

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

U.S. Political Crisis

FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM NOT DEMOCRACY

USA, February 11 — “I had to leave one fascist country as a child,” sputtered a co-worker from Argentina, almost too angry to talk. “Now do I have to leave another?”

Emotions ran high as the US Senate voted – as expected – to acquit Trump of his impeachment charges. Trump takes his acquittal as license to become more openly dictatorial.

“Is democracy dead or dying?” many ask. That’s the wrong question.

Instead ask: “How can we the masses liberate ourselves? How can we organize ourselves to build and run a world where everyone’s needs are met?” The answer isn’t “democracy.” It’s “communism.”

Democracy in Action: Capitalist Dictatorship

Democracy is supposedly “rule by the people.” But who is ruling and who is being ruled?

In this capitalist world, capitalists rule. Some politicians are themselves capitalists like Trump and Bloomberg. Others become capitalists while in office, like Obama and Mitch McConnell. Most rely on capitalist backers.

Always they represent the tiny class that owns and profits from almost all the means of production. Their laws are backed by armed force. They exercise power over the industrial working class in the US and elsewhere in the world and over the broader masses of people.

US capitalism’s famous democracy tells us that “your vote is your voice.” We’re told: Vote, then shut up and work. Especially shut up at work. This is not “rule by the people.” It is capitalist dictatorship.

The Trump administration recently suggested requiring “classical” (Greek-Roman) architecture for new federal buildings. This resembles the Nazi revolt against “modernism.” But ancient Greece was the birthplace of democracy — and a society built on slave labor. The same with Rome: even its most radical leaders limited voting rights to free men.

Southern plantation architecture honored the Greek combination of democracy and slavery. That included mansions of “founding fathers” Washington, Jefferson and others. Democracy today is a political form by which capitalists maintain their rule over us, their wage slaves. It’s the flip side of fascism, not its opposite.

Communist Revolution, Not Democracy, Will Defeat Fascism

US democracy has always included aspects of fascism, even under Democratic presidents. Exclusion, internment and deportation of immigrant workers. Violent racist terror against black workers during and after slavery, up to the present. Suppression of communists and other anti-capitalist fighters. An increasingly corporate state. Ever-expanding executive powers.

Democracy can’t defeat fascism because both

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INTERNATIONAL WORKING WOMEN’S DAY

Women Lead Massive Struggle in India

COMMUNISTS FIGHT FOR FREEDOM FROM WAGE SLAVERY

“It is hard to describe our emotions when we saw a 92-year-old Muslim grandmother camping out with thousands of other women in the frigid nights of New Delhi,” said Asha, an ICWP comrade in Bengaluru. She and many of her neighbors are inspired by the ongoing occupation of Shaheen Bagh (a New Delhi neighborhood) against fascist and xenophobic laws.

“I am determined more than ever before to fight for communism,” Asha continued. “Both women and men have been supporting Shaheen Bagh. They are open to communism. My coworkers, too, want to know more about communism.”

Asha works in a garment factory. She and another comrade have started their own “Shaheen Bagh” collective to talk about communism and communist philosophy (dialectical materialism).

Since December, millions of women and men in India have fought in the streets against anti-Muslim citizenship laws and police violence. A group of women shielding a male comrade from police attackers became a symbol of the fight against capitalism.

Major universities in and around New Delhi have been on strike for four months. Desperate to break the students’ rising militancy, police carried out a military operation on Jamia Millia University in New Delhi on December 13, 2019.

The next day, students (mostly female) confronted police, forcing them to retreat. Chants in Hindi reverberated all over India: “Jamia’s women have shown the way, Jamia’s women have forced police to flee!” (Jamiaki ladhkione rasta dikhaya hai, Jamiaki ladhkione police ko bhagaya hai)

Capitalism Creates Rape Culture

Modi, the fascist Prime Minister of India, went to Kolkata, a major industrial city, to organize support for his xenophobic citizenship law. Over 100,000 women confronted him.

They performed a Bengali version of a Chilean song, “A rapist in your path.” The song blames the police, the judiciary and political leaders for sexual abuse and rape culture. The Bengali version called Modi a rapist and ended with a call for revolution.

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These mass upsurges, often led by women, create tremendous opportunities for the ICWP to grow. Our university collective is increasing. Our comrades in the garment and auto industries are organizing a weekend communist school to deepen our understanding of dialectical materialism. Comrades and readers of *Red Flag* in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and Afghanistan have been inspired to organize in their own areas.

These mass uprisings are taking place in the midst of severe, many-faceted crisis of capitalism. A government study shows that India expects the largest human migration on the planet. Millions of rural people are losing their small farms and flocking to the cities. In next five years, an estimated 600 million dispossessed will be scrambling for slave wages.

“Azadi from Wage Slavery”

Capitalism is dependent on wage slavery. It requires a massive supply of wage slaves, including a “reserve army” of the unemployed. Close to a quarter of all adult women in India are among these wage slaves. On average they earn 65% of the pay of men doing the same job.

When capitalists want to expand production, they encourage women to work outside the home. In slow times, they discourage this with sexist lies that a “woman’s place is in the home.”

Capitalism throws the working class, the wage slaves, women and men, into direct confrontation with their capitalist exploiters. Communist revolution will resolve this contradiction by eliminating the oppressor capitalists as a class. No one will need money or work for wages. Everyone’s work will be valued and everyone’s needs will be met.

The end of wage slavery and class distinctions will destroy the material basis of sexism in all its forms, including rape culture. The ICWP will use communist workers’ power to broaden the struggle that we carry on today against sexist ideas and habits. Communism and only communism can end the oppression of women!

A popular chant in the streets of India is “Azadi!” (freedom) ICWP comrades are injecting it with “Azadi from wage slavery.” Masses greet this slogan with tremendous enthusiasm.

A song written by Faiz, a poet communist from Pakistan, has become a battle cry in India: “We will see, inevitably we will see that the rulers with their heavy crowns will disappear like a strand of cotton. The masses will march, inevitably we will see that there will be no exploitation.”

The masses will see, inevitably, the need to mobilize for communism. We bring *Red Flag* and communist chants to the streets to hasten the process. If you are not yet a member of ICWP, join us! Inevitably we will see that communism will triumph.

February 14—Furious marchers, mostly women, protested against the murder of Ingrid Escamilla, 25, in Mexico City. One group gathered in front of the building where she was murdered. Larger, angrier, marches blamed the state and the press, which has published horrific photographs of her dead body.

Another woman dead in Mexico—with 1006 documented femicides in 2019, and certainly many more—and how many murdered by capitalism in all its forms worldwide? We—the international working class—are not fooled by all-women police squads controlling our protests or by assurances from Nelly Montealegre Diaz, Deputy Attorney for Victims and Community Services, that this case will be thoroughly and relentlessly investigated.

We demand an end to the violence against women! But how will that happen?

Violence against women is the most extreme form of the sexism that is built into class society. Not only do the rulers need sexism to divide men and women workers. The very relationships of production and distribution of commodities require relationships of power and sexist, racist and classist ideas that justify those relationships.

We start now to build the communist relationships—militant, loving, relationships of solidarity and struggle among the working masses of all genders—that will allow us to put an end to capitalist society. These relationships are the embryo of the new communist world we will build. We will work together to build a healthy society where no one will ever again be the victim of hate and violence.

Why Women in India Are Angry

India is steeped in appalling violence, especially against women—particularly Muslim and oppressed-caste women.

In Unnao, in 2017, a privileged-caste member of the ruling party BJP raped a 17-year-old girl. Her father died in prison after he was arrested in 2018 on some pretext. In July 2019, the young woman herself was injured, and three relatives killed, when a truck rammed their car. The rapists set her on fire, killing her as she was on her way to testify against them later that year.

In Indian Occupied Kashmir, in 2018, upper-caste Hindu men kidnapped an 8-year-old Muslim girl who was grazing the family cattle. They held her in a temple and raped her for weeks. Many protested the rapists but Hindu political parties protested the rapists’ imprisonment!

Dalits are India’s lowest-status group. In July 2019 a Dalit woman declared that her brother-in-law had been killed in police custody. In revenge, police arrested and gang-raped her.

In November 2019, four men (three Hindus and a Muslim) gang-raped a 26-year-old veterinarian in Hyderabad. Right-wing Hindu parties circulated fake Muslim names for all the accused. Parliamentarians called for their lynching.

Police took the accused to the scene of the crime. They killed them there, claiming that they tried to seize police weapons and escape. The investigator in charge had arranged such extra-judicial killings before.

Swami Nithyananda is one of India’s many capitalist multimillionaire “god-men.” He fled India recently amidst charges of rape and child abuse and purchased an island off Ecuador. Indian officials claimed that he left without a

passport although one cannot enter an airport in India without one.

Why is a simple word like “No” so confounding in a technologically advanced society? The prominent Indian actor Mahmood Farooqi was convicted in 2016 of raping a student at Delhi University. A high-court judge set aside his conviction, saying that a “feeble no” may mean “yes” to sex!

Rape has long been a weapon in wartime. Today it is also an instrument of power in times of alleged “peace.”

Like other forms of oppression, rape culture creates widespread fear. This helps capitalists steal surplus value, through low-cost or unpaid labor, from workers afraid of challenging class and caste hierarchies. It leads, also, to rape, domestic abuse and sexual assault of privileged-class women that perpetuate their second-class status.

The women leading the struggle against fascism and Islamophobia in India today are smashing the chains of fear. They are linking their own liberation to that of the working class and all oppressed masses.

These women and the men who fight alongside them must recognize that we can only end anti-woman and anti-worker and anti-Muslim violence by destroying the capitalist system that perpetuates them. That means mobilizing masses for a communist society.

Capitalism thrives on division. In contrast, communism requires unity. Communists don’t tolerate sexist violence. We educate ourselves and others to relate to workers and the broader masses as comrades.

With the victory of communist revolution, the masses will build a world that finally ends oppression.



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AFRICAN SOCIALISM IS NO SOLUTION

At work I overheard two of my colleagues debating about the land issue in South Africa and in Africa at large. One was raising a point that South African land should be returned to its rightful people (blacks). He continued by saying, “We are poor because our means of production are owned by white monopoly capitalists. If only the land can be owned by the state, then everyone will benefit from its wealth.”

X disagreed with this concept. He pointed



out that white people have expertise in handling natural resources better than black people. He made an example of Zimbabwe. He said, “Robert Mugabe took the land and all the natural resources from whites and chased them away. Look how Zimbabwe is now. Black people lack the expertise to produce peoples’ needs. All the means of production in Zimbabwe are owned by blacks but still black people are hungry.”

Y raised an issue about Zimbabwe being financially destabilized through investment by foreign countries and thus this makes Zimbabwe’s economy impossible to grow. This discussion escalated from being a poverty issue to a racism issue.

Y was blaming whites for blacks’ poverty and X was blaming blacks, saying black people are lazy, black people want to go to school and refuse to work hard.

I got involved in this conversation by saying, “white people are not to blame for our poverty, neither are blacks.” I said that “the fundamental cause of poverty is capitalism itself.”

Y agreed, saying that we should replace capitalism with an African socialist state.

I had to emphasize how dangerous a socialist state is. “The problem in capitalism is the exploitation of the working class,” I said. I continued by saying, “Yes, all means of production will be owned by the black state. You will work for a black government, just like you’re working for a white man today, and exploitation will not differ whatsoever. In a black socialist state, it will be black-on-black exploitation.”

I said that an answer is communism. A society without money. They did not understand how people can survive without money. We did not get further or deal with communism more because we were on duty. I do have Y’s number and I look forward to discuss communist ideas with him. I invited him to our meeting, but he couldn’t make it.

There is hope for communism. People are beginning to recognize the flaws of capitalism. And as communists we need to take such opportunities to win them to our side. Forward with communism!

—Comrade in South Africa

AEROSPACE WORKERS — FRIENDS OF ICWP—GRAPPLE WITH INTENSIFYING IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE

SEATTLE (USA), February 16— The Boeing factories are turning into case studies in the political ramifications of capitalism’s crisis. Each day comrades and friends must make decisions about what to say (or not to say) to their co-workers. The struggle between fascist and communist ideas is changing the landscape.

A week ago, a crew of about fifteen were asked what the last book was that they read. Richard, a *Red Flag* reader, declined to answer because “we aren’t supposed to talk about politics.” It turns out he was reading an exposé of Trump.

The next day Richard talked to a comrade, Danny. He admitted that the book was no big deal. It didn’t even have anything new.

Richard did, however, have a different kind of discussion with one of his co-workers. A young worker in his crew had voted for Trump in the last election. Richard’s friend now thought it was a big mistake and was planning to vote for Bernie this time.

“That’s fine,” Richard said to his co-worker, “but just understand that won’t result in any fundamental change.”

For example, the crisis of overproduction will still be with us. Only communism can end these kinds of crises once and for all (see page 5). The 737 MAX debacle is only the beginning.

Danny mentioned to Richard how a similar crisis led to fascism in the 1930s. Richard decided he would quit the Trump exposé and read *Fascism and Social Revolution*, a book written about that time by the Indian communist R. Palme Dutt. He was looking for a more effective way to explain what “fundamental change” was to this

young worker in his crew.

Next, Danny and Richard discussed that we should not avoid ideological debates. Political progress among the industrial working class—and the masses— demands that we boldly state our communist position in as mass a way as possible. Individual discussions are very important, but opportunities always arise where we can make the battle more public. We must seize those opportunities—especially in this time of crisis.

Our Boeing network of *Red Flag* readers will prepare the ground so we can seize these opportunities. Our network is not a collection of passive readers. We have semi-regular discussions about what the communist work portrayed in the paper means for us. Our comrades and friends will be more confident about struggle if they know there is a network of Boeing readers who will have our backs.

We must expand this network and turn semi-regular discussions into regular discussions. Next week, we are going to figure out who else Richard can get to read *Red Flag*.

Electability Is a Code Word for Reformism and Anti-Communism

Danny immediately reported on this discussion to Charles, another Boeing friend who already distributes 35 papers. He too has been shaken by the intense struggle for the hearts and minds of the working class—but in a different way.

Charles was inspired by the discussion between Richard and the ex-Trump voter. But Charles seemed to take a step back when we began to talk about “electability.”

Focusing on electability, as do all the Demo-

cratic party candidates, translates into reformism in the real world. For those in the party and around it, it implies not to raise communist politics too much with your co-workers.

It’s the opposite of the ICWP’s guiding principle: mobilize the masses for communism. It accepts the capitalist notion that we should fear the working class.

“Even [presidential candidate] Biden won’t put kids in cages,” Charles said to justify “electability.” But the militarization of the southern border did not start with Trump. The path was laid by ex-presidents Clinton, Bush and Obama. The only solution is to get rid of borders and only communism can do that.

Charles also decided to read a new book: one about the militarization of the southern border. But understanding the consequences of capitalism is not enough.

The contradictions of capitalism are intensifying the crisis. The crisis is upping the ante among the working class, especially in the Boeing factories. It presents us with many opportunities to struggle for communist politics. When we take advantage of these opportunities, we can overcome our hesitations, and the ICWP will grow.



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THE IMPORTANCE OF TAKING ACTION

Are you satisfied with today's society? That is the question I asked myself when I began my journey of attaining knowledge of trying to make sense of today's world.

If you are not satisfied, answers will be unveiled throughout the process of acquiring knowledge. It requires very little effort to read this paper **Red Flag** and expose the truth of the corrupt Capitalistic society we live in today.

Just by being open to different ideas – communist ideas – and willing to learn the possibility of a better society – communism – is one small step for us, the working class to make a difference. We are here to share this information to our co-workers, friends, and family. Exposure to the truth is Capitalism's biggest fear, truth that we the working class can attain and use in our favor.

I've asked myself: How did we get to the point in our society that we are in today? I've had sleepless nights wondering how I'm

going to eat after I paid my rent. The stress that is created of waiting for my next pay check so I can put food on the table is outrageous. I do not believe the creation of humanity was designed to be oppressed by the greed of the Capitalistic ideas that control our so-called "beautiful" nation.

A major issue we have today is the lack of the vital support that our society needs. When people don't get the vital support we need, only the working class suffers, not the ruling class.

I still don't understand why the working class have become numb to the abuse that only the working class has to cope with in our lives. I too had become numb. However, I've chosen to believe in something that can accomplish a healthy and a well-deserving society.

The destruction of Capitalism is key to remove the chaos we deal with and begin the healing process of our beautiful planet. This

Capitalistic society we live in today, which is fueled by greed, racism, and the destruction of our planet, is not what we as people are here to cope with at the pleasure and wrath of the Capitalistic ruling class.

You as the reader have a beautiful ability. That ability is to use and strengthen your mind at limitless boundaries. I challenge you as the reader to explore and understand why we, the working class, suffer as global citizens.

By us contesting the Capitalistic ideas and acquiring knowledge is the first step in having a better life. We challenge these oppressive Capitalistic ideas by attending communist study groups, watching videos, reading books, reading this paper and having well-informed members share information with you.

—Los Angeles Metro worker

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have the same root: capitalism.

The cry "Any blue [Democrat] will do" is an attempt to bully the many alienated workers and youth who hate Trump into voting against their interests. Choosing a Democrat, like choosing a Republican, is voting for exploitation and war and the fascist blue-shirts called cops. Look at the vicious racist record of Democratic candidate Bloomberg!

What About Bernie?

Trump calls Sanders a "communist." *Newsweek* magazine helpfully explains why he's not: Communism would have "no private property, and no class distinctions." In contrast, socialism "does not reject markets or property or profit but seeks to regulate these for purposes of social justice." This is Sanders' position, more accurately called "social democracy."

Socialism, historically, meant government ownership of the means of production. Sanders won't touch that! Socialism in the Soviet Union

and elsewhere maintained markets, class distinctions, the wage system and even profit. Nowhere did it lead to communism. On the contrary, it inevitably led back to undisguised capitalism.

Venezuela's "21st century socialism" did the same. Maduro just surrendered control of Venezuela's crucial oil industry to imperialist companies.

Sanders' "revolution" is reform. His social-democratic campaign builds anti-communism. He is no real threat to the capitalist class.

Mobilizing for Communism Can Defeat Fascism and Liberate the Masses

So how can the masses liberate ourselves? How can we organize ourselves to build and run a world where everyone's needs are met?

We need bullets, not ballots. Only armed insurrection and communist revolution – the dictatorship of the working masses over the capitalists—can destroy the power of the bosses who exploit and rule over us today.

To prepare for that fight we need to mobilize masses for communism now.

The communist goal of a world without private property or class distinctions must fire up the imagination of workers and youth everywhere. A world where cooperation and sharing replace bosses and markets.

Such a world will end the material basis of racism, sexism, xenophobia and more. It will erase all borders and barriers that divide us. In a communist world, the masses will make all decisions that affect us: from our workplaces to our neighborhoods to our planet.

That requires organization. By joining and building the International Communist Workers' Party today, you are helping to create the nucleus of that organization. Every copy of **Red Flag** that you distribute, every conversation you have about communism, every communist action you take makes far more of a difference than any vote you will ever cast.

THE INSURRECTION THE MASSES NEED IS FOR COMMUNISM

EL SALVADOR, February 15— "The insurrection will be by the masses or it will not happen," responded a comrade. A worker had asked about the call for insurrection against the Legislative Assembly, made by new president Nayib Bukele.

Bukele asked the Salvadoran people to present themselves in San Salvador at the National Assembly on Sunday, February 9. He wanted them to pressure this state body to approve a \$109 million loan, and to implement the third phase of their security plan called the Territorial Control Plan.

Thousands were present. Some were forced by their bosses. Others have the illusion that the president is doing the right thing about controlling the gangs.

The Territorial Control Plan, according to the president and his officials, is to guarantee the "security of the Salvadoran population." And that is why he says the approval of this loan is urgent. However, there are agreements between this government and a Mexican company (SeguriTech Integral Security) that specializes in the sale of security equipment and services.

Is the government really interested in the safety of the people? No! It's interested in the next election of deputies and mayors. With this

circus, it intends to wear down the political parties that could subtract votes from it. Bukele's "New Ideas" Party hopes in this way to win the majority of deputies in the legislative assembly.

Historically, the masses of El Salvador have been under the domination of the capitalist ruling class and imperialism. The only security these economic powers are interested in is their own. The military equipment they want to buy will serve that purpose: to protect their wealth.

Another aspect of this confrontation between the legislative and executive branches of government has to do with the security business. Many congressmen mainly from ARENA and the FMLN, are owners of these companies. The number of private security guards exceeds that of the National Civil Police (PNC).

These companies see their millions of dollars in profits threatened. They have had contracts with various governments for years. And they have profited from the state budget, pocketing juicy profits. They take the profits and the working class takes the deaths, the products of the rotteness of this capitalist system.

When the stability of the bourgeois class is in danger, they will use the army to crush any rebellion of the working class. But there will be millions of us who will decide to change the system.

There will be no guns that can stop this.

The revolution will come! It will be organized by the ICWP (International Communist Worker's Party). We fight openly for communism.

The workers must mobilize directly for communism. In the communist system there will be no money. By getting rid of this material base, many of the problems that affect the workers will disappear. Even though some long-term effects remain, we will overcome them. The issue of security will be one. We will take care of each other. Collectives will be formed taking care of this aspect of life, but we will all be responsible.

Join our International Communist Workers' Party. Read and distribute our **Red Flag** newspaper.



USING DIALECTICAL MATERIALISM TO UNDERSTAND HOW CAPITALISM THREATENS OUR LIVES

SEATTLE—A quick look around the Boeing factories reveals a massive array of productive forces. The countless numbers of machines, designs and assembly lines that integrate the millions of parts that go into making jets is mind-boggling. Generations of workers built these factories. Even more millions continue to pour their labor into manufacturing these planes. And this is only one company.

But look around the factory now. The machines are idle, the MAX assembly line abandoned. Subcontracted workers have been kicked out the door. Workers in Boeing's own factories have been shifted to other locations, in many cases adding 6 hours to their commute. And when they finally reach their destinations, they are told to sweep the floors.

The Capitalist System and Its Contradictions

Capitalism unleashed vast forces of production when it defeated feudalism hundreds of years ago. This fantastic power of production could easily end homelessness, build sewage plants, provide electricity and clean drinking water, etc. Modern industry could overcome these problems—and many more—in relatively short order. But like feudalism hundreds of years ago, capitalism itself is now holding us back. It has outlived its usefulness.

Within capitalism there is a contradiction powerful enough to restrict productive forces. The contradiction between the immense forces of pro-

duction and the capitalist relations of production continuously sends this system into crisis.

This contradiction is imbedded in capitalism. We call it a dialectical contradiction because, in part, it generates change. Under capitalism, the fight between unleashing the forces of production and the requirement to make profits for the bosses is inescapable and, ultimately, deadly.

Capitalists will activate the forces of production only if they can sell the things produced by workers' labor. Their production collapses if they can't realize a profit selling these products.

Boeing told us when they were designing the MAX that they had to cut the cost of producing this new jet. Competition from Airbus meant the company was making less profit on each jet delivered. Their answer was to make and sell more planes.

Airbus was saying the same thing to its workforce. Within a year or two, Chinese aircraft will be added to the mix. Everyone knows too many planes will be produced for a limited market. The inevitable global crisis of overproduction will destroy productive forces and our lives along with them.

Overproduction has been chronic since at least 1900. It led to World War I, the great depression, World War II and the 2008 crisis. It is creating increasing inequality, a tariff war, a manufacturing recession in the U.S., India, South Africa and other countries. Sharpening economic rivalries

are forcing major powers to resort to real war, as in the periods leading up to WWI and WWII.

Communism: Production for Workers' Needs, Not for Profits

Communism will resolve this contradiction by abolishing markets and production for profit. Overproduction will be a horrible memory of a long-dead system.

We will produce for the needs of our class. We will produce as much as we need of whatever we need. That will be the end of hunger, homelessness, lack of medical care and all the material hardships of capitalism.

Freeing productive forces from capitalist relations of production is vital to the well-being of the world's workers. Communist production will create new relationships. No profits, markets and, importantly, no wage system.

Over the next few weeks, a dozen Boeing workers will expand their discussion to focus on communist relations of production. We look forward to hearing from other collectives at work-sites, schools, etc. around the world. Help us out!

Capitalist crisis causes intensified exploitation, leading to many kinds of revolts. Unfortunately, these revolts will never spontaneously result in communist revolution. We need a massive ICWP for that. So our next question is: "Will dialectical discussions like these help your collective grow the party and mobilize our friends for communism?"

ROLLING BLACKOUTS OR LOADSHEDDING

SOUTH AFRICA—Since early 2018, South Africa has been faced with what they refer to as "loadshedding" or rolling blackouts. This has continued. During December 2019 the president announced that the country will have a break from the rolling blackouts.

A month did not even pass before the president again addressed the nation that a fault at Kusile power station resulted in the return of the rolling blackouts. This caused some controversy as the Deputy president told the public that the board of Eskom (the public electricity utility) misled the president. It was the Deputy president's public statement that paved the way for Jabu Mabuza to resign. He was the Chairperson of Eskom at the time. This again was just a strategic move to silence those who were blaming him for problems at Eskom, not knowing that his master will again put another puppet in his place.

There have been many excuses for the continuing blackouts. At one particular time last year Eskom claimed that the coal was "wet." "Experts" have claimed that the breakdowns are a result of aging plants that have not been maintained. Others are blaming the previous administration for not performing proper maintenance

during what they labeled as the "nine wasted years".

Some are blaming the current minister of public enterprise, Pravin Gordan, for failing to turn things around at Eskom. Instead, he's been sent by his handlers to collapse the State-Owned Enterprises so that the public can put pressure on the government to sell them to private "strategic" partners.

Eskom's problems are deliberately created. Greedy capitalists are inflating contract prices to make huge profits. These are the same people who want to see Eskom in their hands or control so that they can be the ones who are producing electricity. That is, by exploiting the working class and ordering their puppets, which are the politicians, to implement their plans.

In a communist society the means of production will be owned and controlled by the working class. The working class will be producing for the needs of the working class and not for exchange value. Electricity will be produced for the benefit of the working class and not because a few greedy individuals will or need to make profit.

Hence it is important to demolish the material

basis of capitalism, which is money. This cannot be achieved or realized through negotiations or changing of government. Capitalism can only be demolished through mobilizing and organizing the masses to fight the bosses and their puppets. We must replace it with a communist society through a revolution—because they will not give up power easily.

The International Communist Workers Party (ICWP) has drawn many lessons from past struggles of the working class in fighting the bosses and their system. One is that it is important for the working class to fight directly for communism. A communist society will not be realized by passing through a stage of socialism as done in the past.

It also important to mobilize and recruit masses to join ICWP worldwide as no country lives in isolation from other countries. Capitalists operate on a global scale. When it is time to protect their interests, they temporarily put their differences aside and work together to avoid what is called a "domino effect". We need to mobilize and recruit all the masses. That includes key workers such as the soldiers, industrial workers and also students.

LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS
PLEASE SEND US YOUR LETTERS, RESPONSES AND SUGGESTIONS TO ICWPREDFLAG@ANONYMOUSSPEECH.ORG

Distributing **Red Flag** in El Salvador
Comradely greetings to all the men and women comrades of the International Communist Workers' Party all around the world.

Very enthusiastically I write to you for allowing me to be part of the Party. I have no doubt that the struggle to change this system is very much alive. In the ICWP, we are making a daily struggle for more men and women workers to organize with us.

One day this week I went to distribute our **Red Flag** newspaper at the maquiladora fac-

tory I was fired from last month. When I heard that there was going to be a distribution of the party's literature at that plant, I didn't hesitate for a moment to volunteer to help the comrades who were going to carry this out.

While I was distributing the newspaper, I met many former co-workers. They were very happy to receive the newspaper from me. It was a great experience for me, because it was the first time I distributed **Red Flag**. I was thinking about how my former co-workers would react. But I saw that they received it

with a lot of hope that one day the bosses' system will end.

I am still looking for another job and the comrades have helped me. I have felt that the ICWP has not abandoned me. That encourages me much more to always continue forward and fight for a better world.

—Comrade Worker.



FIGHTING FASCISM IN EUROPE, FIGHTING FOR COMMUNISM

February 19—As the civil war in Syria continues, a humanitarian crisis has developed. There are now 900,000 refugees from the fighting in North West Syria, overwhelming the capacities of the UN and other refugee relief agencies on the border between Syria and Turkey. This is just the latest example of an ongoing humanitarian disaster.

Immigrants must now be numbered in the thousands, for them to count. They travel hundreds and sometimes thousands of miles trying to escape the capitalist hell. They come up against the harsh reality: capitalism is all over the world.

Many who escape war and racism in the Middle East and Africa fix their eyes on Europe. That's the Europe of bosses, who at a meeting in Berlin in 1884 settled the fate, conquest, colonization, and enslavement of millions in Africa and, later, in Asia Minor.

Hundreds of thousands are trapped in subhuman conditions in camps in Turkey, Greece and other European countries. They sleep in tents at the mercy of the winter cold with little clothing, food or water. As many as 75 line up to use overcrowded toilets and bathrooms.

Many immigrants try to lead a 'normal life' despite the overcrowding in the camps and years of waiting and despair for a refugee visa. They work and help out where they can. Some set up small businesses, cut hair, make bread, repair cell phones for other inmates. In almost every camp, the refugees themselves give language, art, or music classes to the children.

The language barrier has not prevented them from fraternizing with immigrants from other countries and helping each other. They try to keep their problems under control. But sometimes the problems escalate because of the individualism, desperation and hunger of those who, in some cases, have committed serious crimes. Thefts and rapes have increased in the camps.

All this has led to the desperation of the migrant families. Many times, in caravans of thousands, they have tried to break down the barbed wire walls on the Croatian border. They have fought off riot police and gangs of racists who swarm into cities and towns across Europe.

Those immigrants who have been able to arrive in European cities have faced a series of aggressions, including abandonment, and sometimes denial of medical services. Access to jobs is restricted and has led them to accept less pay than local workers. And they have rebelled

In Italy, undocumented African immigrants have marched and confronted the police and "Ndrangheta", the Calabrian mafia, over the slave-like conditions in the orange fields where they work.

In Barcelona, African immigrants confronted the police for several hours after the police killed one of their comrades.

Fascism is growing all over the world. The bosses are trying to divide the working class with xenophobic rhetoric. But at the same time mass movements are growing that in one way or another are in solidarity with immigrants and fighting against xenophobia and racism. Native and immigrant workers are building a mass anti-fascist movement with huge communist potential.

The 'Sardines' are an anti-fascist and anti-racist mass movement in Italy. It is mobilizing thousands of Italian and immigrant workers and students to fight against the Silvini government and its racist anti-immigrant policy.

The leaders of this movement seek to come to power through elections so they can change the anti-immigrant laws. But many of their followers are open to communist ideas.

Thousands of workers, students and refugees have taken to the streets of cities in Germany and Austria with the slogan "WELCOME, REFUGEES." They are strongly protesting anti-immigrant policies and showing solidarity with immigrants.

Mobilizations with this same slogan have taken place in Barcelona, Madrid and other Spanish cities. In spite of growing unemployment, many people actively support the movement by providing migrants with water, clothing and food.

The Bukaneros are supporters of the Rayo Vallecano, a soccer team in the neighborhood of Vallecas, Spain. They, together with some of the team's players, organize retreats and collect help for immigrants and homeless people. The Vallecas neighborhood is a safe haven for immigrants. Fascists are not allowed.

In Greece, the neo-Nazi group Aurora Dorada attacked Egyptian fishermen with metal bars. Antifascists, especially young people, fought these fascists in the streets with bats and firebombs.

Migrations have existed throughout history. But capitalism, with its wars, racism, climate change, etc., has made it a deadly problem.

The masses are on the move. They need communist ideology. The united working class will be indestructible once it is led by its International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP).

In communism, there will be no countries because there will be no borders. Countries and borders are capitalist instruments to keep the workers apart.

Join ICWP and become part of the international movement to end the capitalist system.



"Sardines" in Rome, Italy

LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

PLEASE SEND US YOUR LETTERS, RESPONSES AND SUGGESTIONS TO ICWPREDFLAG@ANONYMOUSSPEECH.ORG

Workers need revolution, not a halftime show

"Who do you think did better?" asked my mother after we watched the 2020 Super Bowl half-time show. The show featured singers Shakira and Jennifer Lopez, the first time the show had featured two Latinx women.

As a communist I was more interested in the politics. Jennifer Lopez' performance had a few political messages of patriotism and a call for justice for the migrant children who are being detained in cages. Unfortunately, Lopez's statement is not enough to give workers the kind of justice that we need.

Lopez's performance became political when her daughter sang *Born in the USA* with other Latinx children in cages. This imagery criticized the U.S. government for the detainment of undocumented children. Lopez joined her daughter in song with a cape that had the America flag on one side. As she continued in her performance, she opened it up to reveal a Puerto Rican flag.

Puerto Rico is a colony of the US. People who live on the Island are not allowed to vote for president and do not have any political power. "Latinos," she yelled out to the crowd proudly as she flaunted her patriotism and dual identity as a Latinx person who is also an American.

However, this is not enough. We need to be united under one flag and that's the **Red Flag**. While Lopez attempted to be political with this statement, there are no long-lasting after-effects or move towards progress of the working class.

Patriotism is not the answer

We need communism and nothing less. While I can understand showing cultural pride, I cannot think that that is enough of a political statement to help the working class. Workers of all races, ethnicities and creeds will be appreciated and united when we have communism because the first thing that will be done away with are borders. Singing the praises of a nation that oppresses the very people you are

trying to lift up is not political at all.

Here in Los Angeles, people of different ethnicities drape their lawns and cars with the flags of their countries of origin to show pride, but does that keep us from being one paycheck away from poverty? Patriotism is not what we need. We need to unite all workers for a cause that is greater than celebrating our differences. We must celebrate our similarities as well.

We are the working class. As such, we are all subject to wage slavery, discrimination, and economic inequality, deportations, and homelessness to varying degrees. No celebrity or singer can make things better for workers by waving a flag in protest or in celebration. We need to unite all workers, black, Asian, Latinx, and white and understand that we all must unite, not as one nation, but as the working class worldwide to put an end to all workers' suffering for good.

—A Comrade

NEW HIGH SCHOOL COMRADE: "CREATING A FREE AND JUST WORLD FOR EVERYONE"

My name is G. and I am part of a high school student collective here in Los Angeles, CA, USA. In preparation for the 10-Year Anniversary Conference of the ICWP my high school club read the Maquila Report from El Salvador that identified some of the major obstacles that our comrades there are faced with in mobilizing the masses for communism. We also started to read the Party's pamphlet on Dialectical Materialism.

In one of our meetings we tried to tackle the question, "What would hold someone back from being part of our movement of mobilizing the masses for communism and becoming a communist organizer"?

J. said that it could be a lack of knowledge of the history of the fight for communism, not having an understanding of the victories and the failures of that history. I added that it was the fear of being criticized by people, friends and family. We all agreed that we would think more on identifying more internal contradictions and how to overcome them.

The January 18th, 2020, conference was intriguing. My club leader and I were the

only ones from our club that actually were able to make it. The other club members were not able to participate because of unforeseen family responsibilities. My knowledge on the topic of how we live in a capitalist world and how to inform the high school population on communism has grown exponentially. I was pumped to hear the reports from the others.

My experience was new and as my first communist outing I liked it. Thanks to this experience I gained more knowledge than expected and I really enjoyed it. I learned that capitalism is something taught to us at a very young age, even in school, and it's part of our life. But with support, and group members we can mobilize the masses for communism and fight this capitalist world. I learned that communist collective thought and action can defeat individualist capitalist thought and action. I have the confidence that once and for all we can create a free and just world for everyone. I want to be part of all of this. For this reason I have made the decision of joining the Party.

When I got back to our first club meeting

after the conference, I shared my experience. Then club members were asked if they wanted to join the Party. "Joining the Party is like communism; it's based on commitment and need, from each according to commitment to each according to need. Many have different levels of commitment, many do a lot and others not so much, but we all do or contribute based on what we are able to do", said a comrade in the club. From this discussion two more students, A. and J., joined the Party. A third student is thinking about it.

J said, "When I first was asked to join the Party based on communism I was scared. But seeing people all over the pages of *Red Flag* take it seriously and show that they really care about the cause helped me not be afraid of joining and made me more comfortable. It's amazing how people can come together and understand a new way of life and how we can spread out to other places that need it."

—High School Student Comrade

Bringing Communist Ideas to U.S. Protest Against Fascism in India

One day after celebrating the ten-year anniversary of our party, ICWP, we met for another session to discuss how to move the work forward. Afterward, seven of us headed to the nearby South Asian community in the city of Artesia, CA. We were comrades and friends from California, Puerto Rico and Spain.

There was a very colorful and vocal protest going on, against the latest legislation from the Modi government.

Various groups took turns passing around the microphone/bull horn, denouncing these attacks on Muslims. They led enthusiastic chants in at least three languages.

The Modi government enacted laws to speed up the immigration process for many religious minorities, with the glaring exception of Muslims. This forces an already vulnerable community into what amounts to refugee status.

No matter what the Modi government wants to call it, the policy functions as an anti-Muslim ban. Muslims will be forced into camps and likely deported. This includes some who have lived in their current state or city for at least two generations.

Our group moved among the people and distributed literature. Our copies of *Red Flag* were eagerly accepted. Those in attendance represented a wide range of ages and interests. Many wanted to know who we were, as we were obviously not South Asian.

We had some good conversations about Islamophobia, capitalist crisis, fascism and communist revolution. In the Indian state of Kerala, among others, the idea of communism is widely accepted in some form. One comrade was able to use the microphone to give a short message of solidarity with the mass courageous struggle against fascism in India.

She said that it shows that from India to the USA the masses need to destroy fascism with communist revolution, and they will. Her speech was warmly applauded.

We look forward to finding out if any of the people we met might want to form a more lasting relationship with our party by spreading *Red Flag*.

—Comrade In Los Angeles (USA)

What Does It Mean to Join the Party?

"You have read *Red Flag* for a while. Almost every article says, 'Join ICWP,'" I said to a friend. She nodded. "Have you thought about joining?"

"Yes, sometimes," she answered. "But what does that involve?"

"Being part of a collective working to advance communism," I said. "You'd give *Red Flag* to people and talk to them about communism and try to recruit them to the party. Whatever you do would be a contribution." She was listening.

ther has joined – yet.

But was this a good answer? What would be a better answer? What exactly does it mean to be a member of the International Communist Workers' Party?

A comrade in South Africa wrote a letter to *Red Flag* (last issue) about how he tries to live as a communist "24/7." His commitment is very inspiring!

But the letter also seemed to reflect his frustration with other comrades who don't meet the high standards he sets for himself. I think that this impatience contradicts his effort to be a more effective communist leader. It might confuse potential members.

Building a mass communist party means welcoming as members everyone who wants to contribute to our communist goals. We need both urgency (for the short term) and patience (for the long term). These are opposites, but they are not in contradiction. Neither should destroy the other in the way we work.

Mobilizing masses for communism – now and in the future – means embracing "uneven development." Not all members are committed to building the Party in the same way. We must accept all contributions "from each according to commitment." We also recognize that comrades have different abilities to contribute, based in part on their life history and situation.

Being in a collective implies being open to becoming more effective communists, with the help of our comrades. That means we struggle with each other patiently "to each according to need."

Friends have sometimes told me that they don't want to join the International Communist Workers' Party because "If I join, I would want to dedicate myself 24/7." Or because "I can't be as active as you are." I tell them that I don't think these are good reasons. Every new member makes us stronger.

Do you agree? Do you want to make the Party stronger? Do you want to live in a communist world—or to help build it for future generations? That's what matters.

—Comrade in Los Angeles (USA)

Read our Pamphlet:
**THE COMMUNIST FIGHT
 AGAINST SEXISM,**
 available at
icwpredflag.org/sxse.pdf
 Other articles we have published on
 sexism are available at
icwpredflag.org/sexs/

"You would help make and carry out plans. And improve the work through open criticism and discussion of questions and disagreements. And help with money as you can," I added.

"Let me think about it," she said.

I recently had this conversation with two different friends. Nei-

“An ecological system built on growing money first”

CAPITALISM IS MORE DEADLY THAN ANY VIRUS



February 18 —The new coronavirus has killed over 2000 people (mostly in China) and still there is no known cure. It is the creation of profit-driven capitalists with a global reach. The temporary defeat of the international communist movement has allowed these capitalists to carry out genocidal policies.

This new “super flu” is the product of animal farms organized to create three things: maximum profits for the banks and agribusiness; chickens and ducks and other animals for sale; and toxic waste, including new deadly viral by-products.

The Western press talks a lot about the Chinese Government silencing Dr. Li, who heroically warned of the danger and then died of it. But the same media have spent years dismissing similar warnings.

Policy-makers ignored books like “Monster at the Door, the Global Threat of Avian Flu” (2005). As far back as 1982, Chinese and world scientists at international meetings in Hong Kong warned of the dangers of new viruses being produced in these farms.

Biologist Rob Wallace describes how huge conglomerates like the Thai-based Charoen Pokphand ignore science in the interest of maximizing profits. CP trades in live animals and “runs poultry facilities in Turkey, China, Malaysia, Indonesia and the United States. It has feed operations across India, China, Indonesia and Vietnam.”

These companies take advantage of cheap labor, cheap land, and subsidized exports. While CP is currently banned from exporting out of China to Japan, it can switch its supply base and export out of Vietnam to Japan. The coronavirus won’t stop it.

The multinationals have benefitted hugely from “Structural Adjustment Programs” imposed by the International Monetary Fund since the 1980s. These programs insisted that governments of countries under the imperialists’ thumbs cut education, health care and industrial safety regulations as conditions for loans they needed. These cuts caused uncounted suffering, death and disease.

Coronavirus sickens world economy, fuels anti-Chinese racism

China is the world’s manufacturing powerhouse. The slowdown there impacts the global economy, especially in auto. Volkswagen, GM, Toyota and Tesla plants have closed in China. Hyundai closed seven plants in South Korea for want of parts from China. The world’s capitalists want to get Chinese workers back to work.

The US press has hypocritically attacked the way the Chinese government has handled the crisis. It builds racist xenophobia and anti-Asian fear-mongering to rally US patriotism against their main imperialist rival. The *NY Times* also used anti-communism to attack China for using “Mao-era tactics” in quarantining people in the areas where the virus is most severe. This despite the World Health Organization’s admission that the Chinese quarantine protected the rest of the world.

When Chinese masses mobilized for their interests

After the revolution in 1949, the Chinese Communist Party mobilized millions of workers and peasants to tackle major health problems. They relied on the masses to organize mass campaigns against syphilis (a bacterial infection) and against opium addiction.

These successful campaigns won masses of people to take initiative to fight the vestiges of the old system. They eliminated prostitution, brothels and opium dens – and opened clinics. Thousands of rural and urban youth were trained as health care workers. Former patients encouraged others to get treated. Former prostitutes did useful work.

However, these and other gains of the Chinese revolution were reversed when the Cultural Revolution was defeated in 1968. Many of its Red Guards and peasant leaders fought for communism, without money or privilege. But they were defeated by the Party leadership. They didn’t organize their own mass party to fight for communism. Today the masses in capitalist China are wage slaves.

Communism will meet masses’ needs

Today the masses in China and worldwide must renew the fight for communism. Take it to a higher level by building a mass ICWP!

We need to mobilize for a communist revolution to end wage slavery and to build a world motivated by human needs, not profits. Instead of agricultural factories which are breeding grounds for viruses, the communist masses will figure out the safest ways to produce healthy food for use, not sale.

Agribusiness concentrates millions of animals in small areas to maximize profit. Communism will develop small farms where animals can roam and develop immunity to disease.

In communism, everyone will learn about natural science, including the human body. Faced with an epidemic or pandemic like the coronavirus, we’ll give priority to producing the things needed for care and cure.

The communist masses will mobilize millions of collectives worldwide to share and exchange knowledge, creating tests, vaccines and treatment. In this process, masses will develop communist science.

Capitalist wage slavery and production for sale have also made diseases like diabetes and cancer into mass killers. In communism, we will learn to produce only healthy food. Everyone will get the care they need. Only communism can guarantee the health of the masses of workers.

Read our series on the Cultural Revolution in China at:

<https://icwpredflag.org/wp/wordpress/pamphlets-and-article-series/history-of-the-cultural-revolution-in-china/>

