

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

Beirut, Lebanon: Deadly Explosion Calls Us to Prepare for Communist Workers' Power, page 2



Factory Workers: **COVID-19 IS A CLASS ISSUE**

EL SALVADOR, August 10—A worker tells us, “I have a fever, but I have to go to the factory like this. So I take a pill and I go inside.”

Some workers from the factory have already died. “There’s a good chance that we will all get Covid-19,” the worker continues.

In the communist system, no worker (man or woman) will work if they are sick. They will not have to depend on a miserable wage. They will produce based on what is needed. When the health of the working class is threatened as it is today, all necessary measures will be taken to avoid putting their health at risk.

“Which working people have the option of staying home and not going to work? It’s clear that the working class doesn’t have that option,” concluded a worker leader of the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP).

In the maquilas, there is no opportunity to maintain social distancing. It’s either be there or die of hunger. As a woman garment worker in Los Angeles said in *Red Flag*, they didn’t stop going to work because they needed the miserable wage that allows us to survive for one more day, to continue being slaves of the boss.

As workers, we consider this to be a class question. Workers see government officials who claim to have the disease isolate themselves. They are treated at home, with expensive medicines and doctors 24 hours a day.

But at the end of the capitalist tunnel is the light of communism. The ICWP is consolidating a base in the center of exploitation where these workers work, for the wellbeing of our working class. Every day they look for the opportunity to speak with their co-workers and tell them that we need to organize new collectives of the party in the factory and the community, and include their

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Striking Health Care Workers: **“WE WANT COMMUNISM NOW!”**

BENGALURU (India), August 9 — Over 600,000 community health care workers, mostly women, went on a two-day strike in India. They have been sent to the front lines of the Covid-19 response without the safety equipment they need.

Among this massive display of support was a group of Bengaluru women inspired by a small contingent of the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP). “**We want communism, we want it now!**” they shouted. In the next eight-hour long march, in drenching rains of Bengaluru, these women left no doubt that communism was the future of the half a million workers and more to follow around the world.

This small step was a significant victory for us. It started with the garment workers in Bengaluru who are devastated by Covid-19. The garment factories are 80% closed. The workers are facing massive evacuation from the owners. The fashion

industries in Bengaluru and Europe have collapsed. Over 200,000 women have run out of the last penny of their savings.

So, this group of our comrades in Bengaluru showed us how to end wage slavery. There is no doubt that the 600,000 workers want a change.

When our forces battle for change, two ideas emerge. There are numerous groups who, in one way or another, want to keep capitalism and its wage slavery. They will fight for reform to keep capitalism safe. Our forces want to destroy capitalism and create a new society of communists leading the working class.

We discussed, in the shanty towns of Bengaluru, the need to spread our ideas of communism. For the past two years we have taken bold steps to expand our base among workers. When the health care workers decided to join the strike,

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Beirut, Lebanon:**DEADLY EXPLOSION CALLS US TO PREPARE FOR
COMMUNIST WORKERS' POWER**

August 11—Hundreds died and thousands were wounded in a storage-dump explosion in Beirut. Hundreds of thousands lost their homes, their neighborhoods and their work in the blast. They are feeling the worst of capitalism in their own flesh. They are desperate. They cannot live in the old way.

The masses have taken to the streets angry. They stormed government buildings, putting up nooses for politicians of all parties. They have caused the government to resign.

Throughout Lebanon, millions of people cannot live in the old way. Almost one-third were unemployed even before the blast, worst among women and youth. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians and 1.5 million Syrians are stuck in refugee camps. Runaway inflation made necessities unaffordable. Economic collapse was predicted.

Masses rose up ten months ago in anti-government rebellions targeting joblessness, open corruption and lack of basic services like water, sanitation and electricity. The resulting political crisis brought to power the governing coalition of Christian and Muslim parties that just resigned.

“Bury the authorities first!” the masses now cry. “It does not end with the government’s resignation,” declared a protest flyer. “There is still [President Michel] Aoun, [Parliament Speaker Nabih] Berri and the entire system.”

The “system” is not just the corrupt political elite. It’s capitalism. And crises like this one in Lebanon create new opportunities to bury it and build communism on its ashes.

We need to spread the communist political line of the International Communist Workers’ Party in Lebanon and worldwide so that the workers

know that all is not lost. That there is a solution to all the problems that capitalism has created: the communist system.

What would the International Communist Workers’ Party do today if we were on the streets of Beirut with a mass base in the army and other sectors? What would we do if an earthquake leveled San Salvador or if a nuclear bomb struck Kashmir?

We would attempt to establish communist workers’ power.

Party collectives would lead the mobilization of workers, soldiers and others to guarantee safety from fascist militias and imperialist invaders. To secure food supplies and organize distribution. To transform mansions into housing for the masses. To begin reconstruction of homes, hospitals, and necessary means of production. To spread communist revolution worldwide, working with existing Party collectives elsewhere.

Communist revolution, even in a small place like Lebanon, would stir the imagination of workers and youth worldwide. It could inspire revolutions elsewhere. It could lead soldiers of imperialist armies to turn their guns around and join the communist revolution. Winning workers to the International Communist Workers’ Party now and forming cells in the army will make this



possible. The growth of the party anywhere helps workers everywhere!

Workers produce everything, goods and services and infrastructure. Today we do it as wage-slaves, directed and exploited by the gluttony of capitalist governments. In communism we will organize it ourselves, to meet the needs of the masses. As people in Beirut showed up with brooms to clean their streets!

Communism does not need currency or money, banks or loans. It needs masses mobilized to work for the collective good, knowing that they too will be provided for. In a communist world there will be neither wealth nor poverty. Communism will be free of slavery and racism, free of borders and free of exploitation.

The Beirut masses need to feel the support of their working-class family everywhere! But not solidarity messages calling for a “national and democratic state” or the overthrow of the “current political situation.” Real support means building the International Communist Workers’ Party. LONG LIVE COMMUNISM!

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it gave us an opportunity to expand our horizon. For weeks we went to the homes of healthcare workers.

We found that they were facing formidable challenges. Many had not been paid for months. The conditions in hospitals were appalling. Some hospitals in poor working-class areas had rainwater running underneath the hospital beds. The workers, along with the patients, barely survived.

We went to the health care workers to talk about how communism will open food, medicine, and other necessities by making them accessible to all. These ideas appealed to many other workers: that the survival of our class and its advancement was based on our communist leadership. This is how we are going to grow, now and in the future.

For several evenings we would meet with the garment workers and healthcare workers to share our vision of the communist future. It invariably led to the discussion of who is the next worker we want to recruit.

It has given us the strength that the garment

workers and healthcare workers are no longer at the mercy of horrific terror of capitalist bosses. We are showing the way of the future. The days of running water under the hospital beds and the piling masses of unsold garments are the sick-

nesses of capitalism. They will all end when the working class, led by ICWP, takes power.

The recent recruitment of the workers in Bengaluru is an inspiration for the Party and the working class everywhere.



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Capitalism Sacrifices Human Lives

“El Salvador Hospital is a pantomime, a government show. They are not treating serious cases of Covid-19 there, only mild cases. Many of these patients are discharged in a couple days and then they take pictures for the press,” a doctor from a public hospital told me.

“We have to take care of ourselves,” I responded. “If a doctor or nurse dies from Covid-19, there is no investigation of that death. That is, they cannot determine if the cause of death was not using adequate personal protective equipment to treat patients with Covid-19. This should be level 3, given the risk of becoming infected. This has happened in the Regional Hospital of the Institute of Social Security of El Salvador in the eastern part of the country.”

I have already lost track of how many doctors and nurses have died. Here every day people die from Covid-19. Cleaning workers, ambulance drivers and receptionists from the public hospital network have died.

The hospitals have less medicine and fewer medical supplies than before. It is a discouraging reality. There is not adequate equipment to protect all health workers.

There is a huge divide between those who think that President Bukele is fighting for health workers, even against the Legislative Assembly, and those who are disappointed with a bourgeois government, which within a year of coming to power has disillusioned many through its populist and sensationalist tactics.

We are in a health-workers union which is divided between the disillusioned and those who still trust the government that sentenced us to death in the middle of their improvisation to face a pandemic of this proportion. They did not designate a referral hospital to attend to serious cases of Covid-19. This has overwhelmed the network of hospitals and health units. The CIFCO Pavilion in San Salvador is anything but a hospital while the Rosales Hospital and the ISSS hospitals in San Salvador are on the brink of collapse.

What should we do? Certainly, our enemy has us disconnected. Our first step as communists of the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) is to reach out to our colleagues at work in the health unit or hospital and speak up so that there will be political discussions. Give our *Red Flag* newspaper to those who are now ready to receive it and follow up with them, be it one or ten health workers. By maintaining contact with our ICWP communist cells, we avoid only consuming ourselves in the endless activities that we are condemned to do to survive day by day.

Every day more workers' lives are endangered by a system that doesn't hesitate to sacrifice human lives. We will learn from our practice and mistakes, but we need to keep



Take Up the Red Flag Against Capitalism Fighting for Communism

moving towards communist revolution.

—Comrade Health Worker in El Salvador

Participate in Reform Struggles to Spread Communism

The letter “Reflections on How to Fight for Communism and Nothing Less” (*Red Flag*, Vol. 11 #8) made me think a lot about how we advance the struggles in the International Communist Workers' Party and build it in quantity and quality.

“Tonight, I posted in WhatsApp a documentary called ‘Workers without a boss.’ Do you think it is very reformist?” I asked my partner.

“I think so, but there have been many discussions in the Party here about how we have participated in reform struggles in the factory,” he said.

Many ICWP comrades in the factories were union organizers when we met them. However, when they saw how we participated in their struggle, and raised it to another level in the extended meetings, they began to analyze that there was a world beyond the union.

There was a big internal discussion when one of the comrade Party leaders participated in a struggle to improve the water quality inside a factory. “Because the Party does not support us at the moment,” she told us. Our whole leadership group met to try to give a communist explanation of why reform struggles don't advance the struggles of our class.

We concluded, with the help of the international ICWP leadership, that we should support these types of struggles for reforms, without being the ones leading them, in order to meet more workers and share our communist line with them.

Workers said:

“I had never heard anything about Communism, but I saw that the *Red Flag* comrades inside the factory are very supportive, and they make excursions to the beach and the mountains.”

“Several times they had invited me to meetings, but I was afraid of communism, because of everything the union members have told me.”

We have socialized with these workers, who had never heard of Marxism-Leninism in their lives, much less Dialectical Materialism, who had been very militant in the union. Many have stayed with us and our communist line. Many ask our comrades for support inside the factory when there are confrontations with the bosses.

We have distributed the flyer “Who is stealing from whom” in the factories. It has been very well-received by the workers. Some union leaders, seeing their militancy, tell them not to meet with us. But when they need to, they come to ask our comrades for ideological support. Because they already see them as more politically advanced. That makes more workers approach them.

In our leadership meetings we have discussed Reform and Revolution, and how we should be present in the struggles of the factory workers. The reform should not absorb us, but fights for better wages and lower production goals serve us to tell the working class that there is the possibility of a world without money, without borders. That proletarian internationalism is possible and that they must join the International Communist Workers' Party.

—Comrade in El Salvador

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families.

Access to all the care needed for our health does not have to be a privilege of a few. This will be possible only in the Communist system.

The virus can reach anyone, but it does not affect everyone equally. The living conditions of workers and bosses are different. The dialectical contradiction between the lives of the bosses and the extremely poor lives of the working class explains this situation. The bosses' profits and lifestyle come from exploiting the working class.

Generally, when a factory worker gets sick,

they are sent home without wages. Their homes don't have the minimum requirements for them to isolate themselves and not infect the rest of the family. Those in poor neighborhoods have the highest probability of getting sick. Many do not have running water.

The workers don't have access to Covid-19 tests, much less to medical care.

Yes, we can organize ourselves so that this changes. Not with elections and changing the presidents. But instead by destroying this capitalist system that is the most rotten, cruel, and unjust that humanity has had to endure. We will organ-

ize ourselves for a communist system.

Things won't always be like they are now. The communist system will better manage these health problems. The communist-led masses will work intensely on prevention. The communities will be highly organized in groups that will pay close attention to the wellbeing of all the people. We will take care of each other.

Our newspaper *Red Flag* is now ready to be distributed to as many workers as we can.

Join ICWP and fight for communism. That is our option!

MOBILIZING FOR COMMUNISM IN THE ANTI-RACIST MOVEMENT: NOW'S THE TIME

LOS ANGELES (USA) – “US policing grew out of slave patrols. Those only ended by abolishing slavery itself. Can policing today be abolished without ending racist wage slavery?”

A comrade asked this of a Black Lives Matter leader in a union meeting about “defunding” the college’s contract with the LA Sheriffs. The leader answered that this is a “critical moment” to win police reforms. Her group “believes in abolition” but promotes “defund” as a “winnable demand.”

Masses continue to march, rally, debate and organize against racist police murder. This in spite of the worsening Covid-19 pandemic, fascist attacks by federal forces, and constant pressure from the Democratic Party to drop everything for the November elections.

For liberals, this is the “moment” to take down the Republican Party. For some activists, it’s the “moment” to press for anti-racist reforms. We say it’s the “moment” to sharpen the political struggle between reformism and communist revolution.

This is a moment – a period – when open, principled advocacy for communism can help the ICWP to grow significantly in size and influence.

It can bring the international class closer, one step at a time, to ending wage slavery, in which racism is deeply rooted. Closer to building a web of comradely social relations based on commitment to working collectively and sharing according to need. To a communist society without money, exploitation, racism or police.

Not Just in the Streets!

The union committee meeting was one of many virtual events where the comrade and her co-workers have struggled to understand and fight racism. There are “inquiry groups,” book clubs, town-hall meetings and more.

Many urgently want to make whatever changes we can now. For example, reducing the “micro-aggressions” that



Los Angeles (USA) Protestors demand abolition of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department



Seattle (USA) Protesting racist police murder

inadvertently add up to a constant racist assault. Exposing and opposing classroom policies that can, without meaning to, make Black students and others feel unwanted.

For Party comrades, it’s part of becoming better communists. Meanwhile, we must seize every opportunity to remind folks that ending racism demands the destruction of capitalism.

We post links to *Red Flag* and other party literature in Zoom chats. We send *Red Flag* to new friends and invite them to virtual Party events. We become better friends to create a stronger basis for frank political struggle. In these difficult times, we look for new and better ways to advance communism.

“If not police, then what?” Many are thinking about “community-based alternatives” (reforms). It’s an opening to discuss how communist society will manage social problems without cops. Still, revolutionary communist society will need to deal firmly – sometimes violently – with racists and other class enemies.

Let’s Fight for What We Need

Red Flag explains why racist policing can’t be abolished without communist revolution. Some agree with us that capitalism must go, but still believe that fighting for reforms is how to get there. “Defund police” now, “abolish police” later, then “socialism” — and maybe communism in the distant future.

The 20th century international communist movement followed variations of this strategy. It underestimated the masses. It said they “weren’t ready” for a communist line. We would call this

a politics of opportunism.

Some activists today believe in choosing “winnable” demands, no matter how limited. They celebrate every politician who jumps on board. The anti-communist Saul Alinsky developed this model to divert angry masses from revolution.

Others use “less controversial” demands like “defund police” to front for something more radical (“abolish police”). Do they believe that these more “advanced demands” are actually winnable?

An old socialist strategy is to propose a “maximum program” that purportedly meets the real needs of the masses, even though leaders know that those demands can’t be won in capitalism. That’s supposed to lead the masses to think about revolution. Never worked.

The ICWP has learned, from study and experience, that socialism can’t develop into communism. We don’t make demands on the bosses, “winnable” or “unwinnable.” We demand of ourselves and the international working class: Prepare to take and exercise communist power.

Communism becomes possible when masses work for it consciously and intentionally. We have to learn, through this collective work, how to organize ourselves on the basis of commitment and sharing.

This is “mobilizing masses for communism.” It’s what we take to the anti-racist masses, in the streets, on the job, and in the communities. It’s what we hope you choose to join.

COMMUNIST MONSOON WILL DROWN FASCIST CAPITALISM

BIHAR (India), August 10—“We have new comrades joining in Bihar! And they want communism,” a comrade said with excitement. This is something comrades take dearly to their hearts because the arrival of more forces will help ICWP grow much faster. This means communism will come sooner to this very poor area and bring fundamental changes that the people of Bihar and other areas are striving for.

Bihar, like other major states of South Asia, is witnessing unprecedented rain. It is a massacre. Water is everywhere, people are several feet under water. Men, women, cattle, and life belongings are washed away.

Things were much different in Bihar in the past. There was a feudal system of producing food. The surplus went to local kings. That changed drastically in early 1760 when cash crops were introduced and the surplus went to capitalist England. That was also the year when British colonial power introduced the money system to extract cash.

Monsoon rains used to bring much needed water downstream in the rivers of the Himalayas.

But now the surging waters have no natural barriers. Forests are gone, and every year the rivers burst at the seams. Every decade brings more devastation.

Our comrades wanted to talk about what causes these devastations and how to change it forever. The system that brings cash crops – food for profit – needs to go.

Rich capitalists who hire landless workers and make all the profit tell the working class that it is the caste system, the Dalits, the Muslims, and lack of reform that are the problems. The only way to get rid of the system is to eliminate capitalism. No reform or religious movement will change this system. In fact, these will consolidate capitalism.

We are bringing our newspaper *Red Flag* in Hindi which will explain our fundamental need to end capitalism and its wage slavery.

The crisis in Bihar is just the tip of the iceberg. The fascist regime in New Delhi is exposing its true colors. The pandemic has exposed their system of enormous exploitation. Mass unemployment has pushed the working class to

desperation. To hide it, the fascists are praying to the Hindu gods for peace and prosperity. On August 5, Modi made a much-publicized appearance to found a Hindu Temple on the site of a famous destroyed Muslim mosque. It was a racist act to push the fascist Hindu fundamentalist doctrine.

The working class has a better option. We are continuing to meet in Chennai, Bengaluru, Delhi and now Bihar. Our comrades form a growing surge that strives to end capitalism. We believe that this system of enormous profit gives us an opportunity to bring more comrades to our party.

In this system that is vicious and divisive, we bring the working-class unity that appeals to many people. Ultimately, we will have to take on fascism.

The rulers in Delhi are very weak. Their strength comes from intimidation and subjugation. When we clearly grasp that contradiction and understand how weak the bosses are, we begin to see a change. This change also reflects in our numbers. One more example of Bihar will lead to many. Fight for communism!

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

COMRADES IN SOUTH AFRICA AND INDIA RESPOND TO REPORT FROM COMRADES IN THE STREETS OF PORTLAND, OREGON, USA

Comrades in South Africa: Destroy the Capitalist State

We salute the comrades in Portland who have stood up against the bosses' tyranny, against the violent oppression by the police of the masses' protests.

This has demonstrated to all of us that the myth perpetuated by the bosses —that we are more different than similar —is a lie. The demonstrations there have shown us, as physically distant observers, the similarities among people who are Black, White, Asians, Hispanics, from all walks of life.

Many are united under the idea of the rejection of the state.

The demonstrations in Portland attack the core of the capitalist interest, the institutions that constitute the state, including the court-house. The bosses cannot tolerate this direct attack on these institutions because this debunks the myth that for society to thrive there has to be a state.

The ICWP says that we must destroy the capitalist state. The state will not wither away by itself. The state has to be violently smashed for it to fall. The institutions that form the state include: the judiciary, the congress (or parliament), the police, the president, the military, and the tax authorities.

Once the masses make a frontal assault on these institutions, the only way the bosses know how to respond is with brutal attacks. It's up to us to mobilize all our working class family, including those in the military, so that we can turn the guns against the rulers and fight directly for the overthrow of capitalism, the destruction of the capitalist state and the establishment of the communist society.

The problem is that you can't do this with these reformist movements. There has to be a Party that will organize society so that we can live in a communist way with communist principles.

We have seen examples where the masses have tried to seize power but without a party that will play a central role in terms of organizing, distributing and producing whatever the masses need. That quickly falls apart. The zone that was established in Seattle, quickly disintegrated into chaos because there was no Party behind it.

Hence it is important for the ICWP to take a central role in these protests and in mobilizing the masses for communism.

We are encouraged by the work of the comrades. We can do more, including us in South Africa, to support what is happening in the US. This does not happen in isolation because of our interconnectiveness. It also affects us. We are really encouraged by the progress that has been made and we would



like it to expand and continue.

Thanks, comrades.

—Comrades in South Africa

India: Auto Workers in Solidarity with Portland (USA) Protests

We are a group of auto workers in Chennai, India. We read with lots of excitement about Portland. This is a message of solidarity with the workers who are fighting there. These workers are showing the way for communism. We all must learn from this struggle.

Today's fight against the pandemic reflects the deep crisis of capitalism. No capitalist in the world has the power to end the crisis that was created by the capitalist class. They can either prolong it with reformist promises or hasten it with direct attacks on the working class. In India and USA they are launching a direct assault on the working class.

We have the power to advance in this situation, as the Portland comrades are showing. Their fight is our fight because the working class, when united under the communist banner, will defy all the power of money, greed, nationalism, sexism, and xenophobia.

In India, the rulers are more vicious. Every day, we are pushed to our limits. Whether it is incessant punishing monsoon rains, assault on the migrant workers, xenophobic attacks on Muslims, Dalits and other workers, daily rapes, and dehumanizing of women – it all leads to one direction. The real culprit is capitalism. Let us unite now for bigger and better society.

—Comrades in Chennai



Wage Slavery Is the Defining and Decisive Issue

“Would you care for a copy of *Red Flag*? It is a revolutionary communist newspaper.”

“No thank you. That is a hard sell. Some of my friends argue in favor of capitalism” said the young protester at a rally calling for justice for Vanessa Guillen.

“We fight for a world without money, exploitation, racism, sexism, borders or nations.”

“I think democratic socialism – like Venezuela is better.”

“But look what is happening in Venezuela – people are suffering and the rich still rule. After Mexico's Carlos Slim, the two richest persons in Latin America are Venezuelans.”

“But the people haven't left the country.”

“Quite a few, about five million have.”

“How do you know? You are not there.

The news we get could be all propaganda.”

“You might be right, but we have to look at the essence. There like here – and everywhere else– we have to work for someone.”

“That is true. It is modern day slavery. We are all slaves.”

“You are right. We communists call it wage slavery. Only communism can eliminate it and liberate us from it by eliminating money and the need to work for a wage. We will collectively produce and distribute the fruits of our labor according to need. Nothing will be bought or sold, especially our labor. We can live without money. Our ancestors did so for tens of thousands of years.”

“Read my cap. It says indigenous. I'll take your paper. Thanks for the nice conversation.”

—Los Angeles (USA) comrade



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“Defund the Police” Protestors Welcome *Red Flag*:

COMMUNIST MASSES WILL ABOLISH RACIST, KILLER COPS

SEATTLE (US), August 5—A thousand rallied at the Seattle Youth Jail and then marched to City Hall to demand “defunding” the police. A comrade reported on how she distributed this newspaper:

“Have you seen *Red Flag*? It’s a communist paper. It talks about what we want on the other side of the revolution. What kind of world we should build,” she’d begin.

She described how more demonstrators than ever said something like “Yeah, we need to think about that!”

Altogether, four comrades distributed 200 papers to the crowd.

At an outside, socially-distanced breakfast before the demonstration, five of us talked about similar discussions we’d had with young relatives, co-workers and friends. A comrade’s nephew was clear that capitalism had to end, but he wanted to go beyond just that. Our comrade gave him the paper for the first time. He was anxious to read it. Our comrade offered to discuss our vision of a future communist society with him any time.

At the rally, many were attracted to a two-page spread of four short articles from Seattle, Portland, El Salvador and South Africa. The theme was how communism will abolish racist capitalist policing, including historical examples and reports from present-day battles.

“This really is an international fight!” exclaimed a bicyclist after scanning the headlines of those pages. He was helping divert cars around the rally. He made sure everyone in the line blocking off the street got a paper.

After months of demonstrations, street battles, one fatality, and many serious injuries at the hands of the cops, the City Council took up the debate about defunding the police. The same day as the rally, the council passed a token proposal to withdraw funding for cops on the Navigation team. This team destroys homeless camps.

What a sad joke! Cops can still sweep homeless camps away under existing obstruction laws. Even council members conceded that the result will likely be a “rebranded Navigation team,” which will continue to attack unhoused people.

The next day, the bosses’ media turned the discussion into a debate between this pathetic resolution and the mayor and police chief’s opposition to this reform. Much ado about nothing!

This opens up further discussion about how communism would abolish police. Even the “best” reform demands to defund the police focus on removing “social work” functions (like dealing with those experiencing homelessness) from law enforcement. Many well-intentioned people think social work should be left up to the “experts” in this field.

Communist society will not rely on “experts.” The ICWP will mobilize masses to assure the needs of the working class are met, including providing decent housing and ending racism.

Mobilized masses will also guarantee whatever security is needed. This idea went over well with the line of bicyclists. To some extent, that’s what they were already doing.

Soviet Union, 1917: Communist Youth Looked to the Collective, Not Cops

Activists in the “defund/abolish the police” movement are looking for revolutionary solutions. They say we have to think about what kind of world we should build after the revolution. *Red Flag* continues to offer examples of communists the world over whose efforts point to a society without cops and policing.

One such example was the Gorky colony in the Ukraine, created soon after the 1917 Bolshevik revolution. Thousands of children had been orphaned after imperialist armies invaded in a vain attempt to squash the newly-formed Soviet state. The Gorky colony organized many of these orphans into an experiment in communist collective education and living.

Not everyone in this collective of teachers, staff and students responded well. For example, student colonist Uzhikov stole the stipend he was given to attend a nearby high school. The Gorky collective had very little money, so this was a big deal. Still, nobody wanted to call police.

Instead, the collective’s leadership council summoned Uzhikov to meet. They decided to expel him from his work group. He was assigned individual tasks and was not allowed to talk to the other colonists. To his credit, Uzhikov agreed and

worked towards restoring the trust of the collective.

A visiting Regional Education Department representative was worried about him and asked him how he felt.

Uzhikov stood up. He replied that he wouldn’t talk to the representative without his work group’s permission. The council immediately met and ended the punishment. Uzhikov learned that he had been selfish and that being part of a collective was the only way to make a society that provides for all.

Developing communist collective relationships is an important part of the process of becoming a communist.

As socialism was consolidated in the Soviet Union, this and other attempts to build communist alternatives to police were scrapped. Socialism is capitalism in another form, maintaining wages, money and exploitation. Like other forms of capitalism, it requires a police force to control the working class.

Uzhikov’s story shows one small attempt to mobilize masses to replace capitalist policing. A future article will examine how the Chinese Red Army promoted communist alternatives to police more profoundly and on a much wider scale.

THE POWER OF LAND

PORT ELIZABETH (South Africa)—South Africa comes from a colonial and Apartheid Era where the working class, particularly the black masses, were forcefully removed from their land. They were forced to live in shacks and sell their labor to the racist capitalist bosses.

The liberation movement that fought these racist colonialists culminated in 1994. In the first democratic elections, the current ruling party, the African National Congress (ANC) was elected. It promised a new Era which it called “The Freedom Era”.

One of the main promises was the ANC reform agenda, the Freedom Charter (which was agreed upon in 1955). It stated: “Restriction of land ownership on a racial basis shall be ended, and all the land re-divided amongst those who work it, to banish famine and hunger”. This was going to be achieved by expropriating the land without compensation.

But this later showed that the working class was sold dreams, as the same party came up with a policy of “willing buyer, willing seller”. In addition to the “dreams sold,” it proved the futility of reformism. It proved that without the complete revolutionary eradication of the capitalist system no working-class emancipation is possible.

The policy that was later adopted by the ANC

nullified even the reform of “expropriation of land without compensation” decision and meant that the ANC fully embraced the capitalist mantra, one which says “one who want to sell their land and at the price they want to exchange it for can do so”. Coupled with crisis of capitalism this has created a situation where the working class has become impatient and is occupying unoccupied land.

Everyone needs land and of course different people need it for different reasons. Firstly, and most importantly we all need land for residential purposes: for shelter. People also need land for farming, recreational and other activities. Therefore, the working class in the country is fed up and is occupying the land forcefully.

The same ruling party keeps removing them from the places which they occupy. We recently saw that in Cape Town, where they stripped a person of his dignity by destroying his shack while he was naked. This is certainly not the last time they will do so. This happened after the ruling party had announced that no one will be forcefully removed, or his house or shack destroyed, during the coronavirus pandemic.

The capitalists on the other hand

need the land for their businesses to continue exploiting the working class and building institutions that will serve them.

In a communist society the working class will not need to forcefully occupy land which they need. There will be no private ownership of the means of production. The collective will decide what to do and what not to do with it. No individual will own hectares of land which they don’t need while there are others who need the land.

The impatience displayed by the working class presents an opportunity to mobilize them and recruit them in order to channel the anger to the bosses who are the ones who take decisions that get implemented by their puppets the politicians. Aluta Continua!



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

Red Flag thanks readers who have written with criticisms, comments, and stories. We encourage more to take part in the ongoing struggle to develop our communist political line.

Another View of Science

A few comments concerning “Science and Covid-19: How Do We Know What to Believe?” and “Communist Dialectical Science Versus Capitalist Profit-Driven Science” in the last edition of *Red Flag*.

I think the authors were trying to use an issue affecting everyone’s life today to talk about communist science. I think they had limited success.

I found the first article confusing. It states that “we need the best general information available”, which “...comes from collective practice. From analyzing experiences in the material world, using communist philosophy (dialectical materialism).”

Do we really do that? I don’t. Unfortunately, it is the same for masses of people worldwide.

The scientific methodology it describes, I think, is the one used by capitalist scientists today. Will communism use the same methodology, integrating it with dialectical materialism and eliminating its division of mental and manual labor, its elitism, racism, sexism, etc.?

Both articles seem to miss the point that science existed before class society. The “discovery of fire, agriculture” and many more things were scientific discoveries. Science then was in the hands of the masses and served the interests of the masses.

Class society codified it, took it away from the masses and placed it in the hands of an elitist group to serve the interests of a particular ruling class at a given time in history.

Our task is to put it back into the hands of the masses. How will we do that? The article hints at the process. “Using dialectical materialism and practice, practice and more practice, we improve our understanding of society and how to transform it.”

Another point that both the article and the letter missed is the connection between capitalist science and war. Since capitalism transformed into imperialism – maybe earlier – the main focus of science has been to enhance the rulers’ ability to kill workers in wars. All major discoveries of the 20th and 21st century were made for the military and applied later for civilian use, like diodes, microchip, digital imaging, networks, etc.

The letter states that the pandemic “was not seen as a challenging new scientific field to be explored but as an unprofitable expense to be avoided.” How will science in communism be different?

Eliminating the material basis for a profit-driven science is not enough. It only sets the basis for communists to usher in a qualitative change in society: make massive the love of learning and base it on love for our entire worldwide working-class family to fight individualism. That is the challenge we will face and will conquer. But we need to talk about it now.

—Comrade in Los Angeles (USA)

Response from writer of “Communist Dialectical Science Versus Capitalist Profit-Driven Science”:

Thank you for your critical reading of the letter on science. Your point about science and war is well taken. It could have easily been put into the letter.

I’m open to the idea of classifying early achievements as science but I prefer to talk about them as examples of materialist thought. Different modes of production developed different understanding. For example, early society would mix a material knowledge of the seed with a fantastic idea of a fertility goddess. In this way of looking at it, science is the development of materialist thought under commodity production.

I tried to suggest ways to practice our communist vision today, rather than on some vague post-revolutionary period, but I see from your reading that I could have made that point more forcefully.

Response from author of “Science and Covid-19: How Do We Know What to Believe?”

The article could have stated more clearly the significance of “collective practice... analyzing experiences in the material world, using communist philosophy (dialectical materialism).” This describes how our Party works. The “material world” includes the “social world” that we are fighting to change.

It’s how we should approach Covid-19. Through collective discussion and practice, guided by communist philosophy, we should decide what kind of meetings and mobilizations to have (or not) and so forth.

Our main task is to get masses involved in this process of Party-building and mobilizing for communism. That starts relatively small, with our co-workers, neighbors, family, friends. It grows from there. I don’t see how this can be considered as “capitalist scientific methodology.” To the contrary: it is the seed from which communist science will grow.

“Peterloo” Movie Builds Working-Class Confidence

A movie about a brutal massacre of working-class families at a protest rally sounds defeatist. The movie “Peterloo,” however, fills you with both class anger and class confidence.

Peterloo is the name history has given to the massacre of workers at a rally in Manchester, England in 1819, a few years after the English defeated Napoleon at the battle of Waterloo.

The film builds our class anger through a series of contrasting scenes. The public praise and rich rewards of money and promotions to the Army officers is counterposed to the silent dismissal of the foot soldiers. From three short scenes in the Manchester magistrates court, we glimpse the brutality of class rule. And from conversations in different settings we understand the elite’s fear of the French Revolution alongside the working class’s support of it.

And it builds our class confidence in scenes that show the breadth and variety of organizing that built the protest movement. Women’s groups meeting in run-down halls, political groups in public houses, smaller groups writing a leaflet, armed groups training in secrecy and family discussions in the kitchen. In all of them there are conflicts as unity and disagreement co-exist.

In fact, although the movie features the massacre at Peterloo, it is not about the massacre. It is about the building of a mass working-class movement.

And the movie isn’t about the weaknesses of that movement. It’s about the mistakes it made in ceding leadership at the very last moment to a rich “big name” pacifist orator. You don’t leave this movie with a sense of defeat. You leave it with the sense Mao captured in his revolutionary days: “Fight and lose; fight and lose...until we win!”

—California (USA) comrade



Peterloo Massacre

Kashmir from page 8

The International Communist Workers’ Party has been organizing on both sides of the border for several years. We had some success in Pakistan, but the current crisis has led to much deeper commitment. The comrades are more seriously organizing with the outlook of uniting with the workers in India.

We launched a successful mini edition of *Red*

Flag. This was translated into Urdu and distributed in Pakistan and India. The comrades are very enthusiastic about our activities. Now they share Sindhi and Punjabi editions from Pakistan, which are being distributed in India as well.

We have about ten members of ICWP in Pakistan. They are in two different areas. One is a healthcare worker. He is very eager to recruit new members to the party. He summarized: “Yes com-

rade, communist revolution is the way to go. The working class is ready to fight for it. We are making our literature available in Pashto. In Pakistan revolution is difficult but not impossible. When I organize in the health care area, everyone wants to bring down the system. They are tired of the bosses. Now we are going to show that communism is the right solution.”

US-China Conflict:

WORLD WAR III OR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

“We are confronting the prospect of not just a new cold war, but a hot one,” writes Kevin Rudd, former Australian Prime Minister (*Foreign Affairs*, August 3). He warns war could break out soon, as Trump and Biden have hardened their stances against Chinese expansion.

“China is a sleeping lion. Let her sleep, for when she wakes, she will shake the world,” predicted Napoleon Bonaparte over 200 years ago.

In 1949, China did awake and shook the world in favor of the international working class. The communist-led Chinese Revolution liberated briefly one fifth of humanity from the yoke of Japanese and US-backed Chinese capitalism.

Following the line of the international movement, the Chinese Communist Party established “New Democracy” and later socialism (state capitalism) instead of communism. This allowed a new Chinese capitalist-imperialist ruling class to rise which today challenges US imperialism for world domination.

This conflict validates US Navy Admiral Mahan’s prophesy over a century ago: “This [Indian Ocean] is the key to the seven seas. In the 21st century, the destiny of the world will be decided on its waters.”

This is what the US-China conflict over the South China Sea (SCS) is about. Humanity’s destiny will be decided by one capitalist-imperialist or another as long as capitalism rules the world.

To take our destiny in our hands we must destroy this murderous racist system by mobilizing the masses to fight directly for communism. Communism will eliminate the wage system and transform social relations, enabling us to build a world without capitalists-imperialists, their money, racism, sexism, borders or nations.

US-China Conflict: Is World War Inevitable? Yes — as long as the world’s main contradiction is inter-imperialist rivalry. China wants

to expel the US Navy from the SCS and control the strategic Indian Ocean.

US imperialists’ world domination has long been predicated on their Navy’s mastery of the oceans. They won’t give up their throne without a fight.

The conflict is approaching a boiling point because China has advanced tremendously militarily. It has built the world’s largest modern navy. It can now deny the US Navy access to the SCS.

More alarming to US imperialists, China has expanded its amphibious assault forces to challenge the US for control of the Indian Ocean and beyond. These are small aircraft carriers with their battle groups. They carry Chinese marines with all their supporting weapons. They could be deployed at strategic “commercial” ports China is building. Thus, they would have unimpeded access to all oceans – freed from the SCS where the US controls, at the first island chain, all routes to the Pacific Ocean.

But China would still have a problem. 60% of its import-export goods and 80% of its imported oil must travel through the SCS and the Malacca Strait. War could disrupt this indefinitely, paralyzing both its industry and military.

Thus, China is investing \$400 billion in Iran’s oil industry. Most oil will flow through Kazakhstan’s pipelines directly by land to China, bypassing the Malacca Strait.

China is investing another \$228 billion for high speed rails to connect its Xinjiang province to Tehran, Iraq, Turkey, and Europe. This railroad and the freight train connecting East China to London will keep China’s import-export goods flowing— war or no war.

Will an Outmaneuvered US Go to War Sooner Rather than Later? Yes! The US can’t wait until China gets all its ducks in a row. By then, it will be fighting a losing battle. But, to go

to war US imperialists need two important things: a coalition of the “willing” countries and US workers to fight to make “America Great Again!”

US bosses are in trouble on both counts. Europe, led by Germany, is distancing itself from the US. Russia is allying with China. The South Asian countries needed to trap China in the SCS rejected



US Secretary of State Pompeo’s August 7th call to form an anti-China coalition.

Most crucial: US rulers are losing their ideological control over the US masses. The economic crisis, the uncontrolled pandemic and the vicious racist fascist murder of George Floyd have mobilized millions in the US, even worldwide. Among the masses in motion, many are questioning capitalism, and many are open to communism.

This is forcing the US rulers to resort to both fascist tactics and pushing reform and elections. Neither in the US, nor in Russia nor China is there evidence that patriotic workers and youth are ready to fight and die for imperialism.

Ideology is Primary The masses’ ideology must be communist. Their response to *Red Flag* shows many are open to communism. We must intensify our efforts among the crucial sectors of the youth, industrial workers, and rank-and-file soldiers to turn this potential for revolution into the actual.

It would change the main contradiction in the world to be communism versus capitalism. Only masses mobilizing for communism can stop World War III.

We have a world to win: a world where uncontrolled pandemics and wars will be a distant memory. Victory shall be ours!



Read our pamphlet:

**Soldiers, Sailors, Marines:
Crucial to a Communist
Workers’ Revolution**

Available at
icwpredflag.org/mpe.pdf

Comrades in Pakistan:

“COMMUNIST REVOLUTION IS THE WAY TO GO”

KASHMIR, August 9—One year ago, India imposed sweeping restrictions on the movement of ordinary people in Indian-Occupied Kashmir. The masses were locked down with the military ordered to shoot-on-sight. Hospitals were not allowed to carry even pregnant women, based on a

fear that they might be carrying improvised explosive devices. The press and internet were unplugged. The Indian government tried to secure the borders using intimidation. Hundreds of thousands of women were raped and subjected to unimaginable violence.

Our comrades in South Asia are translating *Red Flag* into several languages used in the region. See icwpredflag.org for articles in Hindi, Marathi and Urdu.

We thank the comrades for their hard work, and ask anyone else who can help to contact us at icwp@anonymousspeech.com

रेड फ्लॅग, वॉल्यूम 11, नंबर 9 (ऑगस्ट) in Hindi
लाल ध्वज, खंड 11, क्रमांक 9 (ऑगस्ट) in Marathi
مہذبہ پرچم، 11 جلد، نمبر 9 (اگست) in Urdu

India had created the largest army in Kashmir. Every 12th person in Kashmir belonged to the armed forces. Mass killings were commonplace. So was popular resistance. Masses fought back in the face of a hail of bullets. Children as young as 11 years old were sprayed with rub-

ber bullets to their chests. Women and men defiantly fought back, leaving many in the armed forces running for cover.

The reason for completely stifling the workers in Kashmir is that in the north and east there is a massive build-up of the Chinese and Pakistani armies. In the next two years, billions of dollars’ worth of oil will flow through the area on its way to China. This oil will create markets in eastern China and Tibet. This comes in a direct collision with the Indian plans to dominate Pakistan. In this process, the Indian and Pakistani armies have built approximately 300 nuclear weapons.

See KASHMIR, page 7