

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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



In India, 50 million internal migrants, displaced by COVID-19, are trying to get home. These siblings are among many who are helping to feed them without accepting any pay.



India:

COMMUNIST YOUTH AND WORKERS ADVANCE AMIDST CRISIS

DELHI, INDIA, May 18 –We are in the ninth week of food distribution to the migrants. It started as an attempt by a handful of comrades to provide food to the hungry masses. It has resulted in four well-organized collectives of the International Communist Workers' Party, each with at least 8 comrades.

Along with providing food and necessities, we are discussing and spreading the idea that the profit system of capitalism is the basis of hunger, disease, and endless wage slavery. We can only free ourselves if we recognize that this sick capitalist system needs to be violently overthrown by communist revolution.

"I make Rs 500 (less than \$7 or 120 Rands) a day," said a construction worker. "I send Rs 200 to my family in the village. Now I have no work. We are all starving. Hunger will kill us before corona does." This is the story of 50 million migrant workers.

Many of them have made arduous journeys on foot, trying to reach home. Some are trekking over 1600 kms (1000 miles). Trying to avoid police roadblocks, they take treacherous detours by way of rivers, deep ravines, and dangerous railroad tracks. For many of them, home is too far.

Almost everyone we meet has lost any hope that this merciless system can be improved or that it has anything left to offer them. The workers and volunteers we meet are angry. Workers are fed up with the false promises and long lines of government-run ration centres. They get beaten up by police, and at the end they get handouts that barely feed their families.

We are now openly talking about the possibility of organizing the masses to take over huge godowns (warehouses) which are overflowing with grains, vegetables, and poultry. Delhi has about 2000 massive godowns and 4 million migrant and industrial workers. India has 150 million migrant workers.

How can we organize the masses to successfully occupy godowns?

We need to win the masses to communist principles of distributing food and other things according to need. This will also require many to join ICWP. It means being in different collectives just like our collectives that are efficiently organizing the food distribution. These collectives will struggle to spread our communist ideas as well as struggle against individualism, racism,

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Essential to Communist Revolution:

BOEING WORKERS STRUGGLE TO BUILD CONFIDENCE IN THE WORKING CLASS

SEATTLE, USA— "You can't change history. What is, is!" said a Boeing *Red Flag* distributor.

He's been circulating excerpts from "The American Influenza Epidemic of 1918-1919" among his crew. He focused on Seattle's history with that pandemic. It was his way of arguing against the right-wing attempt to "open up the economy" without concern for workers' lives.

"You stay in, you live. You congregate in large numbers, you die. It's as easy as that," he argued with his co-workers, referring to this article.

He was frustrated. "Why don't these people know about the history of pandemics?" he asked a comrade. "Why is it so hard to convince them of the truth, let alone get them to act on that truth?"

Changing behavior isn't easy.

Most of us have been taught that a good historian just collects the facts and that those facts lead to correct conclusions. The article he was circulating,

from the University of Michigan, emphasized the conclusion of the Health Commissioner at that time, Dr. J. S. McBride.

"McBride was quick to blame the people of Seattle for the spread of the epidemic, either overlooking or failing to acknowledge the way the disease had operated in nearly every other American city."

Our comrade showed this friend an article that he'd been circulating among his own crew, "When the Seattle General Strike and the 1918 Flu Collided." This article, from Jacobin Magazine, had a lot of the same facts but added other crucial items.

Rather than repeat McBride's diatribe against workers, the second article laid the blame at McBride's feet. His co-conspirators included the city's industrial titans and the political establishment.

They were all determined to keep the shipyards open despite the fact that "every day or so some unlucky shipyard

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Racism, Covid-19 and Capitalism's Shelter Crisis:

COMMUNISM IS IN THE HOUSE!

You can't "shelter at home" without a home. That's millions of our working-class family around the world—at least.

You can't "shelter at home" safely if you are among the 1.8 billion in grossly inadequate housing. In urban slums or rural misery from India to China to Brazil to the USA. From Cape Town to Madrid to Jakarta. Even in the world's richest cities.

Wealthy but crowded Manhattan, New York City, has 73,000 people per square mile. The Dharavi slum in Mumbai has almost ten times as many.

Some 800,000 US dwellings lack running water. The World Health Organization estimated last year that 3 billion people worldwide lack basic handwashing facilities. Covid-19 ravages their communities while privatized water companies profit.

Religions may declare that "the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society." But capitalism doesn't let us live that way. It can't. Its money system – wages, markets and maximum profits – won't let it.

Only communism can recognize and activate everyone's abilities. Only communism will provide for each according to need.

Private Property Is Theft – And Murder

Individuals or small companies own three-quarters of US rental units. Like most home "owners," they are in hock to the real owner, a bank. These banks are overflowing with profits siphoned from workers' sweat and blood.

You won't be able to "shelter at home" if you are evicted for non-payment of rent or dispossessed when you miss a mortgage payment. The Covid-19 pandemic has brought this wolf to the door of tens of millions in the United States alone.

That's why tenant organizations called for a May 1 rent strike. Some US cities and states are freezing evictions. But the bills will still come due. Laws protecting private property are far stronger than any protection for the most vulnerable members of our working-class family.

And then the numbers of people who are un-

housed, or doubled-up with relatives, will soar. So will deaths from Covid-19, stress and other causes.

It doesn't have to be like this. Rent strikes show the potential of solidarity and mass action. But we need to abolish private property. That will take a mass mobilization for communist revolution. We'll expropriate empty dwellings and mansions and put them to good use. We'll collectively plan, build and occupy forms of housing (old and new) that meet our needs.

Slum dwellers everywhere are very resourceful – and often collective – in housing themselves. Communism will liberate their creativity and power!

More *Red Flag* readers must join the International Communist Workers' Party to make that happen. Current members must help newer comrades build collectives among their co-workers, friends, family and neighbors.

Housing Is a Class Issue – So Is Racism

Within the working class, housing reflects racism. Look at the lowest-income fifth of the US population or the highest-income fifth or any group in between. Always, a much smaller percentage of black households than white households own homes. No matter what their gender, marital status, age, location, or level of schooling.

Banks turn down black and latinx people's mortgage applications at dramatically higher rates than white people's applications – even with the same credit ratings.

Voucher programs are supposed to help the most vulnerable. But in New Orleans, where 99% of voucher recipients are African American, four out of five landlords refuse to accept vouchers.

Before Covid-19, half of all US households lived paycheck to paycheck—including 80% of workers. Half of all black and latinx households had less than \$1500 in the bank—if they had a bank account. Not even one month's reserve! Half of white households with savings accounts had less than \$9700. If they scrimped, that might last a few months.

After World War II, US imperialism promoted home ownership as the "American Dream." This

from Adolf Hitler.

Modi announced an economic package to bolster India's economy by spearheading the sharpest attacks on the working class. For three years, every law related to safeguarding workers will be suspended. It gives large corporations unfettered access to land, uprooting the local population.

Modi's fascist party BJP is pushing ultra-nationalism. Infrastructure and defense-related industries will get free loans. The corporations that get them will be required to use 100% Indian resources.

To crush any opposition, the government is jailing workers and students who resist fascism in prisons known to have Covid 19 cases.

Indian capitalists see an opportunity. US imperialism was too dependent on the Chinese sup-



From Brazil: We Refuse to Pay—Rent, Water, Lights, Gas

ply chain for industrial production. Indian bosses hope they will relocate to India and have selected Chennai and Bengaluru as the relocation cities. They want to attract US capital by offering it low-wage production centers. In other words, they are preparing for more attacks on the workers.

Our comrades in both of these cities are discussing how this contradiction is affecting their work and opportunities it gives us to advance communism.

For our next meeting, we decided to examine our work in the auto and garment industries. Comrades from Delhi will share their experience of recruiting. Our entire organization has to work more aggressively because every day the choice between fascism and communism is becoming clearer.

The US ruling class has profited hugely from this divide-and-conquer strategy. Correspondingly, workers' standard of living has declined steadily for 50 years.

Workers pay with their lives. The men in the wealthiest 1% live, on average, 15 years longer than the poorest 1%. For women, the difference is 10 years.

All workers will advance by fighting to unite our class to destroy this deadly system. Communists build this revolutionary unity now in order to build a world without the private property, wages and exploitation that form the material basis of racism. The Covid-19 pandemic makes this more urgent than ever.

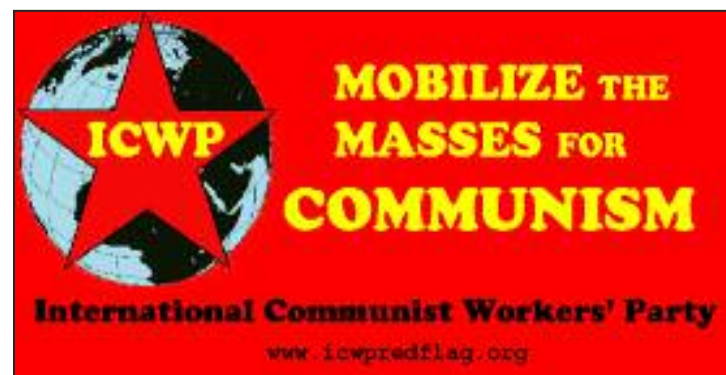
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and sexism that capitalism pushes.

As the pandemic surges and takes more victims, tens of thousands of volunteers in India are involved in food distribution, cooking, cleaning, housing, providing health care etc. Migrants walking long distances get food and shelter from sympathetic villagers along the way. Volunteers and workers alike are open to communism. Some aspects of communist principles of sharing and helping each other in need are keeping them alive.

Capitalist bosses and their politicians have different plans.

Fascist Modi, who leads the aspirations of the dominant Indian capitalists, gave his fourth major speech about the pandemic. It was a page taken



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TO FEED THE WORLD, FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM!

PACIFIC NORTHWEST, US - The UN says a billion people will face hunger and starvation as a result of the pandemic. But it's not the pandemic. It's murderous capitalism.

In the US, this same murderous system will force an estimated 50 million people to face food insecurity. Northwest Harvest, which supplies food banks in Washington State, has projected the need to double, from 850,000 to 1.6 million people. In San Antonio, Texas (US), a food bank opened to 10,000 people in line.

Why are people standing in line for hours at the food bank? Isn't there enough food to feed everyone? Yes, there is more than enough food to feed everyone.

Then why are people going hungry all over the world? Because the capitalist system needs to make profits. If they can't, they will destroy food rather than give it to the millions of starving people!

During this pandemic, capitalists are destroying mountains of fresh food. But even during so-called good times, the bosses' methods of growing, processing, and distributing food to the masses are horrible. According to the USDA's Economic Research Service, 30 - 40 % of the food supply in the US is wasted/destroyed. And as they destroy more and more food, it becomes more expensive.

At the same time, they are shoving low-paid workers into dangerous slaughterhouses and massive food-processing plants. These workers slave long hours in what are now Covid-19 hotspots. Many are immigrants and refugees who have no legal rights in the US. If they complain or organize, they face jail or deportation.

US-born workers who work at low wage jobs or are supporting families with children, or older workers living on a fixed income also cannot afford the cost of food.

People waiting in food bank lines eagerly took *Red Flag* and the ICWP immigration pamphlet. We spoke with workers who were originally from El Salvador, China and Southeast Asia, as well as the US. They agreed that change must come. People must have homes, healthy food, clean water, and healthcare. But the truth is we will never have this as long as we have capitalism. Only communism can provide for our basic needs and more.

One Seattle worker in a food bank line, originally from Mexico, said, "I don't think they told us the truth about Communism in the 50's and 60's." He wanted to talk about how much better things could be with Communism, including food and healthcare for all. He took a paper for himself and another for a friend.

How will we live when we have communism?

We need input from as many workers as possible to understand this. There are many examples of the working class organizing food preparation and distribution during war, famine, epidemics and strikes. During the Seattle General Strike of 1919, workers shut down the city for 6 days. No one worked for the bosses, but they formed committees that collected garbage, milked the cows, did laundry and served meals for 30,000 daily. Because the system was still capitalist, the workers eventually lost.

But imagine what life will be like in communism, when there are no privately owned farms or grocery stores, no banks or finance, no wage system and no need for money.

All resources will be shared. Everyone's needs will be equally important no matter what work they do. This will be true for food, housing,



YAKIMA, USA, May 2020—Hundreds of striking farmworkers shut down production at six apple packing-house companies in Washington State. They demanded safe working conditions and hazard pay during the pandemic. Yakima County has the highest rate of Covid-19 cases in the state. Most of the workers came from Mexico long ago. Their families are the community's core.

healthcare, childcare, education, and more. Everyone does what they can to contribute.

Even if a pandemic forced many workers to stay home, we wouldn't stop producing food for everyone – including those who had to temporarily stop working. Instead, those who kept working would get extra protection and would share their duties with workers who temporarily quit doing other tasks.

We want to talk with more people about Communism and win workers to see that it is the only solution. We will continue to go to food banks, distribute *Red Flag* and have discussions with workers there. We plan to ask other comrades and friends to come with us.

Only a united and revolutionary international working class can put an end to the horrors of capitalism. Join the ICWP!

INDUSTRIAL WORKERS MUST CREATE A BETTER—COMMUNIST—WORLD

Sixteen thousand Boeing jobs will be cut June 1. Airbus will lay off ten thousand more. These are just the first round. The real carnage will hit the subcontractor employees, disproportionately large numbers of whom are Black, Latinx and immigrants.

Boeing alone has 17,000 subcontractors spread throughout the world. Hundreds of thousands have already lost their jobs. Millions of industrial workers will be without a livelihood within months as the economic impact spreads.

Life is no better for those who work in plants that are now open. For example, major U.S. manufacturers and the U.S. government, in collusion with the Mexican government, have kept factories that supply Boeing and other U.S. industries open in Mexico. COVID-19 cases are surging in these plants.

Honeywell, a major Boeing supplier with expansive operations in Mexicali, has seen work stoppages for weeks. This factory is not alone, as work actions spread as fast as the virus.

"They exposed us to contagion," said Jorge Rojas, a welder in the factory. "For them, delivering their products was more important than our health."

The message from the Pentagon to the Mexican government was that the United States wanted to continue production to "minimize the impacts to the military supply chain and national security writ large." National security writ large is code for Boeing commercial jet production.

Communist revolution will ensure the security



Mexicali, Baja California: "Alarms aren't essential. My life is!"

of the world's working class family. Industrial workers around the world will play a central role in the revolution and the subsequent organization of a communist society.

Death in the name of national security and capitalist production for profits will end. The sooner, the better!

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worker would be carried out in a dead wagon."

In short, capitalism was the heart of the problem.

"The Seattle ruling class used patriotism [to justify this carnage]. The Puget Sound bristled with warship production and armed encampments. The yards were 'the life' of the city, 'pulsing through every [other] industry.' These yards employed some thirty-five thousand men; fifteen thousand more worked in Tacoma's shipyards.

"The Rainier Valley, home to Seattle's slums and cheap housing for workers, suffered most."

And it still does.

Soon after, shipyard workers, many of whom came from this area, ignited the Seattle General

Strike.

This article has a completely different conclusion.

"Seattle's workers transformed a world of war, of sickness, death and grief, into a great celebration of living [for the five days of the General Strike]. A better world is possible. It still is."

That world is a communist world, but this social democratic article did not draw that conclusion. That key piece of information had to be filled in by ICWP comrades. The article only called for socialist reform, not the communist revolution we need.

History Is Molded by The Struggle Between Classes

Who would have thought that two history articles would create such turmoil among so many

Boeing workers? Previously, many workers would have shrugged off the ensuing debates. But things have changed.

The attacks on aerospace workers are coming from all sides (see above.) Indeed, a billion industrial workers around the world are in great peril.

It is clear that industrial workers are key to the functioning of capitalism, as they are to communist revolution. How much can we expect of the industrial working class? This came up over and over again. Now more than ever, we must have rock-solid confidence that these workers will be won to communism.

The life and death choice is now ours: either we blame the working class and condemn ourselves to capitalist bondage or we break free by mobilizing the masses for communism.

COMMUNIST STRUGGLE AND SOLIDARITY AGAINST FASCIST STATE REPRESSION

EL SALVADOR, May 19— The COVID-19 pandemic has served as a chance for the rulers of El Salvador to establish a terrorist coup through the police, the army, and disinformation against the working class.

Several cases of police murder have surfaced. In one community, a 22-year-old food-factory worker was killed. The police said it was for being a gang member. “I do not think that’s true. I know her and I know she was working in the same factory as my two children,” said a lady.

The case of this young woman worker occurred a few kilometers from where, on April 10, a police officer shot another young man twice in the leg. The young man had refused to give him a \$50 bribe to avoid being sent to a confinement center for having violated the government-imposed coronavirus quarantine. Several police and soldiers from these delegations have apparently been caught carrying out these fascist acts.

This follows the order issued by the fascist President Bukele to use lethal force. In addition to all the measures implemented through laws and decrees such as mandatory quarantine, instead of healthy containment, they have military containment. Thousands of workers have had to stay home without wages and without food.

Many people say they agree with the way Bukele is managing things. They think he does it to save lives. We of the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP) are clear that he is taking advantage of this situation for the economic interests of the groups of which he is a part, and preparing the ground for the next elections.

The ICWP collective is expanding our communication networks with friends, readers and members. We are raising the need to organize collectives in communities and to fight directly for Communism. Fascism is one of the weapons of capitalism. Only a communist system will

have a different approach to face health crises that arise, including to emphasize preventive health.

Solidarity in this time of crisis is needed for those without daily sources of income, who are forgotten by the capitalist state, who must face the urgent question of what to feed their families. This is how ICWP comrades from other regions of the world are supporting their comrades in El Salvador. They are enabling us to buy basic food baskets, which has made it possible for us to deliver these to workers in the maquilas. Their employers never paid anything during these two months that they have been in quarantine.

Our *Red Flag* newspaper must be the tool of the voiceless, a way of organizing in these difficult times, a beacon in the darkness of disinformation, the voice that overcomes fear, a space that sets the tone for the revolutionary alternative of the ICWP.

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

Exchange White Flags of Hunger for Red Flags of Communism

Here in El Salvador, in recent days, many families are putting up any piece of white cloth they find, outside their home or on the roads. It is a sign that they no longer have any food.

Thousands of workers have been laid off due to the pandemic. They, and others who were engaged in the informal economy, cannot continue to bring food home. Hunger is an evil of capitalism that has always been present. But is now more visible and widespread in the midst of a state of emergency in which collective transport has been paralyzed. Also, we have specific days to go out according to your identity number.

Everything becomes increasingly difficult for our class. You cannot leave because the repressive fascist police can take you to quarantine centers if they don’t consider your arguments valid. Or, in the worst case, they hit or shoot you as they have done with young people from the marginal areas of the country.

We have to keep fighting, talking to our collectives, mobilizing the masses for communism so that this horror of a system ends and we can break our chains. Let those white flags be exchanged for red flags that lead us to communism!

But right now, what communist practice can we carry out? Not only with our party members and friends, but with these communities.

In communism no one will go hungry. We will produce the food that is necessary to feed ourselves. We will not need money in order to have what we need.

Let us continue organizing for our International Communist Workers’ Party. This crisis will not be solved with a change of government. It will be solved with a change of systems at its root.

—Comrade in El Salvador

Let’s work together to take back the value we created

I have been working for the same boss for 20 years, like many workers in the factory in El Salvador where I work. Now, with this emergency that we are living all over the world, our contracts have been temporarily suspended. But workers cannot live without money. So now many workers are making masks. For that, the bosses have selected workers who are letting themselves be exploited even more than they are used to.

Many of them explain to us that the same crisis forces us to take risks in order to buy food. But it also opens the doors for us to think ideologically



The Community of La Esperanza (El Salvador) Needs Food

that things cannot be like this. Communism is necessary to pull out the bitter roots of capitalism so that a better life will flourish. A life which is just and collective, where there are no bosses, where everything is based on meeting the masses’ needs. The call to our class is to continue to be active and mobilize the masses for communism. Only in this way can we fight the class enemy.

The night shift is being made to work up to 12 hours. Among those workers, a co-worker developed a fever. They sent her home. She went to a clinic where she tested positive for Covid-19. The following day the man from human resources told the workers not to go around making bad comments about this, that they had already taken out the machine that the sick worker used and disinfected it. He said that if they made comments, they were going to be out of a job like other people. That’s how they are threatening the workers.

Days later, the co-worker from the factory died. The bosses do not want to accept that it was because of Covid-19 so that the workers aren’t afraid and continue generating their profits.

This gives us, the International Communist Workers’ Party, the strength to continue fighting for

the change we need so that all the workers stop being exploited. We have been left out of the group of people who are making masks because they know that we belong to the party. We all know the party is of the working class, so this affects the boss. That does not stop us; it gives us more strength to continue so that someday we will be able to work for ourselves, not to make the rich richer. Let us work together to take the value we create away from the rich.

I thank the international comrades who have shown solidarity with us of the maquilas. Thank you very much.

—Comrade in El Salvador



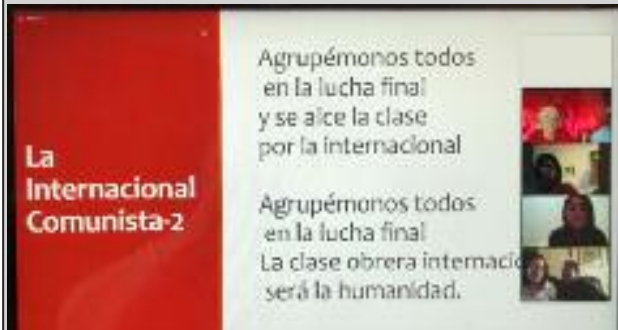
Let’s not return to normal—normality is the problem

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

Comrades, Let's Speed the Destruction of Deadly Capitalism

Last Sunday morning of radiant sunshine here in Los Angeles, May 3, all the women and men comrades who spoke at the ICWP International Virtual Rally filled me with inspiration and motivated me to write this letter.

The comrade from Puerto Rico, especially, reminded me of my wife. When she spoke eloquently, with a communist revolutionary passion and clarity, it was like listening to my wife give a speech at a demonstration or at the May Day march.



The Communist Internationale

The Democratic Party Will Not Save Us from Unemployment or Homelessness.

Trump is the most visible face of racism and fascism but the journey to where we are now is the result of the wealthy doing everything they can to gain more at the costs of the lives of billions of workers the world over.

Voting for Democratic candidates will not save workers from the greed of capitalism. The Democratic party is just another party of the wealthy. They "seem" less threatening to workers but in fact, they also undermine us by implementing laws and policies that lead to the suffering of millions.

Financial institutions were bailed out of the financial crisis THEY created under Obama. Meanwhile families lost their homes to foreclosure and bankruptcy. Democrats currently support the bailing out of multi-billion-dollar companies during the Covid-19 crisis as workers are losing jobs, homes, and are in excessive student loan debt!

Worse still, no president in the past or currently has deported more undocumented workers than the Obama administration at 2.5 million over the course of his years in office.

Democrats look to Black and Latinx voters to maintain their power base despite their lack of fighting for the rights of service workers during COVID-19. Black and Latinx people are over-represented in the service industry (for example, in fast food and grocery stores) making them twice as likely to contract COVID-19!

They are infected at twice the rate of white communities with COVID -19 and experience the highest death rates. Not to mention that these workers have no health insurance or are under-insured!

Democrats criticize the obvious tactics used to separate white workers from workers of color to distract from the closing of factories in small towns across the nation. But they observe quietly as Trumps stokes animosity and alienation between workers of all "races."

Democrats decry the overt acts of the police's murder of black people and criticize the prisons where parents are separated from their children or die before being deported. Their words are empty. The democrats and republicans serve the capitalist system to preserve it because they profit from it.

Workers held a multi-racial protest in Brunswick,

It gave me goosebumps. I remembered what my wife told me when, in 1977, the fascist Migra deported her for organizing the Anti-Racist Garment Workers' Union. She was three months pregnant with our first child. In the garment factory where she worked, she organized her coworkers, who were deported with her, to get a coyote to come back together. The comrades helped us financially to pay for the coyote.

The first thing she said was, "I know the risk I was taking being an undocumented worker: being deported. But one day the garment workers worldwide will become communists and we will end this capitalist system with its borders and nations."

Two months later, I was arrested with other comrades for taking over the tennis court in Newport Beach where the South African team was going to play against the US team. We took it over with a banner that said, "Death to Apartheid."

Georgia against the murder of Ahmaud Arbery by two racists in early May 2020. In Indianapolis, multi-racial protestors stood against racist police terror after police killed three people within hours including 21-year-old, Dreason Reed. Multi-racial demonstrators and many others can see that we are one working class tied to the same capitalist wage system that oppresses us all. We, the Working Class can put an end to the whole system!

Democrats condemn these vicious acts publicly in the face of Trump's overt racism but in private, our suffering increases the profit of ALL politicians whose financial interests align with the racist practices of Trump.

A Communist Revolution is the only solution that offers us a future! Communism is the only solution that ends police terror because it is our voices, our self-proclaimed right to live despite capitalism! Our right to healthcare, homes, and no more police terror so that our families can live full lives! We are worth fighting for.

—Reader in Long Beach, CA, USA



Workers Must Choose: Communism or Fascism?

The author of *Nomadland: Surviving America in the Twenty-First Century*, Jessica Bruder, spent three years living in a camper, driving across the US to document the lives of itinerant people (nomads) forced to give up traditional housing and go on the road for work.

The US government defines nomads as "unsheltered people" and counted 192,875 unsheltered people in the US in 2016. They estimated that at least half lived in their vehicles. Many are over 60 years old, and the vast majority are "white." Many nomads had achieved the "American dream" of home ownership but lost homes for a variety of reasons - being laid-off from jobs, get-

After I got out of jail, my wife said, "Someday there are going to be communists in South Africa. Those seeds that we plant today will one day bear fruit and we will build a communist world."

Comrades, we have to accelerate the destruction of the capitalist system because, according to experts and scientists, the second and third waves of the virus are going to be worse. More workers will die, if not from the coronavirus then from mass hunger.

Capitalism is the worldwide pandemic and while it is alive and kicking there will be more pandemics. This is why we have to build a communist world led by the ICWP. How are we going to achieve it? Recruiting, creating cells and study groups. Distributing **Red Flag**. Building an immense political base for communist ideas.

Long Live ICWP! Long Live true Communism!
—Old Communist in Los Angeles, USA

ting bad bank loans, losing everything in the 2008 market crash, etc. Feeling like they had lost a rigged game; they gave up their homes, rent, mortgages and moved into vans, RVs, and trailers.

Nomads connect with each other via the internet. They share places where they can park overnight without being routed out and where they can find temporary work.

Bruder worked for a week at one of these places, Amazon's largest warehouse, as big as nineteen football field covered by concrete! This warehouse had 22 miles of conveyer belts to shuttle boxes. The belts often jammed, throwing heavy boxes off the belts. During the week that Bruder worked, a man was knocked flat onto Amazon's concrete floor. Amazon medics said he could keep working, walking fifteen miles a day on the concrete floor.

Amazon also uses robots to move merchandise from shelves to workers to be organized. These robots often collide carrying 750 pounds of stuff, run over items, and crush items like pepper spray, once causing seven workers to be hospitalized due to respiratory problems. Amazon keeps ambulances in their parking lot, knowing the workers may be seriously injured or killed under these working conditions.

Bruder describes the nomads as resilient and enterprising; however, their survival is precarious, as is true for all workers (and retired workers). Covid-19 has killed an estimated more than 276,000 people worldwide so far (5/9/2020). These deaths were preventable, but our deaths mean nothing to the world's ruling classes, just as the huge number of houseless people means nothing to them.

According to Bruder, nomads are resourceful, and able to tolerate a relatively isolated lifestyle. Most nomads also value patriotism, which perpetuates racism and xenophobia. Add to this the fact that the vast majority of nomads are white; it's not hard to imagine them being won to fascism.

Nomads and all other workers need communism. A communist society with no money, in which all workers, regardless of age, physical ability, or skills, have shelter, food, medical care, and safe working conditions.

Let us work now to spread communist ideas and consciousness. Read and distribute **Red Flag** and JOIN ICWP.

—Comrade who likes to read

COMMUNIST SCIENCE AND HEALTH: “ALL OF US OR NONE!”

Bus drivers are wearing masks these days. But if the driver wears a mask, but the bus riders don't, the driver is not protected. Her mask protects the bus riders from her, but who's protecting her?

Similarly with the grocery store clerk, the mail carrier, and the hospital pharmacist.

Masks aren't to protect the person who wears them, but to protect the rest of us and to help stop the spread of the Coronavirus.

A recent article at theconversation.com makes it clear. “Numerous studies suggest that if 80% of people wear a mask in public, then COVID-19 transmission could be halted.” Nevertheless, wearing masks in public, which is easy, cheap and without serious potential harmful side-effects, is still controversial.

Capitalist science asks the wrong question.

At first, scientists weren't recommending the use of masks. That's because they were asking how well a mask protects the person who wears it from infection. They weren't looking at how well a mask prevents an infected person from spreading the virus.

It's not just scientists who are asking the wrong question.

We are all trained by capitalism to think about

our health as an individual question. If you're sick, it must be your lifestyle. To get well, you need to make the right individual choices, especially following the particular instructions of your individual doctor. If you don't have access to healthcare, that's your problem.

So we've been trained to think about masks in the same way—as an individual. Masks don't protect me, why should I wear one?

Communists fight for a different way of looking at health—and everything else.

“Everything or nothing! All of us or none!” wrote the German communist poet Bertholt Brecht. “One alone their lot can't better! Either gun or fetter! Everything or nothing! All of us or none!”

This poem helps us understand that we are not primarily individuals, but members of a society. We wear masks to protect society from us. We may or may not be sick, but surely some of us are sick and don't know it yet. If we all wear masks, none of us will spread the virus.

As long as we maintain the mistaken illusion that we are all isolated individuals, looking out for #1, we are all sunk. It is only when we see ourselves as part of society, and wear masks as part of that commitment, that any of us is safe from the coronavirus.

But Covid-19 is only the most recent, and sharpest example of the way that capitalism is killing us every day. The global pandemic has revealed the deep crisis of capitalism, and the extremes of rich and poor compounded by institutional racism.

Our response to the capitalist crisis must incorporate the lessons of the masks. As long as we only think about ourselves, we scrape by on our own until we go under. If we think about the entire working class, and join together to overthrow capitalism, we have a communist world to win.



New York City, May 1 2020—Nurses support Amazon, Target & Walmart workers

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Profit Is the Pandemic's Best Friend

My husband and I are avid *Red Flag* readers. We live in Nepal. We always look forward to new issues of RF. We found some articles on Covid 19 very interesting and useful. But we need to learn and write more about it so the masses know the truth.

Though I am not a virologist, an epidemiologist or a scientist, I consider myself a social thinker influenced by Karl Marx and his dialectical materialist world outlook.

Covid 19, the disease, is not as deadly as the plans by capitalist governments to deal with it. The capitalists' response to Covid 19 is dripping with blood in every step. Multiple millions will die not from the pandemic but from food shortage, homelessness, mental distress – all caused by lust for profit.

I found that in 2014, several US universities were conducting research on MERS, SARS and other coronaviruses. One epidemiologist, Ralph Babic, warned almost six years ago that “if this virus mutates so that it spreads easily through the air, millions could die. It would go around the globe quickly, and this would result in high morbidity and mortality, disruption of the economy, and, in some cases, the collapse of governments.”

Babic was not the only one. Epidemiologists and virologists around the world knew that the physical conditions created by profit motives can trigger the virus jumping from animals to humans – a process called “zoonotic.” In spite of this knowledge, in 2014 the US government suspended grants to Prof. Babic and others who were involved in coronavirus pandemic prevention.

Now that the pandemic is spreading, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is involved in funding several multinationals trying to create a vaccine. Pharmaceuticals will make profit while the masses die.

The Gates foundation is carrying out deadly initiatives of Monsanto that makes agriculture dependent on the profit needs. And in its wake, it destroys nature and brings cancer to the farmers. Gates is nothing but a modern-day digital pirate,

the Columbus of the present times. Just like Columbus, he discovered nothing; rather, as a pirate, he stole everything.

I strongly urge the readers of *Red Flag* to read the works of Vandana Shiva and watch this video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MNM833K22LM>

There is no escaping from this pandemic under capitalism. Profit is the pandemic's best friend. We can break the chains! Let us end the system of profit. Pandemics will be history. Communism is the future.

—Readers in Nepal

Capitalist Fragility and Communist Resilience

Workers are astounded at how quickly and easily the corona virus overwhelmed the capitalist world. Billions are under lockdown. Every day thousands die, and huge countries like India and Brazil are basically defenseless.

Some workers blame it on stupidity and incompetence – on the part of our bosses, but the causes are deeper than that, baked right into capitalism. Competition forces bosses to operate their businesses and healthcare systems on a “mean, lean” basis, to save money. That means operating with the fewest workers and the least stockpiling of inventory.

This barely works under normal conditions and collapses under abnormal demand.

But under communism, there will be no money, no corporations, no profit; and no competition. We will have plenty of resources - billions of communist workers set free from wage slavery and racist and sexist exploitation.

We will work for resiliency based on redundancy.

A redundant system is one that is given extra resources to make it tougher, more solid, less likely to fail. More resilient. For example, airplanes have two engines although they can fly with only one. They have two pilots, although one is enough to fly the plane.

The internet has stood up very well, unlike the 737 Max. Vinton Cerf, one of its inventors, said

that “resiliency and redundancy” were very much part of its design.

The bosses understand redundancy, but the pressures of competition mean they can't use it systematically. However, under communism there will be no competition, and redundancy will be a basic principle.

Understaffing will be replaced by overstaffing – more workers assigned to a task than are normally required. For example, there could be more hospital workers, overlapping more often, with shorter shifts.

The tools and equipment used will be multipurpose, tougher, safer, easier to use. And there will be stockpiles of materials that will be needed under abnormal circumstances.

A boss reading this would think we are crazy. Who's going to pay for this wasteful overengineering (or in our terms, where do we get the resources)? The answer is billions of workers and modern, highly productive technology.

And we don't have to wait for communism to use redundancy – redundancy should be part of our daily work building for a communist revolution.

For example, *Red Flag* is accessible both online and (normally) in print. It is available in Spanish, English, French and other languages. When we meet someone who is interested in our ideas, we make sure that more than one person stays in contact with them, and with their friends and family as well. These ties are built around collective struggle on the job, in the classroom, in the community. Everyone can make a contribution to our new society.

Redundancy could be summed up as “more is better, up to a point”. More motors, more pilots, more editions of *Red Flag*. But mostly we need more people.

That is why it is so important that workers join ICWP. The more members we have the more we can do, and the better we can do it. There will never be too many comrades. There will always be some way you can help. Make us unstoppable!

—Comrade in Canada

HUNGRY WORKERS FIGHT, CAPITALIST BOSSES TREMBLE!

From Cape Town, South Africa to Santiago, Chile, thousands of workers around the world have begun to rebel for lack of food. Red and white rags have become symbols of hunger. Capitalism, throughout its history, has never been able to supply the most basic needs of the working class. It is time to change it. Let's fight for Communism.

Billions of workers cannot bring daily sustenance to their homes, due to confinement due to the pandemic crisis created by the capitalist system. The aid promised by governments hasn't come.

Tired of waiting, workers in Chile, Colombia, South Africa, Bangladesh, India, Argentina, Venezuela, and many other countries have gone into the streets. With red or white flags, they denounce the governments and demand food. They have confronted the police, closing streets, throwing rocks, looting and stocking up on products from big department stores. Taking what is theirs, and what has always been denied them.

The workers, with their own hands, have built cities, cars, and airplanes. They have planted and harvested crops. Now they are fighting back.

And now the bosses tremble. This pandemic has exposed them. While they have become 10% richer, the working class has become 20% poorer.

These struggles of the working class, for the most part, have been spontaneous. Some have



Santiago, Chile, May 18 – Youths fight carabineros in anti-government protest

been organized by liberal or revisionist groups that take advantage of the workers' discontent to win votes and perpetuate the capitalist profit system.

The International Communist Workers' Party does not believe in elections. We fight to change the capitalist system, which is the cause of all the crises that affect the workers. We want to build

a new Communist system, where the need for money doesn't exist, where we don't have to worry about food shortages.

We will be the working class, the owners of our present, and our future. Let us now fight for our immediate need, to overthrow the current system, capitalism. And let us build a Communist society.

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Letter to a Comrade: Hard to Sow a Field of Communal Equality

My great and admired Juan—I want to explode in so many ideas, but I am still absorbing the robbery and massacre of my people, unfortunately and to my deepest pain I see how the communist party of Chile has sold out to capital.

One day, my friend, I will express my feelings and I believe that it will not be in support of the Communist Party because here it is being represented by thieves and hidden capitalists.

Mario's words resonate in my ears when he spoke to me about abolishing money, and dear Juan, I believe him. But here the struggle is hard, because where you would like to sow a field of communal equality, you face rats that dress in red and hide in a hammer and sickle.

Here the fight will be hard when we return to the streets, and my dreams of returning to Spain or visiting the US may be cut short by a bullet or by prison.

I am sad. I dedicated my life to finding my happiness and today sadly I see that my life was dedicated to fighting against a factory of thieves,

dressed in all colors.

Juan, thank you for your trust, and that of all the others who supported me and opened the doors of their homes without knowing me and made me feel like part of the family.

Juan I am at war against everyone who lies and steals from the people and the worker. I don't care about their color and their costume. One day it will be known that I only wanted to be happy and have peace for myself and for all. I am not a leader, much less a martyr, but this is beyond me. My people suffer. **Red Flag** will have to wait until I feel that it's useful.

I love you all more than life, and believe me I am not happy, but I will be, when I see that the brother who sits at my table is equal to all. It is time for revolution not of words, not of letters, it's not time for ideas but for actions.

Greetings comrade.

—Friend in Chile

LA Comrade Responds: Thank you for your letter, which is very impressive, full of love, analysis, and a lot of anger. We agree with a vi-

sion of a new world without capitalist rats. We agree that the false communists (really capitalists) of the Communist Party of Chile are what you describe.

You know that around the world there are millions of workers fighting against this rotten system. We in ICWP have fought for many years against those who falsely call themselves communists or who are for National Liberation or populism.

The pages of **Red Flag** are full of these analyses and those struggles for a communist society. It is true that we need an armed revolution to establish the new society, and that is why we need to build our party and massive red army. For that we need organization and a constant recruitment campaign with a communist ideology. Without that, capitalism will be restored to continue its oppression.

To create a new society where we all see ourselves as one family without distinction, a big heart and a gun are not enough. We also need a communist ideology with a goal of how to achieve it. We have a plan and we are working on it. Today there are comrades in many parts of the world fighting for that vision. I ask you to read and analyze **Red Flag** and to distribute it.

Take care of yourself, because we need to keep fighting

Fight for the Liberation of Our Class

I congratulate the comrades of the ICWP who organized the online May Day celebration. I am grateful for having participated in this important event. Three comrades from Puerto Rico participated in this event on Sunday, May 3. We express our solidarity with the worldwide struggles for a communist society. I was struck by the commitment expressed by comrades from different parts of the world. It was an internationalist meeting. I also observed the revolutionary quality of the participants. Let us continue to fight for the liberation of the working class!

Comrade in Puerto Rico



I'm dying of hunger, not from the Corona Virus

All Capitalists-Imperialists are “Paper Tigers”

THE MASSES MOBILIZED WORLDWIDE FOR COMMUNISM WILL SHRED THEM ALL TO PIECES

“U.S. imperialism in appearance is very powerful but in reality, it is a paper tiger.” Mao Zedong, Chinese communist leader, July 14, 1956.

This is true of all capitalists-imperialists. Although dangerous and genocidal, they can be destroyed. It applies to Chinese imperialists with a vengeance. The revolutionary history of the Chinese working class will assert itself.

Appearance Makes Them Seem All Powerful

The Chinese rulers’ unprecedented rise as an imperial power gives them an aura of invincibility. In 1978, their economy was 1/16 that of the US. By 2013, measured by purchasing power parity, it surpassed the USA’s to become the world’s largest.

They are the world’s largest manufacturers, merchandise traders, and holders of foreign exchange reserves. Their economic, political and military influence has expanded worldwide, making them the main challengers to USA’s world domination.

This inevitably leads to war. They are preparing for it at a breathtaking pace, modernizing their armed forces, focusing on their navy, already the world’s largest.

“The Chinese Navy Is Building an Incredible Number of Warships,” wrote Forbes magazine (Dec. 15, 2019). By this account, China will have 450 surface ships by 2030, including 6 to 10 aircraft carriers, and 110 submarines.

They will then be able to project power globally and challenge the US for mastery of the seas. The US won’t relinquish that position peacefully, because as US naval strategist Mahan wrote in 1890, “Whoever rules the waves rules the world.” He wrote this as the US was about to launch its empire by annexing Hawaii and defeating Spain to take possession of the Philippines, Guam, Puerto Rico and Cuba.

Essence Shows They Are Weak

Dialectical materialism teaches us that appearance and essence are aspects of a process. They are determined by the internal contradictions of the process. Appearance defines the external and is secondary. Essence defines the internal, the character of the process, and is primary.

Capitalism-imperialism is defined by its internal contradictions: the working class and the capitalist class united in constant struggle: This struggle determines the essence of both classes. It shows the working class to be all-powerful, and all ruling classes to be paper tigers.

Historically, the capitalist class is the weakest ruling class. Their economic, military power and physical existence depend entirely on us, their wage slaves, whose historic task is to be their grave diggers.

If our class stops working – as Covid-19 pandemic showed – their economic empire crumbles.

When working-class sailors and soldiers turn their guns around, these murderous paper tigers will be history.

Appearance Makes Our Class Seem Weak – Essence Shows the Opposite

We are the most powerful revolutionary force in history because of our size and our economic and military role in society. Most important, however, only our class can build a classless communist world without money, borders or nations.

Without us the capitalists are nothing, and without them we are everything. So how come they rule over us? The answer is twofold: we lack organization and ideological clarity.

Organizationally, we must forge the International Communist Workers’ Party into one worldwide massive Party to unite our class to fight as one army under the red flag of communist revolution.

Ideologically, we must fight for communism and nothing less. This will require that we smash all the poisonous ideologies class society’s rulers developed to divide and enslave us.

The Old International Communist Movement Failed to Do This

By 1956, the Soviet Union was an imperialist country. China then became the center of the international communist movement. Yet, China suffered from the same weaknesses that undermined revolutionary Russia. They both established socialist states – Russia in 1917, China in 1949.

By the 1940s, socialism – a form of state capitalism – had turned the Russian governing communists into capitalists. By early 1960s, Chinese socialism had also produced a Red Bourgeoisie.

In the mid-1960s, however, millions of rural and urban workers, led by young communists, launched the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution (GPCR) to overthrow these capitalists and move directly to communism. They organized huge communes where money was abolished. Although defeated because of their internal weak-



Shenzhen, 2018: Young Chinese communists demand release of detained factory workers and punishment of corrupt police.

nesses, their heroic struggle inspired revolutionaries worldwide and helped develop our line: Mobilize the Masses for Communism!

History Still Haunts Chinese Imperialists

Millions who participated and lived during those historic events are still alive. Capitalism by any name can never meet the needs of the masses. The class struggle continues unrelenting and unstoppable. It can only be ended with communism’s victory worldwide.

The objective conditions are changing. Our class can’t live like before. Masses are in motion worldwide. Many are open to our Party’s call to Mobilize the Masses for Communism. Some are joining now; millions will join later.

As Lenin said, “Sometimes nothing happens in decades, and sometimes decades happen in weeks.” We are entering those times. The Chinese working class will rise again to reclaim its revolutionary tradition and take its place in the front lines of revolutionary class war: this time for communism and nothing less.



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May Day Zoom Rally: Impressive and Motivating

Greetings to comrades and friends in any part of the world where you are building our party, ICWP!

The growing crisis of the capitalist pandemic that kills HUNDREDS OF thousands of workers around the world did not prevent our party from celebrating our day, International Workers’ Day!

The recent virtual conference was impressive and motivating. It showed the commitment of comrades from different countries of the world to

build a communist future for our class.

Communism is the only antidote to capitalist pandemics, which is why we must openly present communist ideas to our friends.

Our social relations must always be political especially since, due to the current conditions, the workers are more open to discuss politics.

—A Comrade in Texas, USA

Virtual May Day Rally: Inspiring!

I was very privileged to participate in the ICWP May Day Conference. Even though we were not

able to meet in person this year, it was tremendous to connect with comrades from throughout the world. I particularly enjoyed hearing from the comrades in South Africa.

—A Red Flag Reader

Greetings from Southern California to all the ICWP Comrades. Even though it was different from other years, the May Day celebration was very inspiring! Long live the Working Class!

—A Comrade