

# RED FLAG

**MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM**

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY \* [WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG](http://WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG)



**SUDAN:  
DAY OF CIVIL  
DISOBEDIENCE  
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Greetings from Pakistan

## **COMMUNISM FIGHTS NATIONALISM, CHAUVINISM AND FASCISM**

Greetings to our comrades all over the world, long live communist revolution! We are a group of students and some workers in Pakistan.

Our special, warm and heartfelt greetings to the comrades of ICWP in India for their extraordinary courage and determination to fight nationalism, chauvinism and fascism as the capitalist bosses prepare to sacrifice our working-class brothers and sisters on both sides of borders.

We have nothing to gain from the sick capitalist system that must be destroyed with communist revolution worldwide. We dedicate ourselves to this cause and resolve to build ICWP.

We were introduced to ICWP by *Red Flag*. Our interest grew as we carefully started reading *Red Flag*. We realized that not a single party or group that we know of is building for communist revolution. Our salute to ICWP for analyzing the past mistakes and learning from it.

What is happening in this war-mongering between India and Pakistan is that the capitalists in both the countries are disguising the internal crisis of capitalism that causes poverty, religious ignorance, unemployment, sexism.

They want the working class in both countries to fight each other while capitalists and imperialists feast on our blood for their profit. The local capitalists in India and Pakistan are trying to influence the sharpening contradictions between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

We must build ICWP worldwide to create a communist society without the bosses and their borders.

—Comrades in Pakistan

El Salvador:

## **ANSWER FACTORY CLOSURE WITH MORE COMMUNIST STRUGGLE AND WORKERS' ORGANIZATION!**

**Statement of the ICWP Maquila club in El Salvador:**

*Brooklyn, the biggest garment factory in production for years in the area where we work, has closed without giving explanations, that is to its workers, of course.*

*They have left more than 1200 workers without work. We can see that when the bosses have already have gotten the profits they needed and have exploited their workers, they close shops without a care about the workers' lives.*

*In this closure, workers and union leaders have confronted each other, since the latter have profited from the value that the workers have created. The trade unionists had gotten money from the bosses before the plant closed.*

*We have already planned a meeting with Brooklyn workers with our ICWP collective.*

*It is clear that the road to poverty for the workers is not communism, it is capitalism. Let's destroy soon what is destroying humanity!*

The Brooklyn workers arrived one morning to find to their surprise that the factory had closed and the boss had fled the country. The machines and the cloth were still

there but the workers could not enter the factory. The workers have no source of income to buy food and basic services for their families.

This is not the first time this happened. **It happens due to capitalism**, in particular the complicity of the law of free trade zones and the passivity of the government and union leaders.

The bosses (like one of Korean origin who recently also fled the country) accumulate profits at the expense of the maquila workers. Then they leave without caring about the life of the workers.

We denounce the closure of this factory and extend our communist solidarity nationally and internationally with the currently unemployed workers of this factory.

**We call for a greater worker organization and a permanent political struggle for communism as the only way** to end these abuses of life and dignity that every man and woman worker deserves!

The fact that the government of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, the Ministry of Labor, the union leaders and their boards of directors ignore these acts shows their complicity with the capitalists in their attacks on the workers. .

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## The Crisis in Venezuela Will Continue As Long as Capitalism Exists

### LET'S ELIMINATE THE IMPERIALISTS WITH COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

LOS ANGELES, USA—"We have to make it clear that the fight in Venezuela is between capitalists from different groups," said an industrial worker when we were discussing the Venezuelan crisis.

The main reason why the U.S. imperialist bosses are fighting in Venezuela is for control of its oil and reserves, the largest in the world. They want to avoid at all costs these reserves falling into the hands of their adversaries the Chinese and Russian imperialists, who already have a foothold there.

Venezuela is a key part of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico and Panama Canal maritime area where strategic U.S. commercial and military routes lie. U.S. Vice President Mike Pence and Republican Senator Marco Rubio refer to this area as untouchable since it is the gateway to the country via the Atlantic Ocean.

Venezuela is one more front in the inter-imperialist struggle, as are Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, Yemen, Kashmir and other parts of the world. These fights have left only death and destruction for our class.

The working class in Venezuela is under attack. These men and women workers and their families are suffering from the hunger and stress of the crisis created in the fight between bosses for control of oil and the mines of gold and other materials.

These masses who are affected are our class brothers and sisters. But, because of the poisonous ideology of nationalism we often think in terms of it being a problem of other people and not of our class. We must struggle with our base and be clear that to defend our class is to fight for communism, not to ally with the "lesser evil" enemy.

Many hate Guaido for being the representative of the interests of the U.S. empire. His closest allies are a group of bosses and upper-middle class people who consider themselves to be white and who use racism openly. In a BBC documentary in London, during a demonstration this group was shouting, "We'll get that monkey out of the presidency." They have managed to deceive a section of the working class with anti-communism, portraying the failures of socialism (state capitalism) as failures of communism.

Many believe that supporting Maduro's bosses' group in their struggle against US imperialism is supporting the working class. But Maduro is not part of the solution. He is part of the same problem. Both sides defend the basic elements of capitalism: exploitation, money, banks, wage labor, racism, and sexism.

Communism represents the struggle to end all these evils. And the workers will produce to meet the needs of the workers at the international level, no longer for a handful of rich people.

#### Valuable Lessons to Learn

"I believe that the siege of Venezuela is a good opportunity to discuss how we (ICWP) would depend on the masses internationally to break that blockade," said a transport mechanic in



**In 1916, during World War I and before the Russian revolution, the Bolsheviks attacked both the German imperialists and the Russian government. Many criticized the Bolsheviks, but 3 years later the Bolsheviks seized power with the support of workers and soldiers.**

Los Angeles.

He was referring to the US trade blockade and military siege. He concluded, "The liberated areas with a communist system will be attacked even more fiercely by the capitalists. But we will depend on our internal strength and the support of the international working class, attacking their own bourgeoisie and fighting for communism."

Part of the main base that supports Maduro's government are industrial workers, including workers of PDVSA Venezuela's oil company. The other part is the army, where so far the officers are loyal to Maduro and have won the soldiers to stand firm. These two sectors are key to maintaining power.

In our struggle for communism we will win a large part of these sectors to the construction of communism, not out of nationalism or obedience, but out of class consciousness.

We must be bold in putting communist ideas forward and unmasking both Guaidó and the U.S. imperialists and Maduro and the imperialists of Russia and China. We must trust that the masses can understand our analysis and fight for it.

In 1916, during World War I and before the Russian revolution, the Bolsheviks attacked both the German imperialists and the Russian government. Many criticized the Bolsheviks, but 3 years later the Bolsheviks seized power with the support of workers and soldiers.

The Venezuelan and international working class can turn this imperialist dogfight into a fight for communist revolution. Let's help distribute *Red Flag* and participate in the activities of

ICWP to massively create that alternative of a communist society. Let's sweep away once and for all the alternatives of being a slave of one imperialist or another.

**For more about Venezuela, see the following *Red Flag* articles published from 2015 to 2019:**

**Venezuela Crisis**

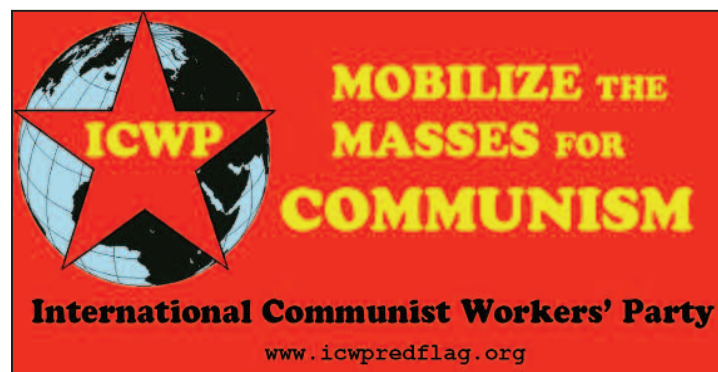
**Currency Wars Will Lead to Shooting Wars**

**Socialism vs. Communism: Answering Workers' Questions**

**Constituent Assembly in Venezuela: Power to Reform Capitalism**

**Failure of Cuban Socialism Shows: Fighting Directly for Communism is the Sole, Urgent Alternative**

**These are available at [icwpredflag.org/vene/](http://icwpredflag.org/vene/)**



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## Nepal: Looking for a True Communist Solution

**Dear Comrades of Red Flag,**

I am a bank employee in Kathmandu, Nepal. I have been a reader of *Red Flag*. I am also in regular contact with the ICWP comrades in India. The recent military conflict between India and Pakistan has given us a platform to talk about communism.

In Nepal, there are many Maoist groups. They are nationalist and defend capitalism, while selling out communism.

We are looking for a true communist solution.

Capitalism will never serve the interests of the working class. Capitalism means crisis, no matter what the bosses say about peace, prosperity, and democracy. Their so-called peace hides brutal violence by the capitalists. The wars for profit are genocide

for our class. We cannot be swayed by the false and idealistic propaganda of the bosses.

We need our own strong propaganda based on science and material reality.

No power on earth can stop the irresistible force that is propelling us to choose communism. This force to destroy capitalism requires a unified army of the working class and soldiers led by ICWP.

Let us march united as a class. We have all the power to overcome the obstacles the bosses put in our path to communism. Communism now. Communism forever!

—A Comrade in Nepal

## Class Struggle Explodes in Africa



**SUDAN** – Hundreds of anti-government protests since mid-December have swelled into a nationwide strike on March 6 and a nationwide day of civil disobedience on March 13. “This is not just protests over bread and fuel, it is a revolution,” declared one of the leading groups.

But what kind of revolution? A democratic revolution for “Freedom, Peace and Justice” that will leave the masses in misery? Or a communist revolution for a society where all will work for the common good and all will share the fruits of our labor?

Amidst a growing economic crisis, a shortage of bread in the city of Atbara sparked the initial demonstrations. They quickly spread. The government declared a “state of emergency” and began beating, arresting and killing people.

Neither repression nor promises of increased salaries for civil workers have stopped the masses. One question now is whether support from 23 different opposition parties will succeed in channeling the rebellion into upcoming elections.

But the bigger question is whether members and friends of ICWP will be able to spread communist ideas, even in a small way, among the youth and workers who are on the move in Sudan. We must make every effort to do this.



“The only heroes are the people”

**ALGERIA:** Escalating mass protests, including a five-day general strike, forced President Bouteflika to withdraw his bid for a 5th term. But they are not stopping there.

“The people have been asking to bring down the whole system,” said an organizer.

That has to mean fighting for something very different from the “democratic, modern and prosperous Algeria” that some young leaders call for. It means bringing down capitalism.

The capitalist system is at the root of the widespread unemployment, housing shortage, growing inequality and corruption that enrage the masses.

Bringing down capitalism means mobilizing for communism and nothing less. It means armed struggle, not peaceful protests. It means an internationalist class perspective.

The ruling party came to power fifty years ago in a historic fight for national liberation from French imperialism. Its nationalist politics led to the present crisis. Nationalism is, literally, a dead end for the working class.

As in Chavez’s Venezuela, the government has held down unrest with social spending funded by oil revenues that have declined significantly in recent years. Reformism, too, is a dead end for the working class.

The young women and men who are leading the Algerian rebellion have tasted their power. They see the possibility of change. Now they must rise to the task of imagining, fighting for, and creating a communist world.

## EL SALVADOR GARMENT FACTORY, from page 1

We ask all workers in the free trade zones to be alert in the face of similar practices of other bosses and business groups ... **only the working class will save the working class.**

**Only by mobilizing for communism** will we end these attacks by the profit hungry bosses by eliminating wage slavery, bosses and money. In communism, we will work collectively to produce for human need.

The International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP) is unconditionally supporting the struggle of the workers in the Free Trade Zone of El Salvador and the World.

Read and distribute *Red Flag*.

Report to the ICWP the abuses against the dignity of the working class.

No more fear! Greater worker-peasant organization! Mobilize for Communism!



## WE STAND WITH THE PICKETERS! WE FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM!

OAKLAND, USA, March 8—"Vote it up or vote it down, either way we go back into the same classrooms in a school system designed to produce masters and slaves, workers and bosses. We need more than a strike. We need a revolution!"

At the strike ratification vote meeting on March 2, a comrade went up and down the line of teachers waiting to get into the meeting. While a gaggle of phony communists handed out leaflets urging teachers to vote NO, we talked about fighting for communism. Dozens of teachers took *Red Flag*. A kindergarten teacher asked us to get in touch with her after the strike.

The strike opened with a bang, but ended with a whimper. From the start, parents and students marched and picketed and fed the strikers. Passing trucks honked support. Churches opened their spaces for 'solidarity' schools. Strikers demanded smaller classes, no school closures, no staff cuts and better teacher retention (meaning higher pay for the lowest paid teachers in Alameda County). This presented the strike as a political as well as economic cause.

These demands expressed a collective commu-

nity anger at the racist inequalities in education and social life. And the anger was obvious in all the energy a huge section of teachers had shown in the pre-strike organizing.

Yet, it collapsed on the 7th day when the union leadership pushed for a Tentative Agreement that cut class size by one student a year for two years. It stopped school closures for only 5 months, agreed to staff cuts and got teachers a raise that will not keep pace with inflation. Demoralized by these concessions, many teachers felt they could win nothing by prolonging a strike which had such spineless leaders. A slim majority voted to end the strike.

But on Monday, March 3, when the schools reopened, students from Oakland High School and Oakland Tech walked out. They marched to the school district headquarters to protest against the cuts, especially in support staff who work with the students most impacted by the crisis of capitalism.

Our work in the strike was modest, mostly due to factors beyond our control. But we were able to go to the picket line with *Red Flag* towards the



end of the strike. We met up with teachers we know who we will continue to work with throughout the school year.

In Oakland, as in the January strike in Los Angeles, the key is to see that this struggle is not just a trade union struggle. Parents, students, and other school employees are not just supporters of the teachers' struggle, but workers who have the potential to fight for revolutionary change in education and social life.

Our signs should have reflected that. Instead of saying "We stand with teachers and kids," we should have said "We stand with the picketers" meaning the teachers, parents, aides and students. Surely in the post-revolutionary society we aim to build, it will be that broad combination of forces (not teachers alone) that will design a new system of communist education. We must link the struggle against the racist capitalist hell we fight today with the revolutionary communist future we aim to build. The struggle continues!



## WORKERS LEAD DISCUSSION ABOUT COMMUNIST EDUCATION

LOS ANGELES, USA-On March 9, we had a forum with a couple of dozen people about communist education. The forum was presented by three comrades of ICWP. The first topic was presented by a teacher comrade. It was about the lessons of the recent teachers' strikes nationwide.

The second topic was presented by a comrade who explained how capitalist education is designed to promote nationalism, patriotism and serve the interests of the capitalist class.

I presented the third topic, Communist Education. To prepare, I started at home by asking my daughter, who is in college, to read me the main article of the ICWP pamphlet on Communist Education. She didn't understand some terms and this gave me the opportunity to explain and make her think about those ideas.

I am an industrial worker, an ex-garment worker. It was suggested that I make this presentation. My experience should serve to inspire other men and women workers that anyone with a little reading, experience and practice in speaking, can convey the importance of organizing for a communist revolution.

I was a little nervous about not knowing all the answers, but with the questions I asked and a bit of humor, I felt confident to be able to develop the topic.

The answers to questions about who knew how to do what made me think that in case of war we will not survive individually, since some knew about construction, others about growing plants and others about first aid. But it is obvious that as a collective we are able to survive and in our hands and minds is the experience and knowledge to create that new communist society that we need so much.

The communist relations that we practice today among the members and our base are what

we want millions of workers to practice. These are relationships that will be implemented before, during and after the revolution and taking power. Relations without sexism, racism, nationalism or exploitation.

Education in a communist society will be to create new communists and a classless society. We will share everything—even what we know. Capitalist schools use skills and information as commodities and reproduce master and slave relationships. Communist education—like production and communist relations—will be completely different.

And as the pamphlet says: "These relationships will provide the material experience that can be the basis of how to make all other decisions."

For a classless society, without wage slavery and without borders, let's fight for a communist world.

—Los Angeles comrade



### GARMENT WORKER WANTS TO KNOW

"My son questions everything under this system: why we have to pay rent, why we have to pay so much for medicine, dental care, and for everything else we need to live." Those were the words of a garment worker who came to a recent ICWP forum about how education will be in a communist society.

"I didn't know what to answer," concluded the worker.

This worker has been to a May Day dinner and I've had the opportunity to talk to him a little bit about communism. He has also taken *Red Flag* before. Five more workers, friends and family of his, also came to the forum. For all of them it was the first time coming to something like this. Though I've invited them before they were always resistant. Although most of them didn't speak during the meeting, they were happy they came because they learned new ideas.

I hope that this is just a beginning for them. Millions of parents deal with similar situations, trying to explain to their families why the capitalist profit system is deadly for the working class. ICWP has a big responsibility in educating the working class about how to fight, destroy and replace capitalism with a new communist society. ICWP forums are a good way to bring communist ideas to workers. We be persistent in inviting friends and family to participate in similar events. I think all workers, especially young workers, are getting ever more frustrated and angry at the capitalist system. Let's turn this anger into a communist revolution.

—Red Worker

## “Yellow Vests” in France:

### THE FUTURE OF THE MASS MOVEMENT MUST BE COMMUNISM

The French “gilets jaunes” (yellow vest) movement that started in November is still going strong. On Saturday March 9, tens of thousands of protestors across the country put on yellow safety jackets and took to the streets.

They marched in Paris, Rennes, Lyon, Toulouse, Mulhouse and many other cities. All this in the face of ongoing threats of police attacking with grenades, tear gas and rubber bullets. Hundreds of gilets jaunes have been injured and several have lost hands and eyes.

The movement started when the government imposed yet another tax, on the diesel fuel people use to get to work. This was one tax too many. Soon hundreds of thousands of workers and self-employed were protesting and occupying roundabouts. The police attacked in Paris and pictures of the fighting went round the world.

The media have tried to smear the protesters as neo-Nazis and anti-Semites. Alain Finkielkraut, a so-called “philosopher,” showed up at the edge of a gilets jaunes march on 17 February. He is a fanatical supporter of Israel and a raging Islamophobe who says that European civilization is threatened by Muslim immigration.

Naturally he attracted attention and the press said he was subject to “anti-Semitic abuse.” This is a lie. Video shows protesters calling him “racist” and a “filthy Zionist.” Which is absolutely true, he’s a hard-core Zionist – supporter of the Israeli apartheid regime. Finkielkraut’s appearance was obviously a setup. He even brought a camera crew.

The gilets jaunes have long lists of demands, most directed against austerity, but are clearly searching for an alternative.

The alternative they need is communism. Under communism there will be no money or wealth and in particular no taxes. No salaries either, so workers won’t have to struggle at the end of the month to make end meet. (Many gilets jaunes report running out of money and going hungry waiting for payday).

But so powerful is capitalism’s ideological hold that even gilets jaunes rebels rarely consider communism. Instead there is constant pressure to get involved in electoral politics. This takes the



“United, Change is Possible”

form of running candidates in the European Elections (in May) or campaigning for the RIC, a scheme for governing through referenda.

The gilets jaunes (unlike the Trade Union movement) actually won some concessions: dropping of the diesel tax and a rise in the minimum wage.

But the real question is not “how do we win concessions” but “how do we put an end to poverty and austerity for once and for all?”

Communism is the only way. We have to abolish capitalism, period, then move on to a liberated society where workers won’t fear the end of the month.

A mass movement like the gilets jaunes will never do that, no matter how well organized. Since 1848, at least, capitalism has seen many movements, some lasting longer than others, some more successful than others. Examples are the union drives of the 1930’s, the Civil Rights and anti-imperialist movements of the 1960s, Anti-Apartheid, and Occupy Wall Street.

The more successful movements won some concessions. But either the concessions didn’t

last, or in the long run the evils they were targeting (war, racism) took on new and different forms. Movements, no matter how massive or militant, cannot change capitalism permanently.

In the past communists (and others) put great faith in these movements. Communists repeatedly put huge efforts into promoting them. After the mid-1930s, the official position was not to put forward communism for fear of distracting the mass movement.

Eventually and inevitably the movements ran out of steam. The communists in the end had little to show for all their efforts. Even when these movements won concessions, they failed to advance a mass understanding of the need and possibility for communism. Either they promoted reformism or they built cynicism or both.

The ICWP is determined not to repeat this mistake. We participate in movements like the gilets jaunes with the perspective that (as Marx and Engels said in the *Communist Manifesto*) “in the movement of the present” we “represent and take care of the future of that movement.” That future is communism.

#### LETTERS

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#### CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

#### SOCIAL CONNECTIONS

##### SAVE LIVES

Recently I came across a startling statement.

“Researchers in the UK have found that the period of the 20th century during which the most significant increases in life expectancy occurred in the UK was, paradoxically, the years of the Second World War.”

Amazing! The writer, Vincente Navarro, goes on to explain:

“The most important factor was the reduction of social distances that occurred as a result of people of all classes committing themselves to the same project (the war to defeat Nazism. Those who lived during that period will tell you that never before had people felt so much camaraderie toward one another.”

In other words, it isn’t what the self-help books claim. It isn’t diet, genes, exercise regimens, nor lack of stress (1/3 of British homes were bombed out of existence) that are the major factors in increasing life expectancy: it is “social cohesion” or mass political commitment.

Isn’t building these webs of “social cohesion” – lessening the social distances among our co-

workers, friends and family – the first step in mobilizing the masses for communism?

—Comrade Nose-in-a-book

#### ORGANIZING PARTY COLLECTIVES AROUND RED FLAG

Our party cell has four members—two teachers and two young adults who were recruited when they were in high school.

We organize the work of our collective around *Red Flag*. When the paper comes out, we do our best to make sure that each member of the collective has it within 2 or 3 days. Then each comrade takes the responsibility to look the paper over, read key articles, and distribute the paper. Some of us participate in regular mass distribution of the paper at a high school and to transit and garment workers. Sometimes there are big events at which we distribute the paper. This is uneven because different comrades have different family and job situations. But during the teachers’ strike in January, one or more of us was on the picket line every day with the paper. We all distribute

some papers hand-to-hand to people in our political base: friends, relatives and/or co-workers.

The next week we meet as a group in the home of a comrade. There we talk about our political work, including the discussions we have had with our friends and co-workers while we were giving them the paper, our experiences in mass mobilizations, our plans for follow-up with people in our political base.

As a result of this, we talk about what we need to see in the next paper, and often—but maybe not often enough—discuss what we will be writing for the next issue.

*Red Flag* is our guide in mobilizing the masses for communism. Meeting regularly, every three weeks, to evaluate our work and plan the next steps, has helped us build stronger communist relations and expand our political base. We offer this as a suggestion to other party collectives as one way to structure the work of the party around *Red Flag*. We would also be very interested in reading the reports of other party cells about how they organize the life of the party.

—An ICWP cell in Los Angeles



BARCELONA, SPAIN—“We are the voice of those who have no voice!” “Women who organize don’t iron any more shirts!” “No war that destroys us, nor peace that oppresses us!” were some of the slogans shouted by some 200,000 workers in the streets of Barcelona this March 8, International Working Women’s Day.

Many social movements and trade unions were present at this event, demanding higher wages and more gender equality. However, these movements are not fighting for real change. They are fighting for reforms that are only crumbs offered by the system to the world’s working class to keep the masses under control.

The International Communist Workers Party (ICWP) fights for change, but not for reform. We fight for a communist future where both women

and men can freely develop their potential. In the ranks of the ICWP we struggle every day to break the sexist and individualist teachings that capitalism gives us.

We teach our children that there is no difference in chores and rights between boys and girls. A comrade who works in a nursery tries to educate in a gender-free way, strengthening the thinking of children equally. We also fight against sexist attitudes and behaviors of peers and friends. All this is so we can be united collectively and work shoulder to shoulder as the working class that we are, not divided and fighting among ourselves.

We struggle to change the way we produce and distribute goods and services, to destroy borders and hierarchies, transforming social relations.

## “Make way for the women”

We are not interested in getting a few women into male-dominated positions in society. Our interest is in destroying all the barriers that keep the whole working class exploited. (See pamphlet “The Communist Fight Against Sexism”:icwpredflag.org/sxse.pdf)

The demonstrations around the world show the strength of the women of the working class. The ICWP unites to fight against capitalism as our main enemy to destroy, to tear down those barriers that hold us back in advancing to our inevitable triumph. We will defeat capitalism and win a better quality of life for all, a life in a communist world. LONG LIVE WORKING WOMEN! LONG LIVE COMMUNISM! LONG LIVE THE ICWP!

### LETTERS

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### CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

#### COMMUNISM: STATE AND REVOLUTION

Comrades in Mexico City and South Africa wrote about conversations they’ve had about Lenin’s themes in *The State and Revolution*. Let’s all discuss these reports.

As the Mexico comrades wrote, the State exists mainly because of class struggle. This class struggle cannot be resolved peacefully.

The key elements of the state, as the South Africa comrades mentioned, are the judiciary, the legislature, the executive (including the government bureaucracy), the army and the police. We would add the schooling system.

Through these State institutions, the capitalists rule over the working class and exploit us. Communist revolution must destroy or dismantle these institutions – not take them over.

When classes are gone, the State will disappear.

Our view of the “state and revolution” today is both like and different from Lenin’s in important ways. This is deeply connected to our line of fighting directly for communism.

In contrast, Lenin (like Marx and Engels) thought that a “socialist stage” was needed and therefore a socialist state. That state would own and control the means of production. The intention was to benefit and empower the working masses.

This was impossible, in spite of important reforms. Socialism maintained a wage system and other key elements of capitalism. It turned out to be state capitalism.

It wasn’t the existence of a “government” that led to the rise of another class that ruled over the working class. It was Socialism. The communist party turned itself into a new bourgeoisie. We plan to avoid that by mobilizing directly for communist social relations of pro-

duction and distribution.

The socialist state also carried out the violent class struggle to suppress internal and external class enemies. As a comrade in Mexico said, we will have to defend what the revolution has achieved.

Part of that is defending liberated communist zones from capitalist-imperialist armies that try to conquer us. The young Soviet Union and its Red Army fought off invading armies from sixteen countries in 1918-25. We will have to mobilize masses to do the same.

And then there will likely be remnants of fascist groups. They may become even more vicious as the bosses try desperately to prop up their decaying racist system. The communist state will have to mobilize masses to re-educate (where possible) or to destroy them.

But communist society – unlike socialism – will not continue to create contradictions between the party and the masses of producers. Instead, a mass communist party, constantly growing, will organize even broader masses to carry out all the functions of workers’ state power.

Engels wrote that eventually “the government of persons is replaced by the administration of things and the direction of the processes of production.” We think this will happen more quickly than he or Lenin expected.

A society organized on communist principles will abolish classes and erase borders as it grows. As Engels said, “The state is not abolished. It withers away.”

Who will administer things and direct the processes of production, especially its social relations? A mass communist party. That is our political program, not a dream of a far-off future.

—LA Comrade

#### NEED MORE LETTERS ON DIALECTICAL MATERIALISM

The last issue of *Red Flag* (Vol 10, No 2) included two letters about dialectical materialism. I hope that readers who missed them will take another look.

One letter described MTA workers’ discussions of communist philosophy. They discussed some ways that dialectical materialism is important for recruiting and organizing the struggle for communism.

The letter also pointed out that the ICWP study materials don’t have a clear and detailed explanation of some basic points, like the opposition between the materialist and idealist outlooks. We have to be sure the next version of our pamphlet fixes this.

The other letter is about helping people succeed in becoming and staying sober for the long term. This is often a difficult struggle where people have to learn new ways of coping. Dealing with a relapse, for example, does not have mean starting over from zero.

A negation of sobriety (a relapse) can itself be negated by negating the relapse. It is a law of dialectics, however, that negating a negation does not take you back to the beginning, but advances to a new stage of a process.

Letters like these are very important for moving forward the collective study of communist philosophy in our movement. I hope that more *Red Flag* readers will write more about this. Stories about discussions or about cases where dialectics has been helpful, as well as questions or objections, can help others learn and improve our work.

—a comrade



March 2: Hundreds of thousands marched through the streets of Milan, in northern Italy, carrying signs that read, “People before Borders.” It was part of a series of huge demonstrations that have rocked Italy in opposition to the government’s anti-immigration laws. One marcher declared, “We are against this atmosphere of racism.” Under capitalism, borders always come before people. Communism will end borders and racism. March with ICWP this May Day for a communist world without borders!

**LETTERS****LETTERS****LETTERS****CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS**

## THERE’S NO ESCAPE FROM CAPITALISM

In the last few months there is another crisis that has gone largely ignored by the main stream media in Zimbabwe where literally millions of workers cannot afford basic needs. Teachers and doctors have not been paid for months. Hundreds of thousands of workers are leaving Zimbabwe for neighboring countries. A few weeks back, street protests were brutally suppressed by the regime.

Of course ICWP said from the start after the coup in Zimbabwe that anything short of communism will not benefit the working class

As these workers flee these horrors of capitalism, they are forced to confront other horrors in these countries. In South Africa immigrant workers are subjected to exploitation and xenophobia.

No matter where you go, there is no escape from capitalism. It’s all over the world. The only solution is for workers of the world to reject the bosses’ lies that we are more different than we are similar and to build a mass party that will give leadership to the international working class.

—A Comrade from Zimbabwe living in South Africa

## GETTING MORE COMRADES INVOLVED GIVES BETTER RESULTS

A landscape worker dropped by my house on Sunday. I gave her a copy of the new migration pamphlet, “Fight for the Day When No Worker Will Be Called Foreigner.”

“There’s not a lot of words on each page,” she observed. “It’s not too intimidating.”

I gave her a cup of tea and she read the pamphlet cover-to-cover in one sitting. Then she took some extras for her high-school aged children.

It seems to me this is the kind of design we are looking for. Lots of my friends at work had

similar reactions.

“This is great,” said a Boeing friend. He was thinking of the high school students he coaches in his free time. “I said great, not good!”

Then he gave me some money to defray the cost of production.

Part of the reason the design turned out well was that the design effort was led by a younger comrade with lots of fresh ideas. Not all the ideas worked out, but, in the end, the project was an advance. The young comrade showed great maturity, making edit after edit without complaint.

The design process was complicated by it being an international effort. This led to some typos and omissions, which was to be expected as we moved forward with this new collective.

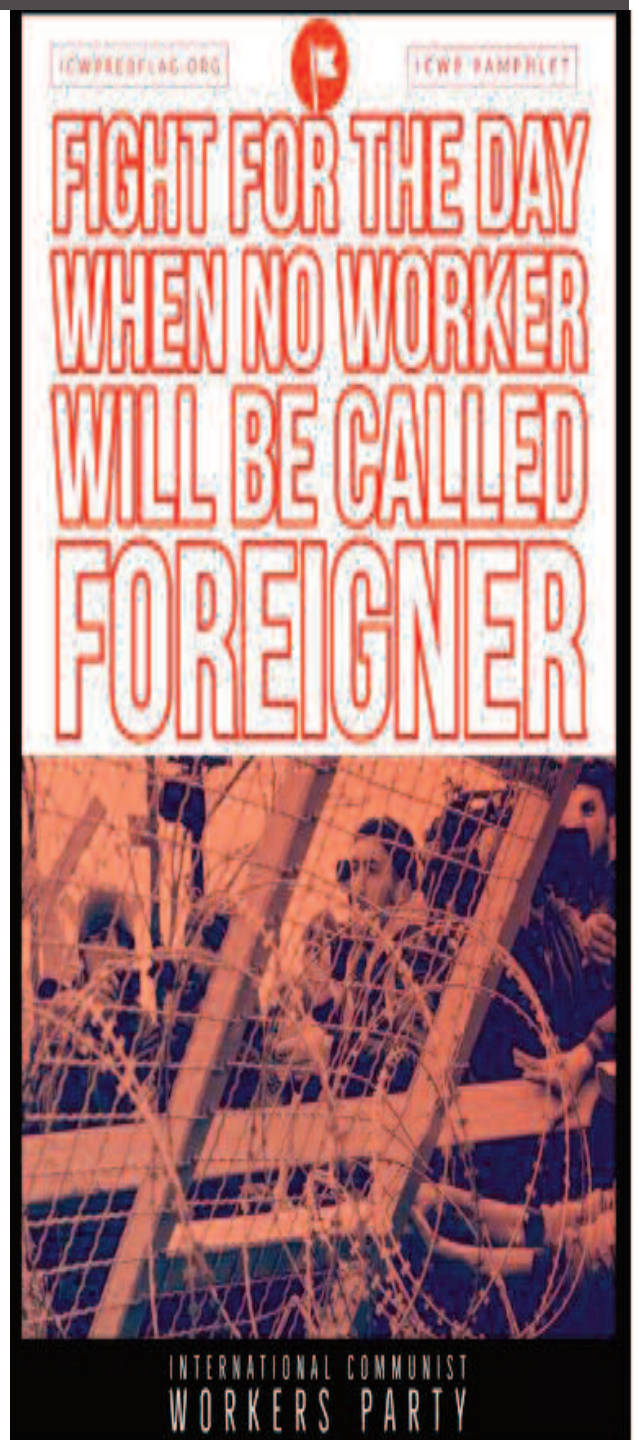
A collateral advantage was that the new design process freed up the time of those who usually lay out these things. More base building!

Unlike the capitalists, we don’t rely on experts. We want friends and comrades all around the world involved in every aspect of producing literature. It will create more communists.

Ultimately, organizing like this will provide backup to insure the publication of our paper and literature under any and all circumstances.

Most, if not all comrades agree with this—at least, in theory. But to turn this into reality, we need much more practice. This means more mistakes, but the lessons we learn along the way are essential.

—Older Seattle Comrade



**Our newest pamphlet is available at**  
[icwpredflag.org/ffde.pdf](http://icwpredflag.org/ffde.pdf)

## World's Major Imperialists Prepare for World War III

# WORKERS MUST PREPARE TO BURY CAPITALISM WITH COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

In January, amid escalating tensions with the US, Chinese President Xi Jinping urged the Chinese Central Military Commission to prepare for a “comprehensive military struggle.”

Capitalism’s competition for maximum profits makes world war inevitable. China is determined to replace the US as the world’s dominant imperialist power.

That will require expelling the US Navy from the South China Sea, then from the strategic Indian Ocean. To do this, China must break through maritime chokepoints controlled by the US Navy through its Japanese, Philippine and Indonesian allies.

Asian capitalist rulers like to repeat that “in the 21st century the destiny of the world will be decided on its waters.”

That may prove true - for the capitalists. But the future of the laboring people worldwide will be decided by communist industrial workers and soldiers and sailors in a growing International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP).

We need to organize soldiers and sailors, starting now, to turn the guns around against all imperialists and other capitalists. We need to prepare to lead the masses in a communist revolution that will bury capitalism-imperialism forever.

We will build a communist society based on meeting the needs of our working-class family worldwide. A world without borders, nations, racism, sexism or wars for empire. A world guided by the principles of collectivity and cooperation.

### US Rulers Mobilize to Confront Challengers

China’s navy has more vessels than any other country. It has two aircraft carriers and is building four nuclear powered ones. It has converted islands and reefs in the South China Sea into military fortresses. It plans to build the world’s deepest submarine base.

No wonder that US imperialists claim that China is their biggest challenger.

Next is Russia. One Russian military expert claims that Russia’s S-500 air defense system, scheduled to be ready by 2025, will give Russia military superiority over the US.

Leading US imperialists seem to believe this. Also in January, the US Senate Armed Services Committee described the new National Defense Strategy as “a fundamental shift in the orientation of our nation’s armed forces toward great power



BERLIN, 1918-19: Red soldiers mobilize for revolution.

competition” (instead of the war on terrorism).

It described “China in particular and to a lesser extent Russia” as “by far the most severe threats.” It predicted that, now and going forward, China will equal the US in both conventional and nuclear war.

It emphasized that “the once overwhelming military advantage vis a vis these major powers has eroded and will continue to erode absent overriding focus by the United State and its allies.” The US can only hope to win “limited” wars.

The US imperialists’ “overriding focus” is not only on hardware. The Brookings Institution just issued a report called, “How a focus on national service can unify our divided country.”

The authors are ex-General McChrystal and Michael E. O’Hanlon, an apologist for the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. They advocate a year of service in any capacity. This, they hope, would “increase and diversify the pool of applicants willing to consider a tour in the armed forces.”

At the same time, they are setting the stage for a draft, this time including women. We need to win the troops, women and men, draftees and volunteers, to fight for communism.

### Capitalist-Imperialists Depend on Us – Their Grave-Diggers

Both their economic and military power rely on the very class they must exploit and oppress. When industrial workers go on strike, the capitalists’ industries come to a standstill. When

transportation workers walk out, whole nations can be paralyzed.

What happens when soldiers and sailors refuse to fight the capitalists’-imperialists’ wars for profits and empire? When they turn the guns on our oppressors, as happened in Russia in 1917? The bosses become history!

These soldiers and sailors – our working-class comrades, brothers, sisters, sons, daughters and other relatives – can be won to fight for communism. It’s our job to win them.

We need to understand the imperialists’ plans. We need to prepare by building ICWP collectives in factories, schools, barracks and neighborhoods.

For 500 years the history of capitalism has been one of oppressed masses in constant rebellion. Twice, during and after both world wars, the masses, led by their communist parties, organized revolutions to overthrow capitalism.

Their mistake was to build socialism. This was state capitalism. It perpetuated the money system and capitalist relations of production.

Communist internationalism must be our answer to the bosses’ ideological build-up for World War III. It would be a deadly mistake to think that electing “peace” candidates could stop the imperialists’ wars.

We must build ICWP worldwide to turn the bosses’ wars into revolution for communist workers’ power.



READ OUR PAMPHLET:

## SOLDIERS, SAILORS, MARINES: CRUCIAL TO A COMMUNIST WORKERS’ REVOLUTION

AVAILABLE AT

[icwpredflag.org/mpe.pdf](http://icwpredflag.org/mpe.pdf)