

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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



Portland, USA—Masses in the Streets
Confront Racist, Fascist Policing
See page 3



Garment Workers Worldwide Say: **NO MORE WORKER DEATHS! THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM MUST DIE!**

LOS ANGELES (USA)—“The boss did not close the factory, because he wanted to get more money,” said a woman garment worker at the Los Angeles Apparel factory who reads *Red Flag*. “And we kept going there because we need to work to live.”

Four workers from this factory have died from Covid-19. There are 300 more reported infections. The city’s health department has forced the factory to close, since its owner refused to do so.

In March the boss had announced, with great fanfare, that “his” 400 workers were going to try to produce 100,000 face masks a week, for the “protection” of the population. He began a mass campaign to recruit more than a thousand workers, whom he forced to work without needed safety measures.

This boss has blamed the workers, saying that they live in neighborhoods in South Los Angeles where infection levels are very high. He claims that this led to the contagion in the company—

not the unsafe factory conditions.

A maquila worker in El Salvador described similar conditions at the factory where she works. “As the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP),” she said, “we have to fight harder to continue forward in the struggle for a communist world. To put an end to capitalism, so that we workers are no longer exploited just like workers in other maquilas around the world.”

Workers’ anger and struggle are growing worldwide against capitalism and its dangerous conditions. We need to turn that anger into a powerful force in visualizing a new communist world.

In the border cities of northern Mexico, where over 300,000 workers work in the maquilas, outbreaks of infection have multiplied. This has killed hundreds of workers.

In Ciudad Juárez, hundreds of workers went on strike. They demanded the closure of non-essential maquiladoras, following the death of over twelve workers and the

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India: Mass Anti-Racist Protests Against Attacks on African Students **COMMUNIST MOVEMENT GROWS ACROSS SOUTH ASIA**

July 20 — Two African students at India’s Roorkee Institute of Technology were brutally assaulted and systematically tortured on July 15 after going out for food. Two attackers were high-ranking university staff. Fourteen more were gang members posing as security officers. The students were beaten for more than two hours and ended up in hospital, comatose.

Several hundred students found out about the racist atrocities and immediately rushed to rescue their African brothers. Thousands more, in over twenty large cities, demanded immediate punishment of the xenophobic attackers. Using the hashtag #BlackLivesMatter, they linked this struggle to the anti-racist movement worldwide.

Some very enthusiastic members of the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP) joined the demonstrations in Delhi. They called for avenging fascist murders. “Our small group was very vocal and soon we got almost 100 other people to join our protest,” reported a comrade. “We have learned from

our experience in Delhi to advance the communist solution to all our problems.”

Our goal is to get rid of the capitalist system, not just the fascist ruling party (BJP). India’s real unemployment is 34%. Hundreds of millions are without work. The garment industry has collapsed because there is almost no work in the Covid-19 era. 54% of garment workers are jobless. Same is the situation in the auto industry, where the unemployment stands at 24%.

Meanwhile, a war on the 3000 kms border of India and China is escalating. A separate war in Kashmir is raging out of control, with more than 900,000 troops, and two million more in the north. In southeast Asia, China is again trying to contain a growing Indian naval fleet.

Amidst this crisis, our small party has the potential to become a leading force. More comrades and friends have joined ICWP in India, Pakistan and Afghanistan. The comrades are translating key party

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ONLY COMMUNIST REVOLUTION WILL ABOLISH RACIST CAPITALIST POLICING

SEATTLE (US)—“You see, we are perfectly able to take care of ourselves,” said a Boeing comrade as she scanned the five thousand demonstrators. This anti-racist, multi-racial rally and march went off without a hitch in the Rainier Valley, a neighborhood the bosses’ press calls the city’s most crime-ridden. Everything from traffic control to hydration to the mass distribution of masks was guaranteed by the masses. Not a racist cop in sight!

Our Boeing comrade spoke a simple truth that could only become an everyday social reality in communism. The need for a police force will vanish in communism. The Party will lead mobilized masses, including a Red Army when needed, to guarantee what’s best for all society,

Sparked by the racist murder of George Floyd, millions have taken to the streets. Demands to defund the police, abolish ICE and abolish the police reverberate around the world. Various unions and global NGOs have taken up the call. Some demonstrators even blame capitalism and call for some vague kind of “collective care for ordinary people.”

Unfortunately, these reform demands allow or even extend the life of capitalism. They have been tried before and have failed. The grim proof lies in the escalating murders of Black and Latinx

workers.

Racist policing is not solely a U.S. phenomenon, although the US ruling class has done its best to export this particular horror around the world. Every capitalist nation creates it.

Capitalism requires cops. Capitalists invented policing, indeed the whole of jurisprudence, to ensure their continued ability to exploit workers. Racism plays a key political and economic part in guaranteeing this exploitation. Racism divides the working class and provides trillions in profit through super-exploitation. Police provide the armed might to terrorize workers. Racist police brutality must continue for the bosses’ system to survive.

Every year, capitalist police forces grow more racist, militarized, brutal and deadly. In the U.S., they emerged out of slave patrols, the bourgeois necessity to control “dangerous classes”, and imperialist military slaughter. “Dangerous class” is code for the working class, especially those subject to racist super-exploitation. Racist cops are coded into the DNA of capitalism. (See page 6.)

Camden, New Jersey is often mentioned as a model for abolishing the police. Seven years ago, this once-industrial city of 90 percent Black and Latinx residents disbanded its police force. What was advertised as a new, “gentler and kinder” po-

lice force sprang up in its place.

It turned out to be a mirage. Many residents are not impressed by this police rebranding. For example, the police force “hasn’t changed much” Sharim Anaya, a long-term resident, told reporters. Edwin and Katrina Ramos stated that cops treat Camden “as a war zone.”

“But will communism actually get rid of racism?” asked a skeptical young Boeing worker.

Yes! In sharp contrast to capitalism, communism relies on collective production to provide for our collective needs. The capitalist motive to divide the working class and extract super-profits from racist super-exploitation will end. And along with it the need for racist policing.

Ending the need for this atrocity is the first step. Unburdened by capitalism’s need to exploit, terrorize and divide us, the International Communist Workers’ Party will organize mass campaigns that will eliminate racism. This huge task will require the leadership of a mass international party. We invite you to join now!

Communist revolution will destroy all aspects of capitalist state power, including the police. No more vague calls for a more just future under capitalism. Help us to make the simple truth that we can take care of ourselves a reality.

El Salvador:

FORMER GUERRILLA FIGHTERS TELL HOW THEY ORGANIZED SECURITY

This report is a small excerpt from discussions with former guerrilla fighters about how they organized security in areas they liberated during the civil war (1979-1992). Masses of rural and city workers fought the murderous US-backed fascist government’s army and death squads. Their experiences help to show how communist society will deal with security, without police, when the communist-led masses lead all aspects of life.

Red Flag interviewed two ex-members of the FMLN. One of them is now a Red Flag reader and the other is a member of the International Communist Workers’ Party. They, and other comrades, have some knowledge about how to combat bad attitudes within a revolutionary process.

We asked: “How were security and discipline maintained at the fronts during the armed conflict here? How were problems solved in cases of misconduct, theft, or betrayal?”

“Criticism and self-criticism, democratic centralism, as we called it at that time, helped us overcome some problems of indiscipline that occurred in the liberated areas,” replied a former FMLN fighter. His whole family was organized at the beginning of the 1970s in a battalion in the northern part of Morazán.

His story continued: “We had some problems with some comrades who, when we were walking near the highway, stopped cars and asked them for money, without authorization from the leadership. We discovered this quickly, because we didn’t have any money. So if someone started buying things somewhere that we were passing by, we stopped it quickly.

“There was one person who had done this several times already. He wasn’t being conscious of the revolutionary role that we were trying to learn and teach. As punishment, the political leadership confiscated his rifle, reduced his food ration and he walked with us, but he was more exposed because of going without a weapon.

“We didn’t have anything like the military police. It was more that the leadership carried out the political and ideological struggle with us. When we got organized, they gave us a book called ‘The 15 Principles of the Guerrilla,’ which explained how the new person in society should be.”

Struggling to Develop Comrades

Another ex-member of the FMLN said, “I was in a trial involving two comrades who were captured in combat and then joined us in the guerrilla. They were accused of bringing with them behaviors of using drugs that they had been taught in the barracks. There were seven comrades who were like the jury. We deliberated for a long time. We were five against two. They wanted to execute them for this alleged offense.

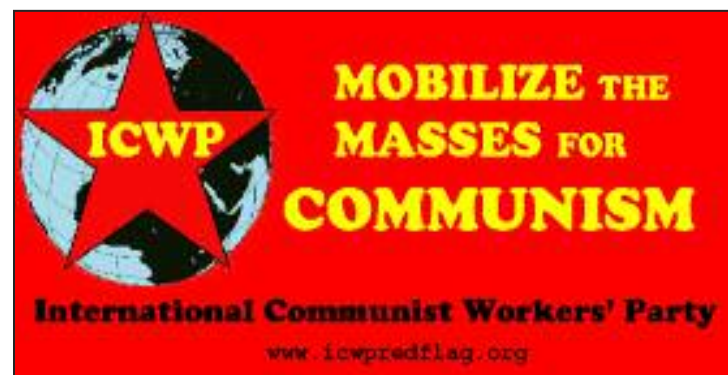
“We had made many mistakes and I did not want to make one more. I said that I had been in battle together with these two defendants, and that at no time had I seen any bad attitudes. That,



on the contrary, in an action we carried out, one of our comrades was hurt. These ex-soldiers, instead of running away or deserting, took him out of the area to the civilian population so that they could treat him. And he recovered.

“I told the other comrades of the jury that I never saw them wanting to return to the soldiers. After the battle, they presented themselves to the guerrilla leader and handed him the rifle recovered from the wounded comrade. By the end of the war, they were military commanders. What if we had executed them? I always thought that we had to study the cases well and not act like we were police.”

These and many other experiences show that the communist masses can and will run society collectively without any bosses or police. We will encourage and nurture everyone’s participation in a way that strengthens the collective.



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PORTLAND MASSES MOBILIZE: NEXT STEPS TO HELP UNITE THE PEOPLE

PORTLAND, OREGON (USA), July 20—The masses in Portland, Oregon are here. For 50+ days, Portland has shown up fighting for our streets in solidarity with Black Lives Matter and the justice for comrades killed by the racist United States regime.

Tr*mp's most recent authoritarian ploy sending federal Department of Homeland Security (ICE, CBP, etc.) agents to "quell" the city's persistent daily demonstrations has placed Portland in the national spotlight. Upon arriving on July 2nd, the feds have escalated an already tense standoff by using unmarked rental cars to detain (kidnap) protesters off the street without cause, while a U.S. Marshall severely injured a protester with a "less-lethal" munition round shot to his skull.

It is imperative to not forget that before the feds descended onto Portland to inflict Tr*mp's fascist agenda on our Indigenous comrades' unceded Chinook Land, the Portland Police Bureau were determined to crush our movement and preserve their capitalist interests. The PPB unleashed countless acts of police brutality against citizens and dispersed widespread use of teargas, a respiratory irritant, in the middle of a raging pandemic.

How we got here:

Sparked by the George Floyd protests, demonstrations started in late May featuring a diversity of ideas and tactics: direct action demonstrations,

economic disruptions, nonviolent marches, organizing vigils for community members to hold spaces for community healing and discussion, educational programming, protester training, and mutual aid collectives.

This **Front** of community support represent numerous coalitions of differing political ideologies. While most do not self-identify as communist, they share the same goals of communism and our *Red Flag* readers: fighting against racism, healthcare for all, and abolishing the police. The reinvigorated wave of support Portland has seen with thousands of new faces protesting that are fed up with the current political parties, presents a decisive moment in winning over hearts and minds for global communism for people demanding change. The following strategies were discussed amongst the community as ways to help unify the people of Portland, and beyond in your own community.

Community Priorities: Always listen and raise up Black and Indigenous voices. Period..

Mutual Aid: Support one another with free food collectives. Get involved with or donate to organizations helping feed houseless people and feeding people on the ground. Once established, these communities where people seek out food also become places of socialization. Additional services can be added, like clothes donations, free bookstores, or resume workshops.

Newspapers: Continue to write and distribute

the *Red Flag* with potential readers and comrades. New readers can share their unique ideas and stories, emphasizing the value of a press for the people.

Modernize Social Media: The Portland Protests have been so successful due to the widespread dissemination and sharing of events and news at a second's notice. Infographics with powerful words and images offer valuable ways to help educate the masses. Infographics can even be shared as PDFs for any user to print a flyer for their neighborhood. A *Bandera Roja!* Instagram page, and possibly local chapter pages (ex: *Bandera Roja LA*), could be useful to share knowledge to a wider audience.

Arts: Art is a mandatory part of any revolution. Artists help spread important messages in impactful ways.

Youth: Get the youth involved. Before the resurgence of recent protests, the younger generations in Portland carried the masses in the streets. Give younger comrades ownership in what they choose to rally for, and help establish a tradition of a weekly Friday youth march for high schoolers. This will help educate and mobilize our youngest, most passionate members.

"When we fight and lift up Black lives, we end up raising everybody up."

Red Flag note: We thank our new collective of *Red Flag* readers in Portland for this report. Responses are welcome!

POLICE BRUTALITY: WE NEED TO ORGANIZE FOR COMMUNISM

SOUTH AFRICA, July 9—Since the Covid-19 pandemic hit the world, the chaotic inhumane capitalist system has been laid bare for everyone to see. The "failure" of the capitalist system to respond to the threat posed by the pandemic is really an expected outcome. It is an expected outcome of world capitalism trapped in a deepening economic crisis of overproduction and drastic decline in the rate of profit. Its way out is fascism and war.

Capitalism, driven by self-interest and exploitation, kills daily many of poor masses all around the world.

It has been three months since the lockdown here in South Africa. The capitalist force has been in full flow destroying lives, whether through job losses or the police and soldiers killing citizens. Police brutality is used by the capitalists to intimidate and protect their interests.

Ever since the brutal killing of George Floyd, many people all around the world have taken to the streets to protest police brutality. These movements have mistakenly or consciously focused only on racist elements of [capitalist] police brutality.

The major emphasis on racial aspect of police brutality only focuses on the symptoms of capitalism. Police brutality is not a "racist" issue in of itself; rather, racism and police brutality are a result of the immoral capitalist system. Capitalism created racism and through imperialism it has spread it to the world. This has created a racist mentality in police forces worldwide.

Police brutality is found in every country: Black police unleashing it on Black masses, In-

dian police on Indians etc. Capitalism uses the police to protect the capitalists' wealth as they intimidate and kill the poor.

Recently in South Africa a man was brutally beaten by police and they knelt on him while he was naked. The police were acting from the instruction they received from the mayor of Cape Town who, in turn, was trying to protect the 'private land/property' of capitalists. The home (shack) of this man was destroyed.

The capitalists in Cape Town want the masses to be evicted because they did not pay for the land they built their homes on. Capitalism, in its pursuit of profits, results in many working-class brothers and sisters starving, poor with no homes or shelter. It destroys lives and using the police, it brutally kills and beats workers in order to intimidate them.

To tackle racism and police brutality, we need to destroy capitalism. We need a communist revolution. Workers around the world must build and struggle for communism and destroy the capitalist system.

In the ashes of capitalism, we need to build a society that is driven by collective effort to care, that produces things in order to meet the needs of the masses. Needs such as shelter, food and se-



Nairobi, Kenya, June 8, 2020—Protest Against Police Brutality

curity.

The contradictions of capitalism which amplified the pandemic, and are also amplified by it, have resulted in many disillusioned people having grievances and angry towards the system. These grievances provide workers with an opportunity to turn it into an organized anger aimed at getting rid of capitalism and usher in a new communist world.

Increasing police brutality towards the masses shows a weakness of the capitalist system. We need to realize and seize these opportunities. We need to intensify our struggle, to organize ourselves as an international working-class to fight this exploitative system. To do so we need a communist party (ICWP), to join collectives, deepen our understanding and application of the philosophy of change: Dialectical Materialism. It is our world to win.

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documents into Pashto, Dari, Sindhi and Kannada. These and other documents are being put into Tamil, Telugu, and Hindi (three of the twenty most widely-spoken languages in the world). This will make it possible for over 700 million

more people to learn about how to smash racist, capitalist ideology with communist revolution.

A worker in the Dari region of Afghanistan said proudly, "Our goal is always the same. We want communism just like our working-class brothers in the Tamil region of south Asia." A worker in Tamil carries the same sentiment: communist revolution now! Dozens of comrade

workers in south Asia are bringing the best our party offers – revolutionary optimism.

The working class must stay the course while the bosses relentlessly attack us in the pandemic, in wars for profit and eventually world war. Our working-class family in India, Afghanistan, and Pakistan are bringing to us an ability to grow until no bosses are left on this earth.

MURDER OF VANESSA GUILLEN CALLS US TO ORGANIZE IN THE MILITARY FOR COMMUNISM

HARBOR CITY (California, USA), July 12—“Vanessa Guillen joined the army hoping for a better future for herself and her family,” said a comrade at a protest demanding “Justice for Vanessa” at a US Army recruiting station.

What she got was sexual harassment that ultimately led to her horrendous murder by another soldier, who later killed himself.

“We denounce her death and also the brutal sexist, warlike, racist and homophobic capitalist system,” the comrade continued. “May Vanessa’s death serve to push us into the fight for a communist world where we work together for the good of all.”

The majority of the protesters took our communist literature and two people gave us their contact information.

Vanessa, 20, was stationed at Fort Hood, Texas. She disappeared soon after telling her family that she was being sexually harassed and feared for her safety. After a months-long campaign demanding an investigation, her remains were found near the base.

There are currently about 214,000 women on active duty in the US Armed Forces and over 200,000 in the National Guard. Sexism is an integral part of capitalist armies. According to an April Defense Department report, the military recorded 6,236 sexual assaults last year.

More than 2,500 women in service and veterans have signed a letter demanding an investigation and dismissal of Vanessa’s chain of command. Many have posted their own stories of sexual harassment and sexual assault. These women (and also men who experience sexual assault) suffer a lifetime of trauma. They understand that the military chain of command protects their assailants.

It is good to carry out investigations and find the culprits. However, investigations do not uproot the source of the problem which is capital-

ism itself. By its very nature it is warlike, racist, homophobic and sexist.

Rape has been a weapon of war since the beginning of class society. The US military has the same dirty history. It has used sexism and homophobia (as well as racism—a whole other article) to motivate working-class men to be killers of their class family in the US and around the world. Boot camp begins and ends with sexist cadences and exhortations to be a “real man.”

In 1948, as the Cold War began and the US became a key imperialist power, President Truman opened all branches of the military to women as full, permanent members. He also desegregated an institution which had racially separated units up through the end of World War II.

After US soldiers in Vietnam refused en masse to fight for imperialism and began to kill their own officers, the US ruling-class abolished compulsory military service in 1973 and expanded the legal rights of women in the military.

This has created a real contradiction for the US bosses. They need a gender-integrated military to wage imperialist war. But they’ve always used sexism to win working-class men to fight in the interest of the rulers. Women in the ranks are faced every day with a military culture of violence, sexism and robbery. Vanessa Guillen and thousands more have paid the price for this contradiction.

Class society and private property are the roots of sexist violence. Women were valued in pre-class society and are valued today in the communist fight for a world without exploitation and oppression. Communism will allow us to build a



society where we work together for the good of all. Without wages, private property and job markets, we’ll be able to see each other as comrades with no-one being above or below anyone else.

Vanessa Guillen, like many working-class men and women, joined the army because capitalism offers them very few opportunities for a better life. Her murder was caused by men in power who uphold sexist ideology. Sexist divisions between men and women are an important tool for the bosses in maintaining their class rule. For the communist movement to grow and win, we must defeat sexism.

No revolution can succeed without significant support within the military. The military is made up of our family members—working class folks of all genders. Those of us who can should join the military to organize. We can and must win our family members in uniform to overcome the racism, sexism and patriotism that divide us. To fight for their class, rather than for the ruling class. To fight for the communist world we so urgently need.

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

Mexico: Talking with Soldiers about Sexist Violence

In my town, Chilpancingo, Guerrero, a soldier also murdered his partner. The case was very well known, similar to the murder of a woman in Tabasco, Mexico by her soldier husband. Perhaps one man does not describe all men, but many soldiers are aggressive and have the bad habit of drinking too much alcohol, regardless of their rank.

This reflection was taken up by a WhatsApp group. We had a personal dialogue with an ex-military man and his partner about the murder of the woman in Tabasco, which affected two children and caused the soldier involved to flee.

Someone commented that military training isolates the soldier, leads him to changes in attitudes, and many negative experiences for

himself, his family, and society.

“I remember,” said the ex-soldier, “that when I worked in the army, I took out on my family what I lived through at work. Before, I was more violent,” he said.

His partner agreed, “Yes, he accused me of having another man. Once he wanted to hit me, but I did not let him. Perhaps,” she said, “women today do not allow men to treat us badly, and they don’t tolerate that, and that’s why they become aggressive.”

He said he lacked the confidence to discuss and listen more to people. At times, he was unaware of his behavior. He concluded by saying that many soldiers, after returning from operations or from their service, have post-traumatic symptoms. Many commit suicide. Others are left alone, on the street, and in poverty.

Sometimes it’s said that the military has the obligation to psychologically treat its soldiers, but that is only appearance projected by the institution. They use the soldiers as long as they have the strength to defend the interests of the government, and then they discard them.

I said that we should change that situation, for them and their families, and for all of us. We have a lot of work to do, but we can’t advance unless we make more contacts. We need to listen to the soldiers and their families. We need a communist world where people develop their human potential. Only in this way will we put a conscious end to these deaths and murders under capitalism.

—Comrade in Mexico

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infection of dozens more in one maquila.

Similar cases have occurred in Tijuana, Mexicali, Matamoros and Reynosa. Workers at Lear, Honeywell, Emerson and other large transnational companies have stopped production in response to the dangerous working conditions that have already caused thousands of infections.

KP Textile workers in San Miguel Petapa, Guatemala, protested after a Covid-19 outbreak infected over 300 workers in the maquila that produces clothing for American Eagle. Due to the

outbreak, entire neighborhoods around the city were closed. 125 companies have suffered massive outbreaks, especially the Call Centers, which employ thousands of workers in Guatemala.

Workers in garment factories from Los Angeles to Mexico, Central America, India, China and elsewhere are suffering the brunt of the crises produced by capitalism. Covid-19 and recession have forced hundreds of thousands of workers to work in dangerous conditions. They are exposed to the virus that has killed over 600,000 and in-

fecting more than 15 million worldwide.

Enough! No more worker deaths! What must die is the capitalist system.

We have a world to win. We must make communist ideas mass ideas to create a new world. Hundreds of workers at Los Angeles Apparel have received *Red Flag*. They must take a step forward and become leader organizers, by joining ICWP.

Let’s fight for a communist world where the bosses’ profits are not the macabre source of our survival. Instead we will mobilize for a new communist society where we work for the needs of the workers — ourselves.

SCIENCE AND COVID-19: HOW DO WE KNOW WHAT TO BELIEVE?

Is it safe for me to distribute *Red Flag* at a Black Lives Matter protest? Is it safe to get together with my extended family? Is it safe to send my kids to school? When a vaccine is available, should I take it?

The answers depend on many things. To draw conclusions from a particular set of facts, we need the best general information available.

Where does this information come from? Not from a religious text. Not from our wishes or hopes. It comes from collective practice. From analyzing experiences in the material world, using communist philosophy (dialectical materialism).

Covid-19 is new, so our best generalizations are tentative. We revise these “hypotheses” as new data becomes available. The tentative nature of the scientific process can be frustrating and terrifying at times like these. But it’s necessary.

Originally it seemed that the main thing was to wash our hands a lot and sanitize surfaces to avoid large virus-containing droplets. Now we know that the virus can spread through the air in tiny particles when we cough, sing or speak.

We know that people can spread the virus before they show symptoms, and even if they will never get sick. That’s how we know now that masks and physical distancing are important.

Once we (collectively) can explain most of our observations, we make predictions. We test them with experiments. If they go as expected, we

have a theory.

A scientific theory is not a “what-if-maybe.” It is the best explanation we have. Of course, scientific theories are revised and sometimes replaced by better theories – based on more practice.

Who does this scientific work? Capitalist society delegates it to specialists – scientists. Generally, to scientific institutions like laboratories and research centers.

Like every capitalist enterprise, these institutions have a steep (and racist, sexist) hierarchy. “Manual” workers (like janitors and animal handlers) are at the bottom. “Mental” workers (administrators and senior scientists) are at the top. Technicians and office workers are in between.

This is a contradiction within capitalist science. Its process of getting better knowledge depends on the unity of theory and practice, “mental” and “manual” work. Yet its social relations of production divide them.

“One gets unique insights into disease when you actually physically interact with patients,” said leading US public health expert Anthony Fauci when he suited up to treat Ebola patients in 1974.

Capitalism’s elevation of “mental” labor encourages scientists to be arrogant. That can make it harder for them to communicate that their conclusions are always subject to new evidence. It encourages workers to associate scientists with capitalist bosses (which most are not) and distrust them.

Communist society will resolve the contradiction by eliminating the mental/manual division of labor. Many more people will help decide what to study and how, how to interpret and use the results. More will participate in scientific work. We’ll learn more and spread the

knowledge among the masses.

Right now, our collectives need to find the best information about Covid-19 that we can. That mainly comes from organized science, not from talk-show hosts or Twitter or somebody’s second cousin or wishful thinking.

The bosses don’t make it easy for us to get that best information. The schools don’t prepare most of us to understand it easily. We have to fight for it. That’s part of our struggle to build a revolutionary communist movement.

Who Can We Trust?

“To beat [Covid-19],” said US politician Nancy Pelosi, “you have to believe in science, and you have to believe in governance.” Most of us rightly distrust capitalist government! Polls show that more people in the US (87%) trust medical scientists than trust religion (57%) or elected officials (35%).

That’s good, but still... Capitalism corrupts everything, including science.

Whole books have been written to tell just a small part of the history of racist science. For example, the US Public Health Service Syphilis Study at Tuskegee in the 1930s-40s left Black men to suffer and die although penicillin treated syphilis effectively.

Private corporations now dominate US scientific research. The government isn’t far behind. It’s said that “he who pays the piper calls the tune.” Who can trust research coming from the tobacco or fossil-fuel industries, Monsanto, Big Pharma?

Capitalist science produces results – for capitalists. Workers don’t need nuclear weapons or chemical-dependent agriculture. Even when there are potential benefits for workers – such as life-saving medical technology—the masses often don’t get them.

Communists promise to liberate science from its capitalist chains. That can’t happen soon enough! But it starts today. Our party collectives, with co-workers, friends and family, must start learning to be scientists now.

Using dialectical materialism and practice, practice and more practice, we improve our understanding of society and how to transform it. And, collectively, we find and act on the best possible information about what’s safe and what’s necessary amidst the Covid-19 pandemic.



New York, June 2020—White Coats for Black Lives

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Communist Dialectical Science Versus Capitalist Profit-Driven Science

When capitalist revolutionaries destroyed the restraints of feudal society, it was science that beat the pathway to the brave new world. Now-a-days, when their world is neither new nor brave, they either attack or distort it.

The growing fascist wing attacks it with denial or religious fundamentalism. They reject what their eyes see – no global warming, no pollution, no vaccines, no masks! They build walls. They give out passports – a Covid 19 virus becomes Chinese!

The liberal wing, on the other hand, uses science without shame. It makes profits for a Microsoft or Huawei, a Monsanto or a Toyota. They see what is profitable but are as blind as a bat to what is not.

A 2017 government report showed the US, for example, was completely unprepared to tackle the outbreak of a new viral pandemic. It was not seen as a challenging new scientific field to be explored but as an unprofitable expense to be avoided. Liberal capitalists might scoff at giving passports to viruses, but they

certainly know how to enter them into the accountant’s loss and profit columns. This is especially true when the anticipation of future profits makes their hearts beat faster. Passports are nothing; medical patents on cures and (private) intellectual property rights are everything.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) an estimated 37 million people remain infected with HIV-AIDS, yet only 14 million are being treated! Capitalist-controlled science, handcuffed by profits and property rights, doesn’t liberate the masse. It kills them.

While liberal and fascist wings of capitalism squabble over the applications of science, communists argue for a dialectical world view. Capitalist science invests millions of dollars examining the virus. Its mission is to develop a vaccine to save the world for Microsoft, Huawei, Monsanto and so on. The expert will examine the virus, understand it, neutralize it and manage the cure.

The communist scientist brings a dialectical vision to the pandemic. Covid 19 is not just a virus like no other. It is at the same time a virus

like all others! The particular and the general are interlinked. Like malnutrition, infectious disease, diabetes, cardiovascular disease and most cancers, Covid-19 is directly linked to racism and sexism, exploitation and oppression, poverty and pollution.

Take social conditions off the table and the result is the biological determinism of modern medicine. The communist scientist knows that the greatest improvements in health come from raising living standards.

Although studies exist that acknowledge that, capitalist science will never invest billions of dollars into promoting that research. Leave a doctor’s office or clinic and you will be worrying about exercise or diet or whether the insurance will pay for the pills, but the chances are you will not have had a discussion about social inequality being the greatest cause of all illness.

Starting those discussions, raising the need for communist revolution and fighting for the health of the masses is the mission of ICWP. Join us!

—Comrade in Bay Area (USA)

COVID-19 EXPOSES CONTRADICTIONS IN CAPITALIST SCHOOLING

USA, July 21 —What kind of parent gambles with their child's health? Is returning to work as a teacher or custodian a death sentence? These are questions that wake you up in the middle of the night. When and how to reopen schools is a burning issue.

Trump and his Education Secretary Betsy DeVos insist that schools must reopen. That will happen in some places, especially in private, charter and religious schools. But Trump and Devos are rich, and Covid-19 is killing the working class—the ones whose work made them rich.

Some school districts are trying a “hybrid” plan with half the young people at home and half in the building at any given time, social-distancing and wearing masks. Many big-city districts and states with large urban centers have ordered schools closed until Covid-19 rates go down. Unless the virus is under control, even districts that plan to open will go online at some point.

But working-class families are near broke, broke, or very broke. Capitalism doesn't let us feed or house our children unless we work. That wakes you up at night, too.

Most of us have spent time in school—often at least a decade in capitalist schools. We know, or at least sense, that schools are the site of a huge social contradiction. Now they are also sites of life-and-death contradictions.

Schools are capitalist institutions that teach racism and other capitalist ideas. Public elementary schools arose to train children to be punctual, obedient wage slaves with the skills that factories required. Every school kid in the world absorbs patriotism as they learn to sing the national anthem.

Schools differentiate social class. Working-class youths learn to get assigned work done. Some – mainly from better-off families — learn to internalize the values and administer the system. Ruling-class youths learn to expect the priv-

ileges of innovating and taking advantage of others' labor. In the process, schools perpetuate systemic racism and capitalism's division of “mental” from “manual” labor.

But children also learn important social values in school. Even in kindergarten, they begin to see themselves as part of society. They learn to take turns, to listen to each other, to play nice and not run with scissors. As Soviet educator Makarenko pointed out, our ties with schoolmates can become our strongest social bonds.



Teachers in Florida (USA) protest reckless reopening of schools as Covid-19 cases soar.

Most young people can't articulate the contradictions of the school system. But they say things like: I miss my friends but I don't miss the bullies. I miss science projects, but I don't miss homework and tests. I miss Mr. X, but I don't miss the racist teachers or the school cops.

Communist revolution will destroy class society and its schools. Comradely social relations among young people will become primary. Without bosses and exploitation, education will be remade. We'll raise children to work cooperatively to meet the needs of society, rather than compete for wage-slave jobs. Communism will recognize that all meaningful work requires both thinking and doing, “mental” and “manual” labor. Young people and adults will respect work and learn from one another.

The most vulnerable workers, mainly Black

and latinx industrial, hospitality and agricultural workers, are the likeliest to die of Covid-19. Their children have the fewest options. Working-class parents who need a job to pay the bills, buy groceries and keep medical insurance, want children safe in school while their parents are at work. But they also know that schools are not safe for anyone during a pandemic.

Teachers want to stay safe, but they yearn to be in their classrooms to share what they have learned with their students—the social relations, skills and knowledge. They aren't always aware they're also sharing capitalist ideology and social relations.

The reformist critique of “distance learning” during the pandemic has centered around unequal access to time, devices, and internet access. Obviously working-class young people and their families had a hard time with this during the spring, and things don't look much better for the fall.

Most teachers believe what they've been taught: that schools are 100% a good thing. Most don't question the capitalist basis of education. Most teacher activists are won to re-

formism—the fight for smaller classes, better buildings, equipment and supplies, more “relevant” curriculum, as well as better salaries and conditions.

Capitalism Has No Good Solution

How do we fight for schools to reopen when that will mean the deaths of young people, teachers, bus drivers and custodians?

How do we fight for schools to stay closed when that will mean that young people are increasingly isolated, and many families forced into unsafe childcare situations?

The Covid-19 pandemic exposes the deepest contradictions of capitalism, including schools. We can't have safe spaces for young people until the whole society is safe—and capitalism stands exposed as an ever-deadlier space for us all.

AS U. S. CAPITALISM DEVELOPED, SO DID RACIST, XENOPHOBIC POLICING

The needs of U.S. capitalists dictated how the country's police forces developed. Modern policing grew out of slave patrols, the suppression of the working class and imperialist military slaughter. Each corresponded to capitalism's requirements during a specific historical period.

Early U.S. capitalism relied on the exploitation of enslaved Black workers to amass huge amounts of capital. Slave codes were instituted throughout the U.S. to intimidate any who dared rebel. Slave patrols enforced these laws.

These codes were not limited to the South. New York state slave codes forbade enslaved people from being out an hour after sunset without a lantern or gathering in groups of more than three.

When chattel slavery was abolished after the US Civil War, and Reconstruction was defeated in 1877, police enforced Jim Crow laws. These laws mandated racial segregation. They filled the prisons with Black workers serving long terms of convict slave labor.

Starting in the mid-nineteenth century, state police forces were established to protect the bosses' industrial profits. State police forces in Nevada, Colorado and Oregon began as industri-

alists' private paramilitaries. They targeted new immigrant workers such as Hungarians, Italians and Jews. Pennsylvania bosses established the Iron and Coal Police to crush strikes.

Latinx workers made up a large section of the U.S. agricultural labor force. Between 1840 and the 1920's, vigilantes and law officers lynched over five hundred Mexicans and Mexican-Americans and killed thousands more by other means. The notorious Texas Rangers led the charge.

In 1909, Berkeley, California police chief August Vollmer brought professionalism and science to racist U.S. policing. “For years, ever since [my] Spanish-American war days, I've [used] military tactics to good effect,” he explained. “We're conducting a war...against the enemies of society.” He included socialist agitators, strikers, union organizers, immigrants and Black people among these enemies.

In 1965, President Johnson (a Democrat) first declared a “war on crime.” He proposed legislation to provide local police with military-grade weapons like those used in the imperialist war on Vietnam. After the Watts rebellion in Los Angeles that summer, the LA Police Chief said that fighting the anti-racist masses was “very much like

fighting the Viet Cong.”

Meanwhile, the U.S. armed police forces in at least 52 countries. It trained cops from at least 80. The notorious School of the Americas at Fort Benning, Georgia, did much of this training. No wonder it's called the School of the Assassins. It was key to the U.S. anti-communist campaign to suppress revolutions.

In 1982, Joe Biden, the present Democratic Party presidential nominee, echoed this sentiment. “You're in as much jeopardy in the streets as you are from a Soviet missile,” he told the Senate. For a decade, he introduced laws that protected racist killer cops.

Today, the New Jim Crow and the criminalization of immigration has made the situation even worse. U.S. capitalism and racist, xenophobic cops are connected at the hip. The legacy of slave patrols, the suppression of the working class, and imperialist military tactics are imbedded in US policing. Reforming or defunding police is destined to fail as it has for centuries. Communist revolution is the only development that will allow us to rid ourselves of racist killer cops.

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

Reparations: A Capitalist Diversion

The recent *Red Flag* piece on reparations may mislead workers about what capitalists are willing to concede in the current political climate. “Reparations may cost the rulers some cash...the US bosses are now scared enough to consider this a lesser evil.”

Two US Precedents

In 1946, the US Congress created the Indian Claims Commission to hear historic grievances and compensate tribes for lost territories

It awarded about \$1.3 billion to 176 tribes and bands. For people on reservations, the money was often earmarked for tribal projects. However, actual funds only averaged about \$1,000 per person. Most of the money was put into a trust account held by the US government.

Under the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, signed into law by President Ronald Reagan, the US government apologized for Japanese internment during World War II and provided \$20,000 to each survivor to compensate for their loss of property and liberty. No compensation was given to the descendants of affected individuals.

Reparations for Slavery

Reparations for slavery is the making of amends through some type of compensation, apology, acknowledgement or other amends to slaves or descendants of slaves from the Atlantic slave trade in the US.

One major bill, the Commission to Study Reparation Proposals to African Americans Act, was proposed by Representative John Conyers (D-MI) unsuccessfully to the US Congress every year from 1989 until his resignation in 2017. The bill recommended the creation of a commission to study the “impact of slavery on the social, political, and economic life of our nation.” In the 116th Congress, 2019-2020, Representative Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX) introduced HR #40, Commission to Study and Develop Reparations Proposals for African Americans.

It was introduced on 1/3/2019, and the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee held a hearing on 6/19/20.

The “40” is a reference to the 40 acres of land promised to former slaves by Union Army General William Sherman in 1865. The full allotment under Sherman’s Special Order No.15 was for 5.3 million acres of land to be redistributed to newly freed Black families. The offer was overturned by President Andrew Johnson, the 17th president, Abraham Lincoln’s successor, that same year. In the end, only 40,000 of the approximately 4 million enslaved people were settled on 400,000 acres before Johnson reversed the order.

HR #40 is not a reparation plan. It’s a bill, if passed, that would study what, if anything, the federal government owes the descendants of slaves, and how to implement that debt.

Reparations is a Capitalist Rabbit Hole

A rabbit hole is a detour from meaningful, purposeful work and efforts; and requires a great deal of time and work that produces no useful result. It conveys a sense of intensely captivating diversion. #HR 40 is a capitalist rabbit hole for workers.

Red Flag reports that 55% of all young Americans and a whole lot of older folks of all races have marched against the police terror that maintains the capitalist system of oppression and exploitation. They have faced rubber bullets, police batons, and tear gas in 99 US cities.



Tukwila, WA-- 200 rank-and-file Metro drivers and maintenance workers protest vicious long-term racism in the Kings County transit agency amidst another Covid-19 spike.

Let’s seize these opening opportunities to raise communist consciousness and recruit to ICWP.

—Bay Area Elder Comrade

The Present Moment: Black Workers Lead

The article about reparations (pag.2) in the last *Red Flag* was very informative. The beginning was very well written, capturing the reader’s imagination. It put forward a clear communist vision.

The facts were impressive: “Fifty-five percent of all young Americans, and a lot of older folks of all ‘races,’ have marched. They faced rubber bullets, police batons, and tear gas in ninety-nine US cities—and kept marching.”

Even more impressive: “A recent survey revealed that Black youth see revolution as a more plausible strategy for social change than voting.”

This is probably the biggest multiracial rebellion in US history. The militancy and heroism of the masses shows that objective conditions for a massive revolutionary upsurge are developing. The authors rightly claim that it “created a historic moment.”

Yet, it failed to define exactly what that moment is and what it means for the working class. It made no comment as to what looked so farfetched before seems more reachable now – especially with so many Black youth thinking of revolution!

This is a qualitative change. It makes revolution a lot more possible. Because of racist oppression and centuries of heroic struggle against it, Black workers are crucial to revolution.

This point could have been made more convincingly with examples of Black workers in the past giving militant leadership to the whole working class. As Black workers go, so will the rest of the US working class.

Hence, we should redouble our efforts to build a political communist base with more Black workers and recruit them to the Party, struggling

to convince them of the crucial role they play and inspiring them to shoulder this historic responsibility.

After correctly stating that “The ruling class sees and fears the potential for revolution in the current situation,” the article diverges from what its real path should have been.

The important question is: Do we see in the rebellion the potential for revolution? If so, how can the Party grow from it?

Although the masses are open to revolution, mobilizing them for communism won’t be that easy. We face many ideological challenges.

There are different “revolutionary” ideologies - anarchism, anarcho communism, democratic socialism, socialism, benign capitalism - percolating among the masses. To mobilize them for communism we need to defeat these ideologies. Too much space was dedicated to “Reparations,” and not to what the masses are debating.

Addressing this would prepare our members and base for this struggle, preventing their disillusionment when things don’t happen quickly.

Also: capitalism is not a dying system. Capitalism has long outlived its historical usefulness. Although in a severe crisis of overproduction and the falling rate of profit, the capitalists will launch world war to rejuvenate it. Only communism can destroy it.

Finally, this is not a revolutionary movement. It has revolutionary potential because its participants can be won to fight for communism. The only revolutionary movement is ICWP mobilizing the masses for communism.

—Comrade in USA



IRAN-CHINA DEAL: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR THE INTERNATIONAL WORKING CLASS?

We're assaulted by the pandemic and inspired by mass protests against racist cops. It's easy to lose sight of global great-power conflicts. We'd better not! As masses struggle for survival, for reforms, or even to imagine the world we really need, these conflicts still mainly shape the world we live in today.

Talks about a 25-year China-Iran military and economic deal started four years ago. An agreement seems near. China needs Iran's oil and its strategic Mideast location. Iran, pummeled by US sanctions, needs Chinese capital and military alliances to counter the US-Israel-Saudi lineup.

Every process is a contradiction, combining unity and struggle. Where is the "struggle" here?

Iran needs to avoid a Chinese "debt-trap." Its rulers seek to remain a regional power, not to be subordinated to Chinese imperialism.

China, on the other hand, faces a potential banking crisis. Partly that's due to massive corruption and collusion between wealthy bankers and high government officials. But it's also due to overextended Belt-and-Road Initiative loans. China may not be able to collect on these loans due to the Covid-19 global economic crash.

Chinese rulers are preparing to fight US imperialism but don't want to risk losing one of their largest export markets by antagonizing the US over Iran. They still get most of their oil from US ally Saudi Arabia.

The Iranian rulers face sharpening class struggle. The US sanctions are wreaking economic havoc. Prices of food and other necessities are skyrocketing. Workers have launched waves of strikes since 2018. One Iranian leader admitted: "If hopelessness prevails, there could be social riots. Having relations with China and Russia can provide paths to new opportunities."

But the Iranian rulers are divided. Another fac-

tion, led by Ahmadinejad, warns of a "debt-trap" while relying on violence to suppress the masses. Last month, a court in Iran sentenced 42 construction workers to lashes and prison for demanding their unpaid wages in a 2019 protest.

Declining US Confronts Rising China

The face-off between US and Chinese imperialism is the main contradiction shaping world events today. India, in particular, is caught in the geopolitical rivalry between the US and China over Iran.

When the Obama administration signed the Iran nuclear deal in 2015, China said, "sanctions lifted, let's expand trade with Iran." When the Trump administration moved out of the deal, China moved further in. The new Iran-China deal is another blow against US imperialism. Already there have been joint Iranian, Russian and Chinese military exercises in the Persian Gulf.

Most analysts agree that the US will have to "push back." But its diplomacy is in shambles – only partly due to Trump. Its economy is in shambles – only partly due to Covid-19. Its lying promise of "democracy and human rights" stands exposed yet again, this time in the streets of US cities.

Even the US Navy isn't looking so strong after fire destroyed an amphibious assault ship on July 12. This, after Covid-19 grounded the USS Roosevelt in April and forty other ships have reported outbreaks.

But brute force is probably still the US imperialists' best card. They likely colluded with Israel in causing a recent series of explosions that crippled key Iranian nuclear and missile sites. Whoever wins the US presidential election, more fights will come.

The Hart-Rudman Commission report on "National Security in the 21st Century" (2001)

warned that the US should prepare to fight a rising China within 25 years. That's getting close.

This is the reality that decisively shapes the world today. That's what the China-Iran deal means for the international working class.

A Critical Moment

Many conclude from the Covid-19 pandemic and massive protests against racist police terror that we are living in a pivotal moment. Masses are in motion – including many who never before imagined themselves marching.

"Anti-racism is good for our country," say many activists. Most mean it's good for the masses, but the US rulers have another idea. Their war plans require working-class youths of every description to function as one unified patriotic army. For them, as for us, this is a turning-point.

The mass movement presents huge opportunities for communist work, and huge responsibilities to do that work. This vicious racist system that exploits the whole working class cannot be reformed away. Everywhere the choice narrows: communist revolution or fascism.

A "moment" in history lasts more than a few months. Our task at this moment is to take the small steps that can add up to a qualitative change in the world situation. We must change the main contradiction from inter-imperialist rivalry to the class struggle for communism. If not before world war explodes, then in the midst of World War III.

A communist world will have no nations, no economic competition, no need for war. We call on the international working class to read more communist literature to learn how capitalism works and how communist workers' power can change the world.

US, Mexico, Canada Renew NAFTA, Increase Exploitation

LET'S MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM!

MEXICO, July 2020 — The North American Free Trade Agreement (Canada, the US and Mexico) has been renewed with a new name. Between 1993 and 2016, Mexico's trade increased almost fourfold (from \$290 million to \$1.1 billion). US investment grew almost eight times (from \$15 billion to \$114 billion).

Workers in the US lost 350,000 jobs. In Mexico, two million small farmers were forced off the land, unable to compete with cheap US grain. Poverty increased. So did the migration of millions of workers to the United States.

Trump said that capitalists in Mexico benefited more from NAFTA. He called the trade deficit "unacceptable" and threatened to withdraw from NAFTA. But he renewed it with a new name!

This is an attempt to stop the decline of the USA relative to other imperialist powers (China, the European Union, Russia). It aims to secure Mexican markets and the support of Mexican capitalists and their government in the trade war against China.

The Agreement continues to subordinate Mexico to the US in technology, energy (oil and gas), and migration. Its "Sunset clause" mandates periodic review to guarantee US investments and advantageous dispute settlement. It seeks to reverse US deficits in the balance of payments.

It modifies the "rules of origin" (regional composition) to reduce Chinese and even European components, ensuring purchases from the US. Wages are supposed to be competitive. 45% of the cars must be made by workers earning at least

\$16 an hour (but not right away).

Defeat Imperialism with Communist Revolution

How has wage slavery developed in the last 140 years? Into imperialism, including the carnage of two world wars. Its characteristics include: The monopolization of businesses. The predominance of finance capitalism (the fusion of banking and industry). The export of capital from the imperialist powers. The division and re-division of the world among the great powers.

Capitalists sharpened these processes at the end of the 20th century. They "deregulated" markets and reduced tariffs, accelerating the circulation of goods and capital. This intensified the exploitation of workers' labor power.

Each group of capitalists sought their own advantage to make the greatest profit extracted from the workers' labor power. They were not unified.

The World Trade Organization, which replaced the GATT, was set up to "regulate" the "deregulation." "Common markets" such as MercoSur and the European Common Market were replaced by the European Union and the Free Trade Agreements (which did not freely accept just anyone).

Nationalists denounce "deindustrialization", "dismantling of agriculture", "loss of sovereignty", "territorial cession (including coastlines and subsoil)." They propose to reform capitalism. But the working class must fight for its own emancipation.

These reformers seek a national capitalism that



develops its own industrial technological base. That does not import outdated machinery and technology. That doesn't overexploit natural resources (mines, oil, gas, agriculture).

That cannot be the goal of the working class. The working class must understand that it has been marching on a false path for too long. That the current labor movement, whose sole purpose is to increase wages and reduce working hours, keeps it in a vicious cycle from which there is no way out.

The basic evil is neither "foreign capitalists" nor low wages, but the system of wage labor itself. Only communism can end that system and create the world we need. Join the ICWP!