

This led us to reflect if we are on the right path or if we need to re-evaluate our work trying to recruit more workers for the ICWP.

A worker comrade was very upset
See EL SALVADOR, page 4

**WE CAN END
SEXISM.... BUT
NOT BY VOTING
PAGE 2**

**BOEING
WORKERS
DISCUSS
EDUCATION &
SOCIAL CLASS
PAGE 3**

**MOBILIZING
FOR
COMMUNISM IN
SOUTH AFRICA
PAGE 6**

**IMPERIALIST
WAR BETWEEN
THE US AND
CHINA?
PAGE 8**

We can end sexism.... But not by voting**CAPITALISM DEGRADES WOMEN – COMMUNISM BUILDS RESPECT FOR OUR HUMAN FAMILY**

USA, October 9— Dr. Christine Blasey Ford's testimony about Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh's assault on her touched a deep nerve with many other women who have also endured sexual assault. It has raised questions that cannot be swept under the rug.

Sexism Comes From Class Society— Communism will Eliminate it

Sexism is inherent in the capitalist system and in class society since it began. Working-class women all over the world—from Iraq to Mexico and beyond — suffer sexual humiliation, assault and even murder. (See p. 4 about India).

Before class society, humankind was collective. People shared the products of their labor according to need. Women's and men's work, while often different, were valued equally. Men and women had equal status and respect.

With the rise of private property, class society and exploitation, women and children became men's property within the family. Often husbands were allowed—even expected by custom or religion—to assault wives who were “disobedient.” Rapists were only punished when the rapist had a lower social status than the woman. In the United States, masters commonly raped enslaved black women —and profited by selling their children.

Capitalism intensified this sexism. With the rise of wage labor, housework and childrearing were degraded as unpaid “women's work.” Capitalists used super-exploited female wage slaves to drive down wages for men, too.

Capitalism treats all workers as objects to be used to generate profits and then thrown away. Capitalist culture teaches men to treat women as objects to be used and then thrown away. This is the Brett Kavanaugh mindset.

Communism will eliminate private property, the material basis of sexism.

To end sexism in all its forms we must eliminate the source: class society. Men as well as women have a material need to end sexism, which (like racism, but in a different way) divides us, distorts social relations, and sustains capitalist wage slavery. This understanding is the basis for sharp comradesly struggle.

We need to eliminate the wage system with a communist revolution so we can organize society on a collective basis. To do this we must build the unity of working people of all races and genders. We must fight ideas and behaviors that hold this back.

In communism, we will build healthy collectives of women and men to plan and produce everything needed and to raise the next generation. Social relationships won't be based on money or control but on respect and helping everyone develop their full potential in working to meet the needs of all.

All health care including birth control and abortion will be as safe and as available as possible. No one will be forced or pressured to have a child—or not to have one. Childrearing will be collective.

In communism, we will struggle, as we do now, and more sharply, against sexist attitudes, insults and practices. We'll fight hard against the particularly vicious assaults on women of color.

And we'll raise a new generation who will see everyone as part of a larger human family.

Supreme Court can't be fixed

Kavanaugh's confirmation has led many angry women and men to say that the US Supreme Court, Presidency, and Senate are broken. Many

hope to “fix” them by voting, including for a constitutional amendment.

But government institutions in the US and every other capitalist country never worked for the masses. They have never been neutral. Capitalist governments guarantee the interests of the capitalists: to keep workers as obedient and/or terrorized wage slaves so that profits keep rolling in.

The veneer of neutrality has been ripped from the USSupreme Court. But it was never neutral.

In the Dred Scott case in 1856, the court ruled that black people have no rights that white people are bound to respect. In 2018 it decided in favor of the Muslim travel ban and against unions. Even its so-called “progressive” decisions helped the rulers maintain stability, build patriotism and prevent revolution.

We can't “fix” capitalist institutions to serve the needs of the masses. We need to destroy them with communist revolution. We need to build a mass party of millions to create and run an entirely different world – a communist world.

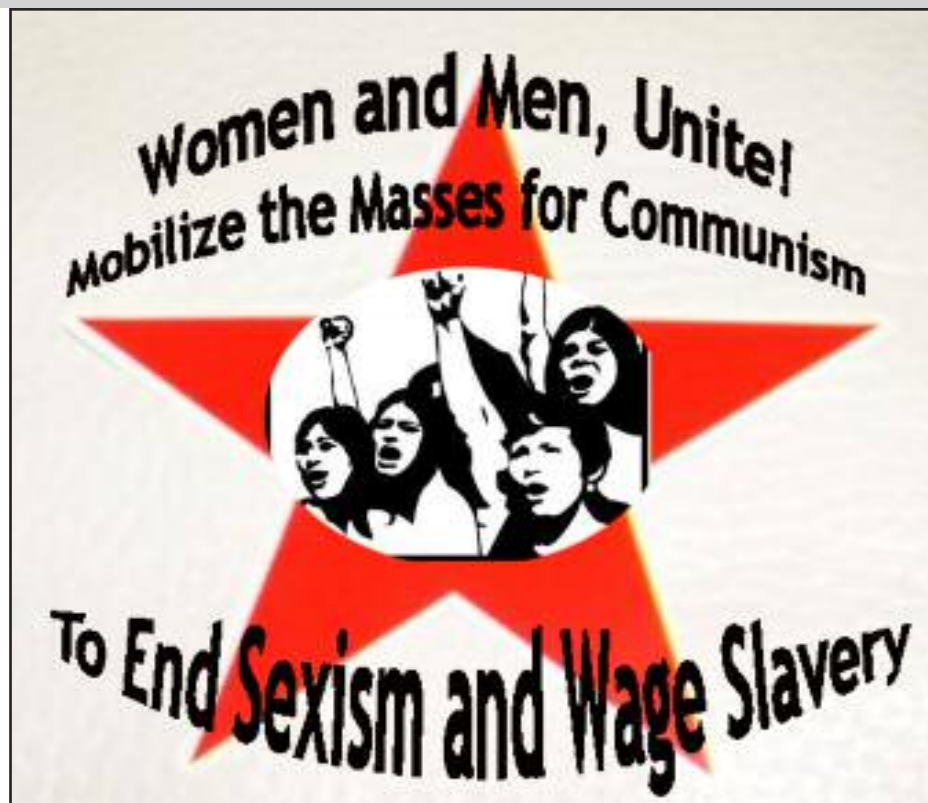
Capitalist Crisis Creates Revolutionary Opportunities

World capitalism is in crisis. US imperialism is in decline. It faces rising rivals China and Russia. The US rulers can no longer rule in the old way. Their disagreements about how to best exploit and control the working class and prepare for war are in the open.

The ruling class uses its government institutions – especially the Supreme Court – to fight out its differences and reach compromises. As the crisis intensifies, this is more difficult for them to do. They are forced to mobilize the masses into the political arena to defend their system and their policies.

This is a big opportunity to mobilize masses for communism.

Both sides wrap themselves in the



flag. One side, represented by Trump and Kavanaugh, is mobilizing angry white men around violent racism and sexism. They hope to use them as fascist shock troops to terrorize other workers and to fight coming wars. Reactionary religion – including opposition to abortion and birth control—is one of their tools.

The other side is mobilizing for an inclusive patriotic liberal movement, also in the service of imperialism. They aim to divert the angry anti-racist, anti-sexist masses into the ranks of the Democratic Party. They will organize their base to defend access to safe abortions, immigration reform and other policies that, they hope, will win the masses of working-class youth to fight their imperialist wars.

We must have confidence that many of those angry masses, whether or not they vote, can see that capitalism cannot meet their aspirations. We must build strong ties with them and share our vision of a communist world without sexism, racism, wage slavery, environmental catastrophe and war.

If you are one of these many, please join and build the ICWP! Spread *Red Flag!* Mobilize for a communist world!



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Capitalist Education Promotes Sexism, Racism, Xenophobia

COMMUNIST EDUCATION PROMOTES THE BETTERMENT OF OUR CLASS

SEATTLE (USA), October 6—“I’m certain he did it,” said a Boeing worker. He explains:

People at work wonder why I’m so certain Kavanaugh did the sexist acts he is accused of. My certainty comes from my personal knowledge of US prep schools and the ruling class culture that dominates them.

After the Detroit rebellion in 1967, the biggest bosses decided they had better include some more blacks in their ruling bureaucracy. My brother was one of the chosen few to attend a prep school like Georgetown Prep that Kavanaugh attended.

He came back from his time at prep school arrogant and feeling entitled. He told me he and his schoolmates could care less if we killed each other in the ghetto.

In fact, the more whites fought blacks, men fought women, native-born fought immigrants, the better for him and his buddies. The divisions in the working class kept him and his classmates in power and making tons of money.

The culture of sexism was almost unbelievable. With the full knowledge of the school administrators, busloads of young women were shipped into the school on Friday and Saturday nights. The heirs to the empire did what they wanted with them knowing that their parents would buy their way out of any repercussions. ... And this was only the tip of the iceberg.

I concluded that sexism originates in the ruling class of this capitalist system. If we want to get rid of sexism, we first have to get rid of the ruling class and their class society.

As the heated debates continued throughout the week, I realized that this poison of sexism, racism and xenophobia filters down to every class and aspect of capitalism. In particular, I noticed how the high school I volunteer at grooms an elite group. The school is located in a diverse

neighborhood, consisting of mostly blacks, immigrants and the children of immigrants. The school tries to camouflage this division by saying they take in kids from the neighborhood.

As I always say, from the day you are born to the teens, US society sets out to “Americanize” you. What I mean by that is the schools everywhere try to fill your head with capitalist ideas. Take the money and run. If you fail, it’s your own fault for not applying yourself enough or you’re just not smart enough to advance.

We need to advance as one. That requires communist revolution and communist education. We can make us all better by focusing our education around the working class and work. The measure of our success will be how we contribute to the betterment of our class—the very opposite of the education that turned my brother into a class enemy.

Communist education must include practical

battles against the big three: sexism, racism and xenophobia. A communist revolution can win if we mobilize the masses of youth to eliminate these remnants of class society; starting now, leading up to a communist revolution and after.

We have no time to lose. At the high school I volunteer at the ICWP already has a base. Over a hundred *Red Flags* are distributed every issue. I see students reading the paper all the time. We must immediately expand the number of students and parents we already meet with and know socially, inside and outside.

Our aim must be to engage in give-and-take about how communism and communist education are the only solution. After these discussions we have to ask the students, parents and fellow workers, “Now what are you going to do about it?”

I’m certain we’ll get a lot of ideas about how to mobilize for communism.



Read our pamphlet:

COMMUNIST EDUCATION FOR CLASSLESS SOCIETY

icwpredflag.org/EDU/EdPamE.pdf

LOS ANGELES SCHOOLS

from page 1

The masses of workers, students and soldiers need to mobilize to get rid of capitalism through armed struggle and communist revolution. History has shown us that this is possible.

With communism the masses of people will be in charge, without any form of money or hierarchy; nothing is bought or sold and no one is above us or below us.

All of us will work together collectively in all fields, including education. Education will no longer be to replicate capitalist relations but rather to foster communist relations.

We will have the best possible education that’s tied to real life and human liberation. Collectivity will assure the best possible lives that we can have. Everyone will be welcomed. Communism will free all of us from racism, sexism, homophobia, borders or any other form of oppression.

Join us in building this world by reading and

writing for *Red Flag*, our international revolutionary communist newspaper. Help to distribute it to friends, family, coworkers and neighbors. Form or join a *Red Flag* study group. Attend rallies, protests and demonstrations and distribute the

paper and communist flyers.

Download a copy of this leaflet in PDF at icwpredflag.org/lateach.pdf



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INDIA: END FASCIST VIOLENCE AND DISCRIMINATION BY MOBILIZING FOR COMMUNISM

India has always been a place of open and explicit discrimination based on gender, caste, class and religion. Since the hyper-capitalist, right-wing Hindu nationalist government of Narendra Modi and his Bharatiya Janata Party (Indian People's Party) came to power in 2014, this discrimination has turned increasingly violent and fatal.

Hyderabad, September 2018: a Dalit* Christian man was hacked to death in front of his pregnant wife by a contract killer hired by the wife's father. The father, a jeweler, had been opposed to the marriage.

South India, March 2016: Another Dalit man was hacked to death in broad daylight in front of his upper-caste wife, by contract killers hired by the wife's father.

Rohtak, North India, August 2018: An 18-year-old upper-caste Jat woman was shot dead in front of the district court while under police escort, by her own family. She had eloped with a Dalit man from a neighboring village. The upper-caste dominated village council in her village issued a diktat which prevented her remains from being brought back to her village.

The most gruesome rape and murder in recent memory was that of 8-year old Asifa Bano in Indian-occupied Kashmir. Asifa Bano belonged to a nomadic Muslim community of herders known as the Bakarwals. Hindu families had accused the herders of grazing cattle on so-called private property.

In January 2018, Hindu men kidnapped Asifa Bano while she was grazing her horses. They drugged her, held her in a temple and raped her for three days. Then they killed her and disposed of her body in the forest. The local police helped cover up the killing.

Once her body was discovered, the accused were arrested. In a grotesque turn of events, Hindu lawyers protested, not the rape of an 8-year-old Muslim girl, but the arrest of the men accused of rape! A mob of Hindu lawyers even tried to physically stop police from going to court to file charges against the accused.

Thousands of such killings, disgustingly termed "honour killings," have been documented. Every year in India there are at least 1000 such murders.

EL SALVADOR from page 1

and pointed out, "So in what way is the organizational work done inside the factory?"

Another worker said, "All the workers know that it is us who are in the Party, who have maneuvered against the bosses and that our goal is to organize more workers for the Party."

Another worker comrade answered them. "Maybe what we lacked was explaining to the workers that the Communist party was the guarantor of this and other actions that will come and that only Communism will be our opportunity to move forward. We missed being bolder in this communication, but since we think that everyone knows us as *Red Flag*, we did not talk more about it. Every time we learn more."

As members of ICWP, after this evaluation on the action for clean water we had an informal meeting inside the factory. We made it clear to the workers that all of these kinds



Indian demonstrators hold placards during a protest in support of rape victims, in New Delhi, April 15, 2018

It is not uncommon for killings to go unreported since the state apparatus in India, from the police force to the judiciary, is dominated by upper-caste Hindu men. They have no incentive to change the socio-economic status quo. While there has been an increase in upper-caste violence against Dalits, the number of convictions against the upper-castes has dropped. Since Modi's election, a Hindu upper-caste dominated judiciary has made it harder to prosecute crimes against Dalits.

Seventy years after India's independence, only 5% of marriages in India are inter-caste. The material basis for this, and for caste and religious discrimination, are private property relations. In India, property ownership is and has always been, disproportionately in favor of upper-caste Hindu males.

Upper-castes own on average more than twice the assets of Dalits, Muslims and tribal people. Even when Dalits and minorities hold land, the average holding is 2 to 20 times smaller than the land holdings of upper-castes.

Before 2005, inheritance laws used religious-based cultural practices as a basis for inheritance. In 2005, these laws were amended to guarantee Hindu women a share equal to that of their male siblings. It gave them complete control over their

own property regardless of whether property was acquired through inheritance or other means. Thus, inter-caste and inter-religious marriage would lead to a dilution of the assets of the Hindu upper-castes. This, along with the immunity guaranteed by a corrupt, capitalist, right-wing Hindu nationalist government, has fueled a backlash even against such a low rate of inter-caste marriage.

As elections approach in 2019, the great hope of capitalist democracy is to replace one capitalist government by another while preserving the material relations that allow increasingly fatal discrimination. But democracy is a great illusion for the masses!

Only in a communist society, in which private property has been eliminated, can discrimination cease. In a communist society, ownership of land and assets will be absolutely unnecessary. There will be plenty to satisfy everyone's needs. The means of production will be controlled by the working classes and ensure a peaceful world for all living beings.

**Dalit is the term used for the members of the lowest caste in the Hindu caste hierarchy*

of problems are the result of the capitalist system and we told them that we should fight for our communist society.

Without a doubt in the day-to-day work in the factory, we are learning to put our communist line in front. This action we did has taught us that we must talk to the men and women workers directly about communism.

This should be our main objective, to organize directly for Communism and not for reform. It

also motivated us to read more carefully the articles about struggle in *Red Flag* and how the Boeing workers took advantage of talking about communism during a problem in the factory. This is a collective learning experience.

In Communism there will be clean water for all, since the health of workers will be the priority. We believe it is necessary to continue the discussion about our main objective to mobilize the workers to communism.



May Day 2016 El Salvador

LETTERS

LETTERS

LETTERS

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

Comments on a Letter from a Comrade in South Africa

In Los Angeles, USA, our collective in the garment industry read and discussed the opinions in the letter from a Comrade in South Africa in the last issue, (Vol 9 # 12), entitled *We Should Focus More on Communism*. It says a lot of true things about communism and how we should fight for it. But it ends by saying that we only have to talk about communism, and not about capitalism.

We concluded that we have to explain to the workers why this capitalist system is a parasitic system based on sucking the blood of the workers and that it needs to be destroyed to be able to achieve communism. In his letter the comrade shows us this point; in a large part of the letter he describes how capitalism affects our lives.

In this collective we are all immigrant workers who came to the US with the hope of being able to enjoy the things that the workers themselves produce under this capitalist system. We came even with all the sacrifices of getting into debt to get the money for the trip and without caring about the risk of losing your

life on the road.

Some of us emigrate because we want to be able to save money, others fleeing extreme poverty, wars or gang violence. But we never realize that this same capitalist system creates these conditions and forces us to leave behind



the people we love very much, our children, parents, brothers, sisters and friends. Until someone opens the door to that understanding. And that makes us see the need to fight for communism.

Another example: borders are a very powerful means that the bosses defend to the death

because they are a great tool of division and exploitation. If we want to destroy the harmful ideas of nationalism and patriotism that go along with borders, we have to explain to the workers about capitalist borders. And of course the most important thing is to understand that under communism there will be no borders, because there will be no bosses that spread their poison, or governments that make and enjoy money by squeezing the workers.

When we talk to someone and say that we need a society without borders, some workers don't see the need to fight for this immediately, but in the long run they start thinking about the idea. A friend said, "If the birds migrate and do not see borders, why do we have to see them?"

We immigrant workers in Los Angeles have to win latino, black, white and asian citizen workers to see that racism and borders can only be destroyed if we think of a communist society, without any means of exploitation.

The struggle against capitalism and its racism and borders will be a fight to the death, but workers worldwide, together with their Party (ICWP) will be victorious over time, with our best efforts.

South Africa: The Role of Students in Capitalism and Communism

September 30 — Over a month ago we decided to visit one of the Nelson Mandela University campuses to mobilise, recruit and try to establish a communist base.

University Students also play a big role in capitalist society because they are prepared to provide labour for the bosses. Some will be managers (tools to control the working class e.g. in factories), some will be politicians that will implement the decisions taken by the bosses, and others will be used to spread propaganda on different media platforms.

As in Capitalist society, students will also play a big role in a communist society but now not for the bosses to make profit but in contributing on producing for the use value (producing for the needs of the working class). But most importantly they will contribute in making the communist society a reality.

"Women and men, unite! Mobilise the masses to fight for communism to end sexism and slavery!"

This was one of the driving forces behind our effort. But what we stressed more is recruiting more females to the party because we cannot say we are fighting sexism where as there are very few female comrades in the party. We managed to get contacts of some female students we had conversation with. We decided that we will create a student WhatsApp group whereby Students from different universities and colleges will be added.

We made some specific targets that we said we should have achieved by now but we have not. I think the most thing that we have struggled in achieving is consistency, keeping the momentum and doing regular follow-ups.

We do mobilise and get contacts from our mobilisation. But the main thing that holds us from achieving or meeting our targets is doing



regular follow-ups that will result in forming communist relations with the masses and forming communist bases. If we can make sure that we form deeper communist relations between the existing members it will become a norm to form those communist relations with workers that we want to recruit.

—Student Collective in South Africa

Communism will bring out the best in people

Thousands are dead – perhaps even 20,000 – and tens of thousands more are homeless after a powerful earthquake and a huge tsunami struck the Indonesian island of Sulawesi on September 28. Rescue operations in Central Sulawesi have been complicated by hundreds of aftershocks, soil liquefaction, mudslides, power blackouts and volcanic eruptions. The provincial capital city, Palu, has no clean water and no functioning sanitation system.

"Some people became monsters but others showed the true human nature," said a friend from Indonesia whose family had to flee their

homes. The "monsters" included some looters who, inspired by capitalist greed, spread hoaxes to get people to leave their homes. The "others," including friends of our friend, risked their own lives to save people or bring them food.

Communism will bring out the best in people, not only amidst natural disasters but all the time.

—a comrade





Riace, Italy:

MARCH DEFENDS POLICY OF WELCOMING REFUGEES

October 6—Hundreds of protestors rallied to support pro-refugee Mayor Domenico Lucano after he was placed under house arrest for allegedly arranging a “marriage of convenience” for a Nigerian refugee. Since 2004, under Lucano’s leadership, this small town has welcomed thousands of migrants and refugees. The town has created social programs and organized to create useful work to integrate the new arrivals into the society. Under capitalism, this has meant selling their labor and the products of their labor. In a communist society we will organize to find useful work for everyone—and nothing will be bought and sold.

What’s gone on in Riace directly contradicts the policy of Italy’s neo-fascist Interior Minister Salvini who, the previous week, announced anti-immigrant measures including cutting funds for migrant reception and integration.

Throughout Europe, the masses are increasingly polarized: while masses of working people, unions and community groups welcome immigrants, there is also a growing fascist movement which seeks to mobilize workers in a racist movement to attack immigrants.

The growth of fascism is a result of capitalism in crisis. Italy and the rest of Europe has seen this before.

Red Flag readers must take communist ideas to the masses who rallied to support Lucano and to welcome immigrants. This time, the fight against fascism must lead to mobilizing the masses for communism, to fight for a world without bosses, and without borders.

US: PROTEST AGAINST DETENTION OF MIGRANT AND REFUGEE CHILDREN



LETTERS

Involve students in the party’s work!

Comrade,

I read your letter on your work coaching the kids and appreciate that you’re asking your fellow party members on advice on how to get these students more involved.

My answer for you is simple, take them to do our work. I’ve been in this situation before in my life but I was in the role of the student and my teacher back in high school was the one introducing ICWP’s line to us.

I was already into pro-black and Latino thought and I respected Che Guevara (but with time and more education, my mind shifted a bit), so I would always talk to my teacher more and more about communism.

This is when he began taking me with him to party meetings and to do our work distributing papers to garment workers and bus drivers and attending study groups.

All these things led to my ultimate decision to join the party and commit myself and my life to fighting for something better than capitalism. Of course there will be some obstacles.

There will be certain obstacles such as sometimes the young people have to ask their parents for permission to go out, but you can also look at these things as an advantage.

Build trust between the family and yourself and help educate these kids by immersing them in the work. That’s how I got involved

LETTERS

LETTERS

politically.

It won’t be easy but you’ll be glad you did because you will have gained new comrades in these inquisitive kids.

—LA comrade

Discussion: Fight for Communism by Responding to Capitalist Attacks

Comrade,

Thank you for your reply (“Mobilize the Masses for Communism and nothing else”), but I think you mis-read what I was trying to say.

I am not saying we should “mobilize them (the masses) with class struggle putting forward reformist demands.” I am saying we can fight for communism by responding to the many, many attacks capitalism presents us with.

You gave two examples – the communist agitation opposing management’s attempt to fire an MTA mechanic and another opposing management’s harassment of another mechanic. Advancing communist arguments in these struggles helped us recruit and expand the readership of *Red Flag*.

I really like both examples. My criticism of the work is that there are not enough examples. My first letter was prompted after a driver had complained about the lack of articles dealing with their struggles.

I made two proposals – one fighting over schedules (usually the main gripe passengers have with drivers) in a communist way (“Time is Money ...to the capitalists”) and the other on

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

the need for functioning wheel chair lifts. But still there was no struggle over driver issues (the main body of workers at MTA).

My first explanation stressed that our reluctance to fight these struggles sprang from our opposition to the old movement’s practice of letting reforms dominate and crowd out revolutionary goals. I felt our problem was not from understanding that revolution was the opposite of reform but from understanding that opposites interpenetrate, that we can fight smaller, incidental capitalist attacks in a revolutionary way. Although we do have some differences here, I now don’t think they are the central explanation as to why we have so few struggles around issues directly involving drivers.

I think our main problem is failing to build deep personal ties among the hundreds of drivers who take *Red Flag*. Building ties from the outside is difficult in most industries but actually fairly easy in transit because most drivers work a split shift. This means its relatively easy to set up a lunch, coffee or breakfast with them, to give them a ride from their relief points, catch them at lay-over areas or even ride with them at certain parts of the routes that are not so busy.

This is a self-criticism. I have mentioned this before. I have a wealth of experience doing it elsewhere. I know what a rich and useful way to build the revolution it is, but I have never struggled strongly or consistently for it...until now!

—Bay Area Comrade

All Imperialists Are “Paper Tigers”

AS US-CHINA IMPERIALIST FIGHT SHARPENS, COMMUNIST MOVEMENT MUST GROW FASTER!

September 1, 2018: Japan sends a submarine to the South China Sea for the first time since World War II, in joint exercises with the US Navy.

September 11: Russia and China start huge joint military exercises simulating a large-scale conventional war against the US and its allies.

September 30: A Chinese destroyer comes within 45 yards (41 meters) of a US destroyer – the closest approach yet – near the disputed Spratly Islands in the South China Sea.

October 3: US VP Pence hints that the US could shift from economic sanctions against China to military action ahead of the November elections.

It’s a general law of nature that things change slowly and incrementally until they change abruptly and qualitatively. General laws don’t tell us exactly what will happen when. But they help us understand what’s going on—like the increasing tensions between US and Chinese imperialists.

Yes, China is an imperialist power.

First off, it’s not communist. A communist society would have no money, no markets, no wage labor, no classes, no private property. China has all of those, despite the name of its ruling party.

That’s why Chinese workers engaged in over 1,700 collective actions (including strikes) in the last year. Students have joined them: “Students today are workers tomorrow,” said a student from Beijing. “How can I not be here?”

China’s property laws drive its development in accordance with the inner laws of capitalism. Whether businesses are owned privately or by the state, they aim to maximize profit. How? By exploiting workers’ labor ever more intensively.

By 2011, China had the world’s largest manufacturing sector. By 2014 it had evolved into monopoly capitalism: three of the world’s ten largest corporations were Chinese.

From this emerged a huge financial sector. China’s foreign exchange reserves skyrocketed to nearly \$4 billion in 2014. Since then it has increased its export of capital both directly (bonds,

loans) and as investment in mining and manufacturing in Africa, Latin America and elsewhere.

In short, Chinese capitalism has rapidly developed all the hallmarks of classic imperialism. And now that includes military might capable of challenging US dominance.

Which brings us back to the South China Sea.

The destroyers are literally just on the surface. Underwater, China has deployed strategic submarines to “improve its retaliatory nuclear strike capability against the huge American atomic arsenal,” according to a Japanese observer. “Maintaining anti-submarine warfare capability in the SCS to match the Chinese efforts is a key U.S. naval strategy, in which Japan plays an increasingly useful role.”

“War between the US and China would be an unmitigated disaster for both parties,” commented a US analyst last month. “Both countries depend on each other to thrive, but that doesn’t mean that war couldn’t happen.”

Why is it important to understand this?

As Mao Zedong told Anna Louise Strong in 1946:

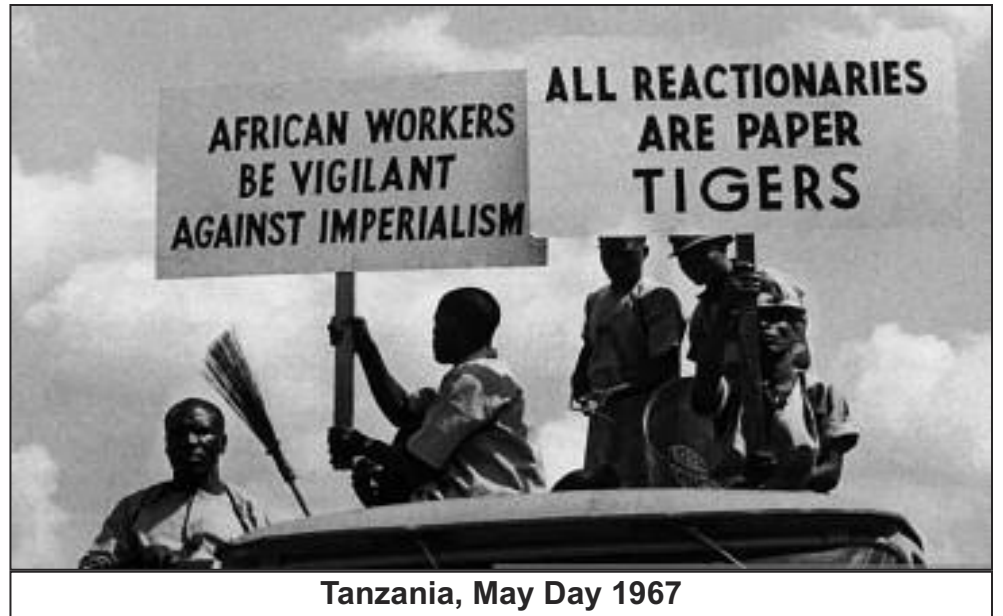
The atom bomb is a paper tiger which the U.S. reactionaries use to scare people. ... Of course, the atom bomb is a weapon of mass slaughter, but the outcome of a war is decided by the people, not by one or two new types of weapon.

All reactionaries are paper tigers. In appearance, the reactionaries are terrifying, but in reality they are not so powerful.

The outcome of a war is decided by the masses.

In 1917, Russian soldiers, sailors and workers turned World War I into socialist revolution. In 1943 the next generation routed the Nazi Wehrmacht at Stalingrad, turning the tide of World War II in Europe.

Meanwhile, half a world away, Mao and his



Tanzania, May Day 1967

comrades were leading masses in preparation for another revolution that would take power in 1949.

Twentieth-century communists thought that socialist revolution was a “stage” in the process of building a communist world. Their heroism and sacrifice in that cause should continue to inspire us. But the outcomes of their struggles – described above in the case of China – proved their theory wrong.

Socialism, we can see now, was always a form of state capitalism—regardless of the leaders’ intentions. The masses need communism, nothing less. The only way to win it is to fight directly for communism. And the time to do that is now.

The qualitative change from trade and currency wars to shooting wars will happen, if not soon then later.

Our task, right now, is to take small, incremental steps toward building the International Communist Workers’ Party. That means ten more copies of *Red Flag* in the hands of friends, relatives or co-workers. It means five more conversations about communism. It means recruiting the ones, twos and more to join the Party.

Especially it means building the Party among soldiers and sailors everywhere.

These are the steps that will, sooner or later, transform the party into a force capable of leading the masses to turn the capitalists’ wars for profit into a revolutionary war to win and build communism worldwide.

Read our pamphlet:

Soldiers, Sailors, Marines: Crucial to a Communist Workers’ Revolution

icwpredflag.org/MIL/mpe.html

