

# RED FLAG



## MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

**PUERTO RICO  
UPRISING,  
SEE PAGE 4**



## **KASHMIR: CAPITALIST CRISIS AND THE DANGER OF WAR**

August 5 – Kashmir is a strategic region divided between India and Pakistan. It is one of the most lethally militarized areas in the world. In the part occupied by India, there is one soldier for every 20 civilians. Over 600,000 heavily armed troops are permanently stationed there.

A few days ago, the Indian government under fascist Modi started deploying many more thousands. It is claiming that Indian-occupied Kashmir is under imminent threat from Pakistan.

The Indian government has cut off all electronic communication in the area. For the rest of the country, severe censorship has been imposed.

All this is happening in the midst of massive layoffs in the auto industry, railways, construction and mining. Even the prestigious state-owned defense research companies are unable to pay workers' salaries for months.

The high cost of short-term credit is causing thousands of capitalists to bite the dust. The owner of a major Indian coffee chain (the Indian Starbucks) committed suicide.

What makes the Kashmir crisis especially significant is the nearby multibillion and extremely strategic China Pakistan Economic Corridor just a few miles from the Indian-occupied zone.

The US has now been defeated in Afghanistan. Last week, in a joint press conference with the Pakistani Prime Minister, Trump offered to mediate between India and Pakistan. This drove the Indian fascists into a frenzy. That's when the military deployment and cross-border military confrontation started.

A major war could break out at any time between two armies that both have nuclear weapons. Inter-imperialist rivalry produces out-

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## Communism Is a Life-and-Death Issue

## **BOEING 737 MAX: PROFIT-HUNGRY BOSSES HIDE BEHIND XENOPHOBIA**

SEATTLE (USA), August 4 — Paul Njoroge lost his wife, three children and mother-in-law in the second crash of a Boeing 737 MAX, in Ethiopia on March 10. His whole family was wiped out. “I can't get it out of my mind,” he confessed.

In blistering testimony before the U.S. House of Representatives, Njoroge said Boeing blamed “foreign pilots” to avoid grounding the plane after the first crash in October of 2018. Boeing's insinuation of pilot error allowed it to keep flying the plane—and led directly to the death of his family.

In a Boeing plant here, from the very beginning, comrades of the International Communist Workers' Party have fought against this racist and xenophobic company excuse. Over the last few months, our members and friends have not let a single comment like this on the shop floor go unchallenged. Often, these struggles have led to longer discussions about communism and

joining the party.

Now, racism and xenophobia have emerged again, but in a different form. Various media outlets “exposed” that the company transferred crucial software to an off-shore sub-contractor paying \$9/hour. A typical Boeing software engineer in the US averages over \$40/hour.

This information was revealed at a particularly sensitive time. Boeing was already planning to eliminate 1000 inspectors in a drive for more profits. Thousands of Puget Sound engineers have been fired.

It's likely to get much worse. Production slowed after the grounding. It may stop altogether. Hiring has been frozen in a number of areas.

During a webcast, CEO Muilenburg was asked if there will be layoffs. “We care about our people,” was his answer.

“In other words, there's going to be lots of  
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**INSIDE:  
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## The Struggle Sharpens: Which Side Are You On?

### COMMUNIST REVOLUTION WILL DEFEAT CAPITALISM'S FASCIST TERROR

August 6 – We're angry. We're hurting. And many of us are afraid.

Twenty-two members of our working-class family killed and 26 more injured by a xenophobic fascist who drove nine hours to attack latino/a people in the border city of El Paso (USA)/Juarez (Mexico). Three killed and 12 injured in Gilroy, CA. Nine killed and 17 injured in Dayton, Ohio. All in one week.

Confronting this fascist onslaught, there is growing anti-racist unity and resistance. As more fight back, we have more opportunities to learn that to defeat racism, xenophobia and fascism, we must become fighters for communism.

Not peace vigils, not anti-racist marches, not elections can stop fascist terror, whether individual or state-sponsored. Not in the USA or China, in India or Sudan or Mexico or anywhere.

The only way to stop it is to destroy the capitalist system whose crisis drives it inevitably to fascism and world war.

Masses forced to migrate for survival... masses homeless... the disappearance of decent jobs... police terror. These are among the symptoms of this capitalist crisis. Violent racism, sexism and xenophobia are others.

The system cannot function as in the past. The rulers resort to fascism from a position of weakness. They need fascism to try to win us to slave and fight as shock troops for their profits and their empire. They must divide and terrorize the working masses so we don't unite to overthrow their deadly system and fight for a communist system that will meet our needs.

#### Need Communist Politics, Not Electoral Politics

Trump and his racist, xenophobic rants certainly encouraged the El Paso terrorist and more like him. And the culture of fascism is growing, with 250 mass shootings in the US so far in 2019.

But Trump's liberal opponents have no solu-

tion for us. For example, a *New York Times* editorial deplored white nationalism – but not capitalism. US capitalism was built from the start on white nationalism: genocide against indigenous people and enslavement of African people, all for the bosses' profits.

Liberal politicians tell us to pour our energy into electing Democrats, but any capitalist party must be a party of racism, xenophobia and war. They want to divert us from communist revolution, the only way to rip out the roots of racism and fascism.

The party we need is the International Communist Workers' Party. Let's build ICWP collectives in factories, schools, barracks and neighborhoods. Let's spread *Red Flag* and recruit everywhere!

The liberal politicians want us to rely on "the law" to stop racist xenophobic terror. It won't happen. The capitalists and their armed thugs are the worst fascist killers.

US police killed 992 people in 2018, many times more than were killed by individual terrorists. In El Paso, as families struggled to find loved ones, ICE (immigration) agents showed up at hospitals and gathering points.

The capitalists' laws are designed to keep the capitalist system intact. We must prepare to defy them and take this fight into our own hands. We must fight for communist workers' power as we organize actions against fascism.

#### Only Communism Can Create a World Without Borders

The El Paso terrorist targeted a bi-national city, killing 5 who lived in Juarez and 17 who lived in El Paso. He hated its relatively open borders.

In contrast, many people are disgusted with the hardening borders around the US and many other

countries. They want "a world without borders." But a border that is sometimes open and sometimes closed is not the same as a communist world without borders.

Capitalists need borders to compete with other groups of capitalists and to force workers to compete against each other. They wring super-profits from us by paying workers on one side less.

They push patriotism to win us, especially soldiers, to fight for a particular set of capitalists against their competitors. That means using weapons against workers in other countries during wars and invasions.

But workers in uniform, women and men, gain nothing by defending any capitalists. They need to use their weapons to side with the working class and help lead communist revolution.

The working class has no use for borders, nations or competition. Our communist world will have no borders or nationalism, racism or sexism, bosses or money. We'll collectively produce to meet the needs of the masses everywhere.

Red Army soldiers and the communist-led masses defeated the German fascist hordes in 1945. But they fought for socialism, the motherland and democracy instead of for the communist world we need. Today we're still fighting fascism because it's baked into capitalism.

This time, let's mobilize the masses – in uniform or not – for communism!



Defending immigrant neighbors in Tennessee

## Standing Up to Racist State Terror

Last week a comrade witnessed seven Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents right outside the door of his apartment. "¡No abran la puerta! ¡Inmigración está aquí!" (Don't open the door! Immigration is here!) he yelled at the top of his lungs.

Instead of watching immigration agents remove his neighbors from their home, he saw them leave empty-handed. Nobody opened the door.

Right after the incident, the comrade posted a warning on Facebook that ICE is in south Los Angeles where he shared his experience.

I saw it right away and called him.

"Are you ok, Pablo?" I asked.

"Yeah, but I'm just shaking with adrenaline because I'm the most non-confrontational person I know. But I just couldn't help but build up the courage in that moment to help my neighbors out," he explained.

"I'm really proud of you, comrade," I said.

#### Workers defending their neighbors

ICE raids have been scheduled to happen all across the US, as Trump tweeted out, which has brought workers together to battle these attacks. On July 22 in Tennessee, neighbors—black, white and Hispanic—formed a human chain around a family that was in danger of being deported. As ICE agents attempted to deport them, neighbors made sure they were able to safely leave.

"We stuck together like neighbors are supposed to do," Felishadae Young told the local news channel.

Often times under this capitalist system we are taught individualistic ideas. Other minorities such as the black community are led to believe migrants are taking jobs and they should be for the removal of undocumented workers. In Tennessee and around the country we see that workers, sometimes led by church groups and immigrant rights groups and sometimes spontaneously, are standing up to these at-

tacks.

This resistance meant that ICE couldn't deport all the workers they had targeted. Instead of the 2000 workers they threatened to take into custody over the weekend of July 20-21, they only got 35 people.

This modest victory shows the potential of organizing those who are willing to defend their neighbors into a force capable of destroying all borders and creating a world where no one is illegal.

As Pablo and I talked more, we knew that this was the right thing to do. But we also often find it hard to know how to start or what to do next after an event like this. As young comrades working alone where we don't have a concentration, we need to make a plan for what to do next to build the party into the revolutionary army that we need. We'll be working on that in the days and weeks to come.

—Young comrade in South Los Angeles, USA



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## Building an Industrial Concentration

### FACTORY WORKERS STUDY COMMUNIST PHILOSOPHY

EL SALVADOR, August 5—Recently our collective of comrades met to share and learn about dialectical materialism. We know that it is important to deepen our understanding of this topic little by little. We are using material developed by the ICWP ([icwpredflag.org/CommunistDialectics.html](http://icwpredflag.org/CommunistDialectics.html)).

This will help us to better understand the problems experienced by the working class, the development of nature and also of thought. Making our practice revolutionary is a job that we cannot leave for later.

A comrade said, “I had not heard about this until I joined ICWP. We have to develop it with all the comrades of the factory. That will help us a lot.” Exploitation by the bosses is so overwhelming that it can seem like a dead end with no way out. But many men and women workers are receiving *Red Flag*. These schools about dialectics will reaffirm our struggle, the revolutionary practice for Communism. They will help workers give good leadership to the working class.

“It is common to hear some workers say that

things are as they are and have always been that way,” said a comrade. But history shows us that that is not the case. The dialectical method helps us understand the development of things, processes and contradictions, in a scientific way: how things change and why they change.

Ten years ago, the International Communist Workers’ Party did not exist in the factory. Today we have a base and significant work there. That happened because we understood that we had to organize in the factories, since it is men and women industrial workers who are key for the organization and fight for Communism of the ICWP.

So, we took on the task of investigating who we knew there. We found that one of our members knew someone in the factory. That’s how our work began there. Doing that allowed us to go there and to be present today. “It is a modest but qualitative effort,” said a comrade.

We are focusing our discussion of dialectical materialism on the internal contradictions of our party and the obstacles to the growth of ICWP. Among others, we mentioned that we need a con-

scientious study of dialectical materialism. Although we have talked about this topic in some meetings, we need to give it permanent follow-up, since it is a main tool for the growth of the organization.

We also said that we need to expand our social networks with friends, family and coworkers. We must be united and struggling with them, so that they join the effort to build the communist system. The distribution of our *Red Flag* newspaper is also key, as well as organizing in other factories.

We have some readers in other factories. We have to give more attention to them. The internal dynamics of one factory is the constant firing of workers all year round. They live under the daily threat of being fired. So, there is fear of distributing *Red Flag* to other workers. But that will change. One of them has started attending meetings.

We have to carry out this discussion in a mass way. It helps us to objectively see where we should focus communist efforts.



### India: Space Opens for the True Communist

The party that rules India, the BJP, is not a Hindu party. It is a cruel Capitalist fascist party brought forward by the Indian capitalist class to suppress the working-class movement which may arise due to deepening economic crisis.

Communist parties in India failed to tell this truth. Rather they were telling people that BJP is a communal party [that is, a racist party—ed].

So those revisionist communists who did not pursue the correct political path are vanishing away from the Indian political map.

Now the space is empty and open for the true communist.

Those who want to pursue the correct scientific political path of the working class can come forward now and they will be cherished.

Long live communism.

—A friend of a friend in India

### KASHMIR from page 1

comes that are unpredictable, but not absolutely.

This crisis gives us more vigor to fight for communism. At this time, we are not able to reach our comrades in India. However, we are sure that they are thinking about nothing but communist revolution.

Masses on both sides of the border are aspiring for nothing less than the end of wage slavery, the system that is causing so many horrors. We expect a fuller report for the next issue of *Red Flag*.

### ONE HUMAN FAMILY ONE COMMUNIST WORLD

LOS ANGELES (USA), Aug. 1— “The bosses have robbed us of the feeling of responsibility and love for our class. Part of our communist struggle is to take back that sentiment and feel the responsibility to see as ours the children of Jose or of Juana, or of other workers,” said a comrade in a recent meeting with about twenty comrades and friends of the ICWP garment club.

It was a day of social activity with a political discussion about immigrant children caged at the border by the Trump administration, and an invitation to the next ICWP activities.

In the meeting we mentioned a recent pro-immigrant demonstration where many young people and adults showed their solidarity with workers detained in an immigration jail downtown. We said that this shows the potential that exists in general and with our friends to win them to fight for a communist world without borders.

The camaraderie in these social gatherings is very important, because it shows and deepens the bonds of friendship that we have created with our political base of friends. Workers and their families attended who are from different countries which are considered “expellers” of migrants such as Mexico, Guatemala and El Salvador.

A weakness that we will have to correct is the lack of leadership on the part of some club members. During political discussions, there are those who don’t dare to participate. They leave it to those with more experience to give their opinions. But the potential is there, with the club members and with our friends. The future can be bright if we help everyone contribute something they have learned through their participation in the Party.

At the end, we thanked those present, and asked them to invite their relatives and friends to attend the activities we constantly carry out. Our *Red Flag* newspaper, and the communist pamphlet *Fight for the Day No Worker Will Be Called a Foreigner*, were the stars of the afternoon, as they were taken with interest by many participants.

The future is very promising, but we have to work hard to achieve our goal. Let’s recruit more members to the Party, and let’s ensure that everyone becomes leaders. That will be our guarantee to defeat Capitalism and achieve a Communist world.

—Comrades in Los Angeles





## Shipyard Workers Need to Fight for Communism

### ONLY COMMUNISM CAN END EXPLOITATION AND IMPERIALIST WARS

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

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

General Dynamics' figures show a profit of \$4.457 billion before taxes in 2018, but that wasn't all of it. They also paid \$36.5 million to five top executives. Those payments are a share of the profits, mostly in the form of stock in the company. The rate of profit on the capital invested works out to 18%. Because of the big 2017 US corporate tax give-away, General Dynamics saved nearly half a billion dollars.

Since General Dynamics has 107,000 workers, its profit was \$42,000 per worker in 2018. That means that the value that workers created that was NOT paid for by the company (surplus value) was nearly as large as the wages that many workers actually got!

BAE Systems was a little less successful in exploiting its workforce. Their profits were \$2.747 billion, plus \$11.5 million for the top execs. (The BAE CEO was paid 33 times as much as the average BAE worker). BAE employed 85,800

workers, for an average of \$32,156 of unpaid value per worker.

The US Navy is now growing, with 14 new ships and a new aircraft carrier. Some of these ships will be built in San Diego and both NASSCO and BAE will be hiring. Workers need these jobs but like any job, signing up means being exploited, since much of our work is unpaid.

Building ships can benefit humanity, and under communism it will. Under capitalism, however, all work is organized to benefit the capitalists. All jobs, including health care or teaching, must result in profit or prepare workers to be used to make profits.

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

None of this military buildup aims to protect the masses anywhere, even in the country where the ships, planes or tanks are built. The US plan for a 350-ship navy is to make it easier to project its military power over the whole globe. The only reason for US Navy ships to sail the Persian Gulf or the South China Sea is to control those places (especially their oil) and protect the investments and profits of US big business.

Capitalism can't be fixed. Capitalists exploit workers and fight to maintain profits. It is the na-

### SHIPYARD WORKERS: WHO IS TELLING YOU NOT TO READ *RED* *FLAG?*

We hear that San Diego bosses are spreading lies about this paper and telling workers not to read it. Capitalists own the media, run the schools and get religions to support them. They don't want us to know the truth about their system. The only way to find out how to replace capitalist hell we live in with communism, the society run by workers, is in *Red Flag* (and on our website <http://icwpredflag.org>). Read *Red Flag* and share it with other workers! We tell the truth.

ture of the beast. Trade unionism, elections, trade deals, peace treaties and compromises can't change that.

Our only choice is to organize communist revolution and bring about a whole new situation. Communism is not like socialism in Russia and China, that still had exploitation, inequality, money, nations and international conflict. Communism is organized around everyone working and sharing what they make to meet everyone's needs. Join ICWP and help mobilize the masses of the whole world for a communist society.

## MINERS STOP A COAL TRAIN

HARLAN COUNTY, USA, August 5—"No Pay! We Stay!" reads the sign by the railroad tracks in Harlan County, Kentucky. Laid-off coal miners have been blocking nearly a hundred coal cars loaded with \$1 million of coal since July 29.

The action of workers blocking coal at the point of production, taking possession of the wealth they produced as a means to pressure the company, demonstrates the potential of workers fighting for their class interests as a revolutionary force.

When these miners join with other workers, students and soldiers in a communist revolution, we can build a world where we produce what workers need and share the fruits of our labor. That's unlikely to be coal—a major source of global warming.

In the meantime, coal miners are bearing the brunt of the decline of the industry that they have spent their whole working lives in. The company has filed for bankruptcy. Workers' paychecks have bounced. They can't access the money put aside in their 401(k) accounts.

"The deck is stacked," said a *Red Flag* reader who grew up in the region. "Bankruptcy has always served the corporation." And even when

the law requires companies to post a bond to require reserves to pay workers, that law is not enforced.

The community has shown up for these miners, bringing food, water, and tents, and taking turns blocking the tracks. Coal miners in Harlan County, and in the region in general, have a militant history of class struggle. They defied the bosses' law and took on the bosses' gun thugs in strikes in the 1930s and the 1970s.

"Nothing has really changed. Profits over people is still the game. We need to support even a spark of rebellion in these workers," said our friend. "Break the law..weld the train wheels to the tracks...Go for the throat of this blood-sucking bunch."

As our friend agreed, reform struggles are always defensive. You fight like hell, win a little, but the capitalists take it back and more in the end. Only communist revolution will allow us to build a world without these capitalists and their system.



## BOEING 737 from page 1

layoffs," concluded a machinist.

### Collective Labor Is the Answer

These low-paid subcontracted software programmers and engineers were purposely isolated from the production floor. Their only connection was through management. That made it easier for profit-hungry executives to dictate shortcuts that turned out to be deadly.

At the same time, the bosses faced a lot of pushback from experienced engineers in the Seattle area who questioned the airworthiness of the

MAX. Where possible, shop floor workers alerted them to what turned out to be fatal flaws, such as the tendency of the angle-of-attack sensors to give false readings.

In the end, those that made the final decisions ignored the collective experience of engineers and production workers. In fact, collective experience was considered an impediment to maximizing profits. "Everything you haven't done is easy," was how one engineer characterized the bosses' arrogance.

In communism, those that do the work will make the decisions. Work centers will be built

around collective labor and collective decision making.

The separation between engineers and shop workers will quickly be ended. Our plan is to merge mental and manual labor.

We will no longer need the parasitic bureaucracy that supports profit and exploitation, including managers, executives and capitalist finance officials. And no more racist and xenophobic excuses!

As the recent crashes that cost 346 lives show, communist revolution is already a life-and-death issue.



## PUERTO RICO UPRISING: NEED COMMUNIST REVOLUTION, NOT REFORM

August 5 — “We are tired of the abuse, of so many years of corruption,” said a Puerto Rican protester. “We are here to make a revolution.”

Mass anger has been simmering since Hurricane Maria (September 2017) and even before.

...Over nine months without electric power — after the contract to restore power went to a pal of the US Interior Secretary.

...Layoffs, public school closures, university fee hikes, public pensions under attack — by orders of a fiscal control board (“junta”) appointed by Washington D.C. — after predatory banks forced Puerto Rico into bankruptcy.

...Staggering unemployment, especially among youth. Grinding poverty. Food insecurity for over half the children. While politicians of both parties brazenly enrich themselves through cronyism and fraud.

“There’s an indignation that they walk all over you, day after day,” said a young mother. “The people can’t take it anymore.”

The simmering anger boiled over with the publication of 900 pages of sexist, homophobic, threatening and just plain nasty chat message logs involving President Ricky Rosselló and a dozen top advisors.

One hundred protesters, organized by radical women, greeted Rosselló at the airport on July 11 when he rushed back from France. They demanded his resignation and an end to the “junta.”

The movement ramped up until July 22, when close to a million workers and youth marched on San Juan. That’s over a third of the adult population!

Rosselló had to resign. Pedro Pierluisi, his re-

placement (for now), is highly unpopular. His brother-in-law is chairman of the “junta.” A constitutional crisis looms.

**Masses remain in the streets.**

“We are demanding a real and radical change in this country... We didn’t demand the resignation of a corrupted government, for having another equally corrupted,” declared another protester.

Every capitalist government is corrupt, by its very nature. A capitalist state exists exactly to enable a tiny ruling class to squeeze every penny it can from the working masses. No capitalist class, no imperialist power is our friend.

The real, radical change we need is the overthrow of capitalism itself. It’s the reorganization of all of society on communist principles: collectivity, struggle, commitment and sharing.

If a communist party with a mass base were active in Puerto Rico, there would be a revolutionary situation right now. It’s time to build the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP) in Puerto Rico and everywhere.

**For A Communist World**

The ICWP is a “communist party without borders” that fights for “a communist world without borders.” That won’t happen all at once.

As different areas are liberated, we will help each other build and extend communist society. Each revolution will inspire more! Eventually the whole world will be communist and there will be no nations at all.

Capitalists try to make workers believe that we need their money in order to get anything done. But it’s our labor that transforms natural resources into things that people can use.

Communist revolution will enable us to decide collectively what we need and how to produce it without money. We won’t need markets or exchange. Instead, we’ll share.

For example, Puerto Rico has a lot of potential solar, wind, hydroelectric



**A Mural in San Juan:**  
“We remember our 4645 dead” and “PROMESA—the US program of fiscal oversight—is POVERTY!”

and other renewable energy sources. It could easily become self-sufficient in food. And — most important — it has workers with a wide variety of skills and experience. Why would anyone except a capitalist need money?

All it needs is a party — ICWP — to mobilize everyone to build communism.

Actually, workers everywhere have the ability to organize communist society. Even in the fairly inhospitable Kalahari Desert in southern Africa, the !Kung San supported themselves for millennia in an early form of communism.

**Make a Difference**

Rosselló’s chat message logs have been called “the last drop that overflowed the glass.” Or “the straw that broke the back of the Puerto Rican camel.”

These are metaphors for a very general law of development: Quantitative change can transform into qualitative change. Outrage developed, bit by bit, until it exploded into action. A few people, then some more, and more, turned into something different: a mass movement.

There are small things that any one of us can do to promote communism. Talk about these ideas with friends. Share *Red Flag* with as many people as you can. Write a letter about the results.

The sum of our actions will be more than the parts. It will become a revolutionary army for communism that will change the whole nature of the world.



## REVIEW: “WHEN THEY SEE US”

“When They See Us” is a Netflix four-part miniseries, released on May 31, 2019. It recounts the true story of five teenagers who were wrongfully arrested and convicted in the April 1989 beating and rape of a female jogger, in New York’s Central Park. The five teenagers were 14-16 years old at the time and were coerced into confessing to the assault. The defendants were black or Hispanic; the victim was white. They were prosecuted for the ultimate crime in American imagery, a black man sexually assaulting a white woman.

Four of the defendants were 14 years old and served seven years in juvenile facilities before being transferred to adult jail at age 21. One of the defendants, who had a hearing loss and a learning disability, was 16 at the time of conviction and served more than 13 years in violent adult prisons.

Their convictions were overturned in 2002 due to DNA evidence and a confession from serial rapist Macias Reyes.

“When They See Us” became the most watched show in the U.S. since its premiere. It has been streamed to 23 million people and received 16 Emmy nominations.

The series portrays a racist legal system and a

hellish penal system, as well as racist media hysteria that put the five in prison. Donald Trump did his part. In May 1989, as the case was headed to trial, then real estate developer, Trump spent \$85,000 placing a full-page ad in four newspapers, including the *New York Times*, under the headline, “Bring Back the Death Penalty. Bring Back Our Police!”

The intended audience for “When They See Us” is young people—potential voters. This is not aimed at adults in their forties and elders who know past racist history such as frame-up of the Scottsboro Nine (Alabama, 1931) or the murder of Emmett Till (Mississippi, 1955).

Young potential voters today have negative experiences with the police such as those depicted in the miniseries. Trump’s attacks on immigrants and his position that the Central Park Five are guilty make him a potential target for recruiting young voters, which would help the Democrats in the 2020 presidential election.

What does Ava DuVernay, the producer and director say? “Our real goal is to be able to say, ‘Go America.’ Let’s do this. Let’s change this. You can’t change what you don’t know, so we came together to show you what you may not know.”

**What you may not know**

Communists must show workers “what you may not know.” On the job, at schools, in mass organizations, and to friends, we must explain how capitalism needs racism and that capitalist rulers use racism to keep their power. They control and use the media, the “nightly news,” movies, and elections, regardless of party. They build illusions in capitalist reforms, to deceive, manipulate, and divide workers.

The title, “When They See Us,” serves capitalism’s racist rulers’ interests by promoting distrust, division, and fear among workers: “They” can be interpreted as White people; “us” people of color.

**Let’s change this. How?**

We change this by building a base for and winning the masses to communism.

A communist system without money, cops or jails—based on collective work, decision making, and sharing resources according to need will end the material basis of racism. What if there is an attempt to bring back racism? The communist collective would deal with it and put it down.

**What is to be done now?**

We must build a base for communist class consciousness and awareness, read and distribute *Red Flag*, and recruit masses to the ICWP.



## TURKEY: NATIONALISM VS. COMMUNISM

August 4—Turkish President Erdogan threatened to invade northeast Syria. He wants to take over areas controlled by the Kurdish militias backed by the US.

This is only one of a series of sharpening contradictions between the US and Turkey.

On July 15, the European Union imposed sanctions on Turkey for sending natural gas drilling ships and warships to Cypriot waters in the eastern Mediterranean. The Turkish bosses want to control these resources and keep them from Cyprus, Israel, and the US.

And on July 31, the deadline the United States had set for Turkey to abandon its deal with Russia for the S-400 missile system expired. The US government is still considering imposing punitive sanctions.

The decline of US imperialist influence in the Middle East has given Erdogan an opportunity. He and the Turkish capitalists he represents dream of regaining the power and prestige, as well as some of the territory, of the old Ottoman Empire. They hope Russia and China can help.

### Capitalism Invented Nations and Nationalism

For over 600 years Turkey was the center of the Ottoman Empire but it did not exist as a nation.

With its defeat in World War I, the Ottoman Empire was divided among the British and French imperialists. They allowed the Greeks to occupy most of Anatolia. This became the modern Turkish Republic when in 1922 Mustafa Kemal (Ataturk), led a national liberation movement and expelled the Greek army and all other imperialists.

### Nationalism: A Fatal Weakness of the International Communist Movement

World War I gave birth to the Russian Revolution, which inspired workers all over the world. In 1920, ethnic Turkish communists founded the Turkish Communist Party (TCP) in Baku, Azerbaijan, then part of the new Soviet Union.

Fifteen leaders of the TCP left Baku in 1921, and entered Turkey openly, thinking Ataturk was a friend in arms. He had them arrested and immediately executed.

The international communist movement, led by Soviet Russia, supported the national liberation of oppressed nations as part of the worldwide struggle against capitalism and imperialism. In spite of the murder of their Turkish comrades, they supported Ataturk politically, economically and militarily.

Unlike the communists, the Turkish rulers understood that communist internationalism and nationalism were enemies to the death. They wrote then: “When a soldier realizes that there does not have to be a fatherland, he will not have to go out to defend it. Hearing that there does not have to be hatred of nations, he will not go out and fight the Greeks.”

The old communist movement, however, continues to support national liberation movements even today. We have learned from their mistakes.

### Bosses need nationalism to win workers to war

The struggle among rival imperialists for world domination is driving capitalism worldwide to fascism, wider wars and eventually world war.

The rulers push nationalism and racism to win us to see other workers as our enemies and to fight and die for their blood-soaked profits and empires.

We are one international working class. Our interest is to turn these rulers’ wars into revolutionary wars for communism. When we destroy all capitalist-imperialist exploiters we can build a world without money, racism, sexism, xenophobia, borders, nations and wars for profits.

Thus, the ideological struggle between communism and nationalism/racism within our ranks is crucial. The outcome of this struggle will determine whether the working class successfully mobilizes the masses for communist revolution, or whether our class enemy mobilizes us to help perpetuate exploitation and wage slavery.

### Workers in Turkey and World Wide Need Communism

Erdogan won re-election in 2018 based on his nationalist rhetoric and military adventures in Syria. Too many in Turkey harbor the dangerous illusion that their lives will improve by supporting Erdogan’s fight for a new Turkish empire. Many hope to gain by allying with Russian or Chinese imperialists, whose goal is to replace the US as the world’s dominant exploiter and murderer.

Facing galloping inflation, workers have struck at airports, and construction and metal industries. Kurdish workers continue fighting against the racist oppression and repression they face. These angry masses must see the need for mobilizing the masses for communism.

The fight to mobilize the working class internationally for communism is the key fight of our time. Collectives of workers everywhere will plan what to produce, produce it and distribute it according to the masses’ needs. Freed of nationalism, the only war we will fight is the war to end the rule of the capitalist war makers and build the communist world we deserve.

## LETTERS

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## CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

### Letter to a Comrade in El Salvador

We read your letter and we liked what you had to say about communism and how you helped the little girl that needed to use the restroom. We both think it is good to give your ideas to other people because it opens their minds so that they can think differently. It’s really good that you explained communism to your co-worker. Communism can serve and benefit everyone because all of us will be able to make the best things that we may need and share them.

We have studied a little about surplus value and we believe that the workers deserve the full value of what they produce. But if this was the case, we would not have any bosses. The bosses steal the money from the workers and they pay the workers a little. This is the way the bosses increase their capital.

In the *Communist Manifesto*, it says “there are two enemy camps, in two great antagonistic classes: the bourgeoisie and the proletariat.” The working class is the proletarians and the bosses are the bourgeoisie and there is a constant battle going on until the working class defeats the capitalist class.

You remind us of one of our mothers because she used to work very hard like you do. We are glad you’re doing something good for working people.

After reading your letter and getting to know a little about surplus value and the *Communist Manifesto* both of us are strongly considering joining the ICWP and being part of the movement.

With respect and love,

—Two 10th-grade high school students in Los Angeles, USA.

California this July. What made the Saturday afternoon event so powerful was the spirit of solidarity that one could feel between the participants.

The birthday celebrant, who is white, was himself a victim of police brutality by Antioch Police. The Oscar Grant committee defended this person with an activist campaign. Many of the participants of the picnic were also white, but Oscar Grant was Black.

Oscar Grant, a 22-year-old African-American man, was fatally shot in the early morning hours of New Year’s Day 2009 by BART Police Officer Johannes Mehserle in Oakland, California. Grant was unarmed and murdered, shot in the back while lying on the metro platform under police custody. The BART cop was later found guilty of involuntary manslaughter and served one year in prison before being released.

The victims of police terror are primarily working class and are of many different ethnicities. Police terror can be successfully organized against as a struggle against state terror, with the goal of communist revolution. Solidarity must be on a class basis.

The picnic demonstrated the possibility that communist revolutionary unity can occur on a multi-ethnic basis in the United States. We must celebrate this unity and share its success to all far and wide.

—Comrade in California, USA

### Need Multiracial Communist Fightback Against State Terror

The birthday of a member of the Oakland, California-based Oscar Grant Committee Against Police Brutality provided the backdrop for a fun Saturday afternoon in Antioch,

**TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS, August 6—Thousands take the streets to call for the resignation of President Hernández in the light of new corruption allegations and the ongoing fight against privatization of schools and medical services.**



## LETTERS

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## CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

**LEARNING AND WORKING**

Thanks to the South African autoworker comrade who wrote about how the bosses use his “apprenticeship” program to super-exploit him.

My college just got a grant to expand apprenticeship programs. This fits with the statewide “Guided Pathways” policy that is supposed to get students through college and into jobs faster.

Students aren’t supposed to “waste time” studying things they “won’t need” on the job.

Talking about this with co-workers, I have noticed several contradictions.

First, most people go to college largely to get a job, or a better job. The sooner (and cheaper) the better. Job-oriented programs are appealing.

But these jobs only exist for some boss to exploit them. Capitalists decide what students will or won’t “need.” They define this as narrowly as possible. In extreme cases, students may only learn enough to do one specific job for one specific company (say, Apple or Cisco).

The bosses used to pay new workers for on-the-job training. Now, future workers must pay for their own training. Sometimes with loans that take decades to repay. Also, workers’ taxes pay for their training at public colleges.

The main contradiction comes from the class struggle. The “jobs” students need for short-term survival are not (as many think) their ticket to “the good life.” The more people who are trained, the more competition there is. Wages go down.

And the capitalists must find ways to automate these jobs, to cheapen production and stay competitive. Then workers have to go back to school for yet more training.

We can resolve this contradiction only by fighting for communism – eliminating social classes and capitalist relations of production. In communism everybody will learn many skills – mainly while doing many types of work. We’ll organize production to meet everyone’s needs. Sharing will replace buying and selling. Meaningful work will replace exploitative jobs.

More students should do like our comrade in South Africa: join an apprenticeship or another training program to get a job where they can organize co-workers for communism.

Some criticize “school to work” programs by correctly noting that what employers “need” for workers to know is not the same as what workers actually need to know to defend their class interests on the job and in the political sphere. But here’s another contradiction. They defend a “liberal education” that itself has never taught students what they actually need to know. Capitalist schooling will never teach us what we need to destroy capitalism and build communism!

We must teach ourselves and each other. As Brecht advised workers in his poem “In Praise of Learning:” “You must know everything! /You must take over the leadership!”

We learn to do communist work “on the job.” We learn how to do it better with the collective

study of communist philosophy.

As we build communist society, many of us will learn much more about the natural world and how it works. We will learn from books and discussion, reading and writing, as well as in production. The study of history, literature, the arts and more will help us understand how to build a communist world.

I have raised these ideas with co-workers and students. We chat in the hallways, we meet on committees, we stick together against the attacks of administrators and politicians. About a dozen co-workers read *Red Flag*. We are making plans to spread these ideas further.

—California (USA) teacher

**ARE WE REALLY FREE?**

We cannot run away from the fact that we are still enslaved. The capitalist society is ruling the working class, the students along with the minors...how so?

First of all, the working class is “brainwashed” by the bosses: Making them believe that without them they wouldn’t survive in this world. Making them work long hours, threatening the workers, etc. But if you really look at it, it’s actually the bosses that need the workers the most because without them they can’t make sales. Hence when the workers go on strike for a raise or whatever reason, they threaten to fire and hire someone else. They make the working class believe that they are the ones that need the jobs more than them, when it’s actually the other way around.

Secondly, there’s the students. Students can’t get a “better education” without paying huge amounts of money, leaving them indebted and depressed. And once they find work, they earn a small amount of money that won’t cover the school debts. They end up being the bosses’ slave, bowing down for everything the boss says. Where’s the freedom?

Thirdly, the minors are taught from a very young age that money is everything, education is the key to success. They are not teaching them the struggle they have to go through all for money.

Where is this freedom? What are we really free from?

Just take a moment and imagine how simple life would be without capital. Where everyone would be in the collective, where everyone’s opinion matters, no sexism, no one superior than the other. International Communist Workers’ Party is here to make that change and that change is possible with your input and support.

Let’s unite and fight the struggle for better living...Aluta continua!

—Comrade in South Africa

**SING IN ONE VOICE FOR COMMUNISM**

The capitalist society is ruling and ruining the world. Many years ago, the youth of South Africa fought for free education, equal rights and freedom. But as the youth of today, are we really free? Do we have equal rights? Is there freedom?

No. Instead we are suffering even more.

We are money slaves. We believe that without money we haven’t “made it in life.” In order to get better education, we have to pay hard cash for it. Why is that?

When working we all know men and women don’t earn the same salary even though they are doing the same work and working same hours (sexism).

We are not free of wage slavery. But as the youth of today we are in debt. We work hard and

long hours to pay our debts. We pay too much varsity fees. Some take loans, paying thousands of school fees, but end up earning R4000+ as a monthly salary...is that fair? No.

We end up being depressed, some dropping out of school, overworking ourselves because we are forever indebted.

Can you imagine how precious life would be without money? Yes! That’s where communism comes in. Anything and everything is possible if we all unite and sing in one voice. It may seem impossible to live a life without money but it is 100% possible. Capitalist society has ruined everyone. It is time for that to change and we need each and everyone to be a part of the change.

—New mom in South Africa

**Learning Dialectical Materialism Helps Us Do Better and Overcome Weaknesses, Doubts, Obstacles**

The collective, for the past three weeks or so, has been studying dialectical materialism, the communist philosophy of knowledge and change. New comrades are learning from old comrades who have a bit of experience on dialectics. The process is not one-way. Also, comrades with experience are learning and expanding their knowledge as a result of this collective studying.

This communist knowledge has been helpful and somehow illuminating for the new comrades. We studied the laws of dialectics: The Unity and Struggle of Opposites, Negation of Negation and Quantity into Quality. Having analysed these laws and their importance in our revolutionary struggle towards communism, it has helped to clarify and answer some doubts which some new comrades had about the movement.

For example, one comrade thought at first that we were too passive, not urgent enough when we were holding meetings, distributing the *Red Flag* and having collective discussions with fellow workers, friends etc. She thought what the collective was doing was not useful.

She changed her mind after having understood how quantity can change into quality (the growth of the party). And how meetings and discussions can help us resolve our internal contradictions, which in turn strengthens the party. She said, “Now I see where mobilising the masses comes from and how the party can grow from distributing the *Red Flag* and having discussions and meetings to critically discuss our weaknesses”.

We are putting the knowledge we have gained from this into practice. We are realising the dialectical relation between reading and writing. Since we have been reading and discussing certain articles (especially page 2) as a collective (while encouraging our friends to read the whole paper not only in the meetings but as individuals), more comrades have started to write more for the paper. They are putting the party’s line at the forefront of their writing.

We are studying dialectics not just to know about dialectical materialism but also to improve on the theories through the experience of our struggle. We see the need to change this crisis-infested capitalism, which brings about exploitation and misery to the working class from India, USA, Brazil, South Africa etc.

In South Africa, the latest stats show millions losing jobs, unemployment at all-time high, job cuts from every sector. Growing and mobilising masses to the party has never been more urgent. We are committed to expanding exponentially from the moderate growth of the collectives.

—Comrades in South Africa





## A Century of Weaponized Xenophobia:

### IT'S TIME FOR COMMUNIST SOLUTIONS, NOT VAGUE HOPES

"I get furious every time I hear what's going on at the border," said a Boeing friend who actively fights anti-immigrant attacks.

He is reading two recent books: *The Guarded Gate*, by Daniel Okrent, and *Superior: The Return of Race Science*, by Angela Sarini. The first begins in the late 19th century and ends in 1965. *Superior* brings us up-to-date.

Both demand we confront the irreversible entanglement of racism and xenophobia. They expose the poisonous role of capitalist race science in building anti-immigrant fascism.

They note, in passing, how the ruling class used xenophobia to build anti-communism. Unsurprisingly, they don't consider how communism will eliminate these lethal combinations. You'll have to turn to *Red Flag* and the ICWP migration crisis pamphlet for that.

*Gate* and *Superior* leave us with empty declarations of hope. But mobilizing the already-active masses for communism delivers real-world solutions.

#### Racist Hysteria and Immigration Restriction

For decades, the U.S. ruling class built racist hysteria, culminating in the Immigration Act of 1924. This law virtually barred immigrants from Southeastern Europe.

*Gate* traces the eugenics movement that divided Europe into three "races." The worst were the "shorter, darker pigmented, mercurial" Mediterraneans (like Italians and Jews) supposedly "prone to larceny, kidnapping, assault, murder and rape." For decades, the Carnegie Institute funded the Cold Spring Harbor research center to "scientifically" prove this.

The orgy of racist xenophobia continued after 1924. Harvard's John Trevor, using Rockefeller money, pushed for further restrictions. He built coalitions "to save the Immigration Act" and against "pacifists and communists."

The parallels are all around us today. Trump uses the same rhetoric.

Last month, University of Pennsylvania law professor Amy Wax promoted an immigration policy favoring immigrants from Western countries over non-Western ones. "Our country will be better off with more whites and fewer non-whites," she clarified.

The Dean of this prestigious school took away her responsibilities. But, citing "academic freedom" and "tenure," he refuses to fire her. (See box for history)

*Gate* ends on a hopeful note: the enactment of the 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act. Politicians heralded the end of the bad old days of xenophobia supercharged by racism. But they were so wrong!

#### Race Science Never Disappeared

"It never ends!" countered our Boeing friend, based on his decades of fighting racism and xenophobia.

According to *Superior*, race science never disappeared. It went underground. Shielded by universities and funded by rich capitalists, race scientists persisted.

Some geneticists who would never consider themselves racist talk of populations, not races. The word "race" may be unpopular, but population genetics can serve the same purpose. Saini



**2014—Women in Peru protest their forced sterilization under a "public health" program of the corrupt and murderous Fujimori administration, supported by USAID dollars. Tens of thousands (possibly hundreds of thousands)—many of them rural indigenous women—were coerced or misled into surgical sterilization between 1995 and 2000. A full reckoning of these crimes has not yet been made.**

figures that "scientists are trapped by the categories they use."

*Superior* covers caste in India, xenophobic movements in Europe and the U.S., and the rise of race science in China. Again, racism and xenophobia are irreversibly entwined. It is ridiculous to argue, as a New York Times columnist did recently, that "immigration restrictions are not inherently racist."

Saini asserts that "intellectual racism has always existed... It is still the toxic seed at the heart of academia. However dead you might think it is, it needs only a little water, and now it's raining."

But she also says that some will "keep reaching for fresher, more elaborate [racist and xenophobic] theories when the old ones fail... Well, keep reaching... One day there will be nothing left to reach for."

What leads to this apparent contradiction? *Superior* calls race science bad science or pseudo-science, not capitalist science.

Saini concludes, "Dismantling the edifice of race is more than just tweaking language, it is about fundamentally rewriting the way we think about human difference." But it will take a lot more than writing and thinking.

#### In Search of Communist Answers

Capitalism must divide people by sex, race, and nationality. Under capitalism, science is a pawn in this bloody game of dividing and weakening the working class.

Only communist science can "resist the urge to group people" according to sex, race and nationality. Communism organizes a collective culture supported by collective work. There is no room for sexism, racism and nationalism.

A decade ago, a comrade fought for the union to take a stand against xenophobia. Our friend defended him. The comrade "was trying to do the right thing," he told anticommunist union officials.

Today, our friend also wants to defend com-



## Over A Hundred Years of Elite Universities and Xenophobic Racists

Academic racists are coming out of the woodwork—again.

Last month, University of Pennsylvania law professor Amy Wax claimed that nonwestern immigrants are loud and create too much litter. That's why she favors immigration from Western countries over non-Western ones. She wants "more whites and fewer nonwhites." She maintains this is not racist because her problem with nonwhite immigrants is cultural not biological.

More than a thousand university students and alumni signed a petition drafted by Penn's Latinx Law Students Association. Thousands are demanding Penn fire her.

The Dean of the Law School condemned her remarks but won't fire her. The usual excuses fill the air: academic freedom and tenure.

The first major U.S. campaign for academic freedom and tenure was organized to protect the racist, xenophobic Stanford professor Edward Ross.

In 1900, Ross pilloried the Central Pacific Railroad for hiring "coolie labor." His attack against Chinese workers rested on the theory of "race suicide." He was among the first to give scholarly credentials to the idea that the white "race" would be polluted by an influx of nonwhite immigrants.

Leland Stanford—source of the university's founding fortune—ran the railroad. He made this fortune super-exploiting Chinese labor.

His widow, Jane Stanford, raised a stink. Ross resigned. The incident contributed to the formation of the American Association of University Professors and its signature mandate: academic freedom.

In communism, the battle over ideas will take place within the struggle to build communist social relations and production. Universities—divorced from the struggle of the masses to build this new world—will cease to exist. This struggle will finally put an end to academic racists and xenophobes. The sooner, the better.

Read our pamphlet: |

### COMMUNIST EDUCATION FOR A CLASSLESS SOCIETY

available at:

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

munism. He knows hundreds of high school students and their families from all over the world. He and other comrades are in ideal positions to build international solidarity.

In universities and high schools, in factories and the streets, we can recruit the new communists needed to finally end weaponized xenophobia. The mobilized masses will find and fight for communist solutions.

**May, 2019 — Japanese protesters fight for and win compensation and an apology for people forcibly sterilized under a 1948 eugenics law that was not repealed until 1996. Reasons included physical or cognitive difficulties, mental illness, Hansen's disease (leprosy – treatable, and not a genetic ailment) or "behavioral problems."**