

# RED FLAG



## MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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



India Coal Miners Strike, 2019

## MINERS' STRIKES SHOW POTENTIAL FOR WORKERS' REVOLUTION

### Coal Miners Strike in India MOBILIZING FOR COMMUNISM IN SIX LANGUAGES

August 30— “No miner will cross the picket lines! This is a war, and our survival is on the line.” So declared a coal miner in India as over 2.7 million coal miners prepared to shut down the industry. Coal India Limited (CIL) is a giant government-run corporation that produces 85% of India's domestic supply of electricity. CIL's production is the world's second largest, with an output of 600 million metric tonnes (MT) annually.

Every day since July, at least 800,000 workers have been striking as a warning to CIL. There may be a complete shutdown of the industry on the 30th of September.

That 600 million MT of coal is lifted by nearly 2.7 million coal miners. Nobody escapes the harsh reality of injury from backbreaking heavy loads. Nobody escapes the continual breathing of fine dust that leaves them with permanent damage and often death.

Miners' unions are opposing government plans to open coal mines to private companies. They also want employment security, pension funds and health benefits. The government's plans to privatize and open markets to international companies will threaten job security.

The International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) wants to lead workers to free themselves from wage slavery. The union leaders' plans are to continue this terror of wage slavery. Freedom from wage slavery means that we will have to seize the mines and machinery from the bosses. This will require millions to wage armed struggle.

We will wage this struggle based on communist politics: smash borders, eliminate money. In communist society, mining will not be the work of 2.7 million workers and carbon-based energy will have a much smaller role. Instead, we will encourage hundreds of millions to participate in

[See INDIA, page 3](#)

### Commemoration of Marikana Massacre

#### COMMUNIST MINERS ORGANIZE IN SOUTH AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA—On August 16, 2012, the African National Congress (ANC) government's cops murdered 34 of our class brothers, striking miners at Marikana, in cold blood. We must never forget who was responsible for this.

Instead of being held accountable for their crimes, those responsible have been rewarded with lofty positions. They ordered the execution of workers in broad daylight.

Eight years ago, Cyril Ramaphosa, the current President of South Africa, was a private citizen. He was a director at Lonmin Mine, where miners organized a mass strike. The directors ordered the ANC government's cops to shoot the miners.

In the 1980's, Ramaphosa had founded the National Mineworkers' Union, one of the oldest mining unions here. He organized for the ANC in the mining sector. When the ANC was unbanned in the 1990's, he held one of its most powerful positions. He helped negotiate the settlement of South Africa under the minority rule of the apartheid government, keeping capitalist rule intact.

Ramaphosa left politics after 1994 because Mandela appointed Mbeki as president instead of him. He went into the private sector, amassing a fortune and becoming a billionaire exploiter.

We can see in this the unholy alliance between the private sector and government and its exploitation of the workers.

The workers in Marikana showed the international working class that we must stand firm in the face of injustice. They were not begging, but fighting, when they demanded a wage of 12,000 Rands a month. Even today they have not received that money.

Miners risk their lives each and every day, going into the depths of the earth, for peanuts. We have

[See MARIKANA, page 4](#)

Volume 11 Number 11, September 2 to 23 2020

#### INSIDE:

**ONLY COMMUNISM CAN END FASCIST VIOLENCE—PAGE 2**

**YOUNG COMRADES LEAD—PAGE 3**

**FASCISM AND US ELECTIONS—PAGE 4**

**CAPITALISM'S ECONOMIC CRISIS—PAGE 5**

**CUBA ISN'T COMMUNIST PAGE—6**

## Racist Thugs of US Imperialism Attack Migrants, Anti-Racist Protesters

### ONLY COMMUNISM CAN END FASCIST VIOLENCE

SEATTLE (US), August 28—Last week, a community college student described a demonstration she recently attended. In part, she and her friends protested against racist inequality in educational opportunity. “It was peaceful,” she added.

This led to a short, inadequate conversation about where the widespread violence that accompanies these demonstrations comes from.

In the last few months, many of us have participated in protests where the cops rioted. But even for experienced comrades, the emergence of federal paramilitary forces was an eye-opener.

The US federal paramilitary first arrived in Portland, then Seattle, Chicago and now Kenosha. It is a fascist force akin to the Nazi Stormtroopers and Latin American death squads. It grew out of the Border Patrol Tactical Unit (BORTAC), a division of Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

This fascist force has been in development since long before the Trump regime. Both Democratic and Republican administrations have nurtured it. Over the last decade, they have poured hundreds of billions into its coffers.

The ideology that drives this unit was initially anti-immigrant racism. Last year, the non-profit news outlet ProPublica uncovered fascist memes shared among a group of 9500 CBP agents. These memes made fun of dead immigrants.

These were “clearly xenophobic and sexist,” wrote University of Arizona sociologist Daniel Martinez. “This isn’t just a few rogue agents or bad apples... [The postings reflect] a pervasive culture of cruelty aimed at immigrants within the CBP.”

From there it’s a short step to sweeping attacks on anti-racist demonstrators.

#### Cops on a Racist Rampage

This does not let local police off the hook! In every region of the US, police and sheriffs have been linked to racist groups and militias. The latest example is the cops’ response to protests supporting Jacob Blake, a 29-year-old Black man shot and paralyzed by police in Kenosha on August 23.

Two days later, a teenaged self-described militia member shot three demonstrators at point blank range, murdering two of them. The Kenosha Police chief blamed the protesters themselves! “They shouldn’t have been out after the curfew,” he declared. Meanwhile, his troopers gave water to roaming racist militias, openly appreciating their presence.

But we should have no illusions. The mobilization of BORTAC is a higher level of federal government-organized fascist violence, not seen for many years within the U.S.

BORTAC’s operations spread beyond the U.S.-Mexican border years ago. Border Patrol Tactical agents have been stationed in many corners of the world. They are busy establishing what they refer to as “global border sets.”

In dozens of countries, they have nurtured fascist border units modeled after the Tactical Unit in the U.S. Each of these units indoctrinates their agents using racism and nationalism. The European Union has its own version of border sets in

n o r t h e r n Africa, as do other imperialists. In the U.S., eyes are trained on the southern border, while

equally horrendous brutality is now visited on migrant workers around the world.

The Border Patrol Tactical Unit was originally created to intimidate immigrants at the southern border. It soon became an arm of U.S. imperialism. Recently, it has been turned into a weapon against U.S. workers and students. That’s the way racism works.

#### Only Communism Can Abolish Fascist Violence

The crisis of capitalism begets fascist violence. Neither voting nor the bosses’ “democracy” can stop it. Only communist revolution can do the job.

Fascism doesn’t come about spontaneously. The capitalist ruling class has spent billions of workers’ hard-earned dollars building organizations like BORTAC to hurry it along.

Communist revolution won’t come about spontaneously either. No matter how militant the response to fascist provocation, it won’t spontaneously build the communist party we need.

Our main job today is to build that party by recruiting and developing communist organizers. We invite you to join the International Communist Workers’ Party. The international working class needs you.

For more information, see Todd Miller, *Empire of Borders: The Expansion of the U.S. Border Around the World* (2019).



KENOSHA, US, August 1—Mass demonstrations against vicious police shooting of Jacob Blake, shot at close range 7 times in the back in front of his children.

### Anti-Racists Confront Violence of Cops and Freelance Fascists

PORTLAND (US), August 29—A friend sent this firsthand report on the violent confrontations between fascists and anti-racist demonstrators to nearby comrades. It has been abridged because of space limitations.

I’m home safe...tonight reminded me why it’s important so many people keep reporting what’s actually going on. Tonight was also one I’m sure everyone will hear about. Just remember to look deeper than a narrative [of the capitalist media].

As I was walking home, I walked into the middle of the Back the Blue/Proud Boys rally. I noticed a group of Black teenagers chanting “Black Lives Matter.” A car of Proud Boys maced them, shouting racist vulgarities.

A fascist pushed one of the demonstrators in

front of a Proud Boy truck. It looked like the driver intended to run him over. Another protester stepped in front of the intended victim. That’s when the fascists got out of their trucks and started hitting people.

I ran home to get my camera and protective gear. When I got back, there were fascists on almost every street, with weapons in plain sight. Shortly after, I heard a gunshot.

A woman went over to the cops to ask for help. A known Proud Boy, Joey Gibson, was in the crowd attacking people. The cops looked at each other and then crossed the street, ignoring what was happening. Another woman asked a cop why he wasn’t helping. He responded by covering up his ID number.

Here’s the thing: This caravan was advertised weeks in advance. The fascists announced that they planned to go after BLM groups.

The police did nothing to stop them. They

didn’t do anything when dozens of trucks without license plates entered the city. Many had fascists with weapons hanging out! They didn’t step in when people got maced or almost run over. They looked the other way.

However, they did run through a police tape to arrest a Black man.

So, when you read about the drama tonight, remember that Black Lives Matter (BLM) is not destroying the city. Think about if all this had been reversed. Had it been a BLM car rally, had it been BLM protestors causing these issues—the police would have declared a riot!

That is why the protests continue...

P.S. I was not near the later incident where a group confronted Joey Gibson. What I’ve seen in the media leaves out his attempts to attack several BLM protestors [with deadly intent] near the scene of the shooting. And the police refused to help the protestors being attacked...

—Portland Activist

Volume 11 Number 11, September 2 to 23, 2020



Join the International Communist Workers’ Party  
www.icwpredflag.org — Twitter @RedFlagBandera  
E-mail: icwp@anonymousspeech.com  
Instagram: @icwprf Facebook: icwpredflag  
Write to: P.M.B. 362  
3006 S. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90007, USA

## REPORT FROM A MAQUILA FACTORY

EL SALVADOR, August 30— “At last we have a newspaper in our hands again,” said a worker, “and today it is accompanied by masks.” After many months of not receiving the printed *Red Flag*, the comrades are enthusiastically and gladly taking it.

How positive were the comments of women

and men workers in the maquilas! “We sincerely thank the Party because during these days of crisis, they have been watching over us. The boss gave us cloth masks while the International Communist Workers’ Party gave us surgical masks and high quality KN95 masks when we needed them most.”

We have seen how the capitalists don’t care about workers’ health but only about their profits. There are workers with chronic diseases, diagnosed by doctors, who still didn’t receive any wages during the entire quarantine. The bosses tried to silence their voices by giving them a miserable bag of food valued at \$12 every two weeks. Today they went back to work.

The capitalist system is the worst enemy of the working class. With this factory re-opening, no one spoke of social distancing. The maquila garment factories in the free-trade zone have been opening massively as if nothing will happen, as if there were no pandemic.

We workers organized in the ICWP will continue to struggle to recruit more workers to the Party to put an end to all these abuses against our class with communist revolution.

—Communist factory organizer



Garment workers lead the way in May Day march in San Salvador, 2016

### Young Comrades Lead Forum:

## PORTLAND: THE RISE OF FASCISM AND HOW COMMUNISM WILL DEFEAT IT.

LOS ANGELES (USA)—“I’m exhausted,” texted Angela, an emerging Party leader. The previous evening, she had led an ICWP virtual forum on the anti-fascist fight in Portland. “But I’m really proud of how we worked together,” she continued. “In spite of all the issues, it was a very successful forum.”

A new generation of communist leaders is developing around the world. Angela is one of them. And it can’t come too soon.

Young people worldwide are leading the fight against fascism, from the murder of George Floyd in May and through the police shooting of Jacob Blake in August. Among them are friends in Portland who read and contribute to *Red Flag*. We invited one of them to speak about the situation at a virtual forum.

Angela took responsibility for organizing and leading the forum. She reached out to the friend in Portland as well as comrades in South Africa. She wrote and delivered a brief introduction to the forum and led the discussion.

**There were problems.** The Portland friend, a medical worker, was exhausted from fighting Covid-19 in understaffed conditions and couldn’t participate. The comrades in South Africa, as well as the comrade whose Zoom connection we had mailed out, encountered power outages.

Veteran comrades helped out with a new Zoom link, a slide show and a brief narration of the struggle in Portland and around the world and ICWP’s participation in it. In attendance were comrades and friends from El Salvador and Mex-

ico, as well as various parts of the US.

**A comrade in Seattle spoke about fighting in the streets there.** He was recovering from surgery on an arm broken by a rubber bullet from the Federal Agents. He criticized the anarchist formation in Capitol Hill, which fell apart because of a lack of organization and discipline.

He discussed the limited nature of the demand to defund the police. As long as capitalism is in place, he emphasized, the bosses can rely on private police forces, which they have done in industrial battles in the past.

A young comrade talked about how he used to go to protests alone, as just one more person on the street. But after struggle in the Party collective, he now goes to these protests with other comrades and with *Red Flag*, because the change we need is communist revolution, to get rid of fascist policing once and for all.

**“I found my people,”** said a friend as the discussion turned to the need for revolution, rather than relying on voting for Democrats. She later posted to an ICWP chat group, “For someone who has always felt alien, rejected and/or berated by friends and family members over my thoughts/beliefs about humanity, society, politics and governance, it was so validating to not be the odd person out, for once. While I think I’m somewhere between socialist and communist (still learning about both), I do feel that I have found my tribe!”

**“What will be a crime in a communist society?”** asked a comrade. “How will we deal col-

lectively with anti-social behavior?” asked another.

The comrades in El Salvador described discussions (some reported in *Red Flag*) with former guerrilla fighters about how anti-social behavior was dealt with in liberated zones.

They explained that after the FMLN victory and the dismantling of the old police force, the formula for the new repressive police force was: 25% FMLN members, 25% Death Squads members and 50% civilian members. Under the old regime their job was to kill workers. Under the new regime—which is the same capitalist regime in new clothes—their job is still to kill workers.

“I thought it was very useful to hear from the people in El Salvador about their struggles against the police,” the Seattle comrade commented afterward.

**The masses are rising up in the cities of the US and around the world against fascist policing.** We are fighting to turn their struggle into a movement for communist revolution.

When we end class society and its racist exploitation, we will no longer need the repressive force that keeps the bosses in power. We will work together, sharing what we produce, and eliminate the conditions that now create criminal behavior.

This requires a communist party committed to that struggle. This very successful forum was a step forward.

### INDIA from page 1

all aspects of necessary work, under the safest possible conditions. Production will no longer run on the bosses’ need for profit.

#### Mobilizing Masses for Communism: Fifteen Thousand Copies of *Red Flag* in Six Languages

ICWP collectives in Chennai and Bengaluru are beginning to organize small groups to reach out to the miners. In Chennai, an autoworker comrade has friends who are coal miners in the northeast state of Bihar. We gave him copies of the Hindi edition of *Red Flag*. Communication

takes time because of the large distances. But this comrade has told us that his friends are reading our literature.

In Bengaluru there is an ongoing conversation with garment workers who are now actively working with health care workers. We are distributing *Red Flag* in six different languages that local people understand. These translations have opened a new front for the party.

The garment workers in Bengaluru have been mailing the Marathi edition to comrades in the industrial state of Maharashtra. This is the most militant area, where the history of mining goes back to 1825, when the British installed railroad lines in Mumbai.

Since the pandemic, our party has been expanding recruitment among workers in garment and auto, our new friends in Bihar, and now miners.

Comrades in India are distributing 15,000 copies of *Red Flag* in six languages. Workers are distributing them in the large concentration of workers in the areas near auto and garment factories. Some are taking dozens of papers for co-workers, friends, and neighbours.

This distribution is just starting, but we expect to reach our goal of distributing all our 15,000 printed copies here. Stay tuned for our next report. And make plans to increase the circulation of *Red Flag* everywhere!

## Fascism and the US Elections:

### A STEP TOWARD COMMUNISM IS A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

“In 2016, people would ask me if I had voted,” Roxie said. “When I responded ‘no, I don’t believe in voting,’ people would get so angry and say, ‘You millennials are the problem. You aren’t voting and there will never be real change.’”

“We live in a capitalist country where the poor working class will always remain that and the rich will remain rich,” Roxie continued. “Whatever political party wins, as long as we live in a capitalist country, there will never be any change. I’m not sure what government system would work best, but I would like to learn more about communism.”

Today, both major US political parties warn that the election is compromised and that “the future of democracy is at stake.” We’ve heard calls about the need to vote before, but there’s a qualitative change in the rhetoric—and maybe in the situation. For the first time in over 150 years, the declared loser might not concede defeat.

Corrupt and disputed elections are, of course, not uncommon. Often, US imperialism has been responsible. We’re seeing them today in Belarus and Mali. But the myth of American exceptionalism may soon be in tatters.

**Red Flag** readers and most of our friends hate racist Trump. We see that he’s an open fascist. But many hate Democrats Biden and Harris, too, or at least their politics. Both have histories of being “tough on crime” (racist) and “moderate” (pro-capitalist). Biden has a 40+ year record of supporting US imperialism.

So, should eligible voters cast their ballots for

Biden? Or not vote and keep fighting for reforms? Or is it necessary and realistic for all of us to do what we can to mobilize masses for communist revolution?

#### Biden/Harris: NOT a “Step in the Right Direction”

Communists don’t believe in the cynical idea of “the worse, the better.” Worsening conditions for the masses are never “better.”

Things would surely continue to worsen for us if Trump wins. But they would get worse under Biden/Harris, too. The racism, the economic crisis, the environmental crisis, increasing global tensions... all come from the capitalist system, whoever sits in the White House. Attacks on immigrants increased under Obama/Biden. And racist police murders. And the power of the executive branch.

“But Trump is a fascist!” many will respond. “It will become even harder to organize and protest!” But would it be easier under Biden? There was a huge US anti-war movement under Bush. It virtually disappeared once Obama and Biden were sworn in, because the movement was folded into the Democratic Party.

Biden/Harris are uniting “against fascism” with conservative anti-Trump Republicans. And that is what Democrats are begging the angry anti-racists in the streets – especially millennials – to join. That’s the essence of the increasingly shrill calls to vote, to get out the vote, and maybe even to get out of the streets. The result could be an even more dangerous fascism.

“We need to march on them ballot boxes,” Democratic Rep. Gwen Moore told an anti-racist, anti-police crowd in Kenosha. “Democrats close to Joe Biden increasingly fear the looting and violence in cities could help President Trump,” reported Axios (Aug 29).

Roxie and others like her can expect to feel even more pressure this fall. Don’t cave! But don’t be passive, either!

#### Don’t Vote—Mobilize Masses for Communism

“I’ll vote for local things, but I won’t vote for president. Or if I do, I’ll probably vote third party,” said a young organizer. “A lot of people, unenthusiastically, will vote Biden. But some people don’t think it matters anyway, since we live in California. And then some people just don’t think it matters.”

California and about 12 other states are solid Democratic. About 21 states are solid Republican. Most people in these states know that it doesn’t much matter if or how they vote. But how would the organizer’s friends vote (or not) if they lived in a contested state?

Don’t believe the lie that “your vote is your voice.” Some want to have it both ways: voting in capitalist elections while marching against racist capitalism. But it’s a contradiction.

Jump off the fence and onto the side of communist workers’ power! Learn more about communism, and use your voice to convince others! Simply “not voting” (or 3rd-party voting) is not a step in the right direction, either. Joining the ICWP is.



SEATTLE (USA), August 30—Everyday March held a vigil to memorialize Summer Taylor, a protestor killed on I-5, and the protestors killed in Kenosha. They blocked half the street with their cars to keep the anti-racist demonstrators safe.

The Seattle Police Department (SPD) responded with cops in riot gear, SWAT and the State Patrol. Soon, the SPD moved into attack formation. As they pushed back, tow truck drivers arrived. Our comrade asked the drivers to leave, explaining the nature of the demonstration. The three young drivers agreed, pulled out and left.

Other times, when we marched and rallied and when the National Guard or regular army soldiers have been called, we have approached them with our literature. Most of the time they take it.

We can’t all attend every demonstration. But we can meet people anywhere (work, school, neighborhood) who want to fight racism. The overwhelming majority are interested in communist ideas. When friends ask where the numbers will come from to make a communist revolution, we can point to the many workers that are like these young drivers.

## MARIKANA from page 1

seen first-hand their living conditions: shacks lacking sanitation, running water, electricity. Yet they are expected to leave their families and sacrifice for the bosses’ profits.

The whole working class needs to violently struggle against this. We need to unify our working-class family to violently resist the exploitative capitalist system. We must eradicate capitalism and build communism.

We can learn from what happened in Marikana that when we fight for reform, the people leading these reform struggles always end up being the only ones who benefit. It’s opportunism. Once their needs are taken care of, they no longer care about the working class.

When we fight for higher wages, the things that tie us to the bosses, those battles are futile. Instead, we must fight to liberate ourselves from the chains of wage slavery. The workers of Marikana fought bravely against the bosses, but they were encouraged to fight for only reforming their chains. We as ICWP fight to break those chains, to do away with the wage system. That is the main lesson we can draw from what happened there.

As we commemorate the bravery shown by the miners in Marikana, we must be reminded about our responsibilities. We need to organize our party. We have an advanced line, which can give leadership to the international working class. We are actively struggling to establish more ICWP cells around the world.

We will succeed. We must move past the divisions that are encouraged by the bosses amongst our class brothers and sisters: especially sexism and racism. These are the results of capitalism which we must actively struggle against. But we must not be distracted from our main task of eliminating capitalism.

We need to fight the disease as a whole, the capitalist state. Once we are able to smash the capitalist state, racism and sexism will not simply wither away. We will still have to struggle against them, but we will then have a solid

foundation to be able to eliminate them.

In the mining sector, we have seen the sexist treatment of women underground. There are many documented cases of abuse. We have given the **Red Flag** to some women mineworkers.

We are encouraged by the efforts of ICWP in struggling to unify the international working class. More work needs to be done. But we are on the right track. The only Party which is getting into a position to defeat capitalism is our Party. We actively invite these workers to join our cause because they can bring energy and hasten the fall of capitalism.



## Capitalism's Competition for Profit Leads Inevitably to Depressions

### WORKERS' ONLY SOLUTION: COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

“The next global depression is coming and optimism won't slow it down,” says *Time Magazine*.

Before the pandemic, capitalism was already heading in that direction. Covid-19 accelerated and intensified this development.

The masses are rising, unable to live like before. They are intensifying the class struggle. Our choices have never been clearer: capitalism's depression, fascism, and war—or communist revolution.

This global crisis spells untold hardships and misery for billions of workers.

Worldwide unemployment is the highest since the Great Depression of 1929. It is expected to rise by as much as possibly 25 million people. (International Labor Organization). Underemployment is projected to rise even more, with a projected loss of as much as 12% of working hours.

The World Bank predicts that up to 100 million more people worldwide will fall into extreme poverty (less than \$2 a day) depending on how long the pandemic lasts. This on top of the 700 million people already living in extreme poverty.

In the US alone millions could lose their homes by the end of the year.

**This global crisis is caused by capitalism's internal contradictions.** Capitalists are driven by competition for maximum profits and market share. The losers die. But what they need to do to compete causes the rate of profit to fall for the survivors. It creates deeper misery for the masses.

#### What is the “rate of profit”?

The capitalists' only source of profit is the workers' labor power. When workers toil for a given time, they produce a certain amount of value. That value is much more than what they receive in wages to survive on.

The capitalists appropriate this value that workers produce. They use it to pay their production costs (machinery, materials, rent, energy, etc.) including the workers' wages. What's left is called surplus value, which the capitalists call profit.

The rate of profit is the ratio of this surplus value to the total capital investment (wages and machinery etc.) expressed as a percentage.

Competing for greater market share and prof-



Capitalism's whole goal is to make maximum profits for the capitalists, not to make products for people to use. The opposite: Workers in Limerick, Ireland drove out the British army in 1919 and took over their town for two weeks. The sign on the bakery they ran read: “We make bread, not profits!” Communist production is for the masses to use – for what we need.

its, the capitalists buy expensive machines to out-produce and out-sell the competition. Machinery takes the place of workers. The capitalist invests more in machines with fewer workers producing surplus value or profits. Over time, this means a lower rate of profit.

Since competition is built into capitalism, the capitalists could never escape or permanently stop the rate of profit from falling. By introducing new machinery, paying workers less and intensifying their exploitation, individual capitalists may temporarily stop their rate of profit from falling. They may grab the highest profits in the industry, and bigger market share—until the competition catches up.

Then the falling rate of profit reasserts itself. Now the process repeats: even more automation and even fiercer competition. Manufacturers cheapen production costs to flood the market with goods they cannot sell profitably. Now they have a crisis of overproduction.

When the rate of profit falls too low in too many sectors, investors (finance capital) can't find anywhere to invest profitably. Then stock markets crash, companies and banks fail globally. Workers are laid off by the millions. The market shrinks even more. The competition for markets intensifies. Eventually this leads to global war to

destroy their rivals' means of production, including their workers.

**Only communism can end such a monstrous absurdity.** Communism will abolish production for profits. Nothing will be bought or sold. No money, wage slavery, or competition. No wealth or poverty. No exploitation.

Collectivity and love for our working-class family will drive production based on need. We'll be able to automate aspects of production to reduce our hours of labor. Abundance will not create disaster but the opportunity to share more!

*This is the first article in a series. Some of the concepts presented here may be difficult to understand. We invite collectives to read and discuss these articles together. Then send in your comments and questions.*

*Future articles will discuss Depression, Fascism and War; Why Communism - Not Anarchism or Socialism; and more.*



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

#### Communists Fight to Destroy Racism

It is great that so many people around the world are having conversations about systemic racism – where does it come from? Are people naturally racist? What do we do about it?

Many people who do not have a communist analysis of the source of racism are trying to find individual solutions to a problem which is actually caused by the system under which we labor. Many white liberals (and Black people referring to them) use the words “white privilege.” I have been trying to understand my own discomfort with that language.

To my mind, the things referred to as privileges – NOT to get murdered by the cops; NOT to be unsheltered, hungry, without medical care; NOT to fear racist or xenophobic attacks are not privileges – they are what all humans deserve.

We discussed my letter in the club and I came to a better understanding of the usage. A comrade told me about a conversation she had

with some former neighbors, who are Black. They told her that their youngest son and all his friends now carry a gun with them everywhere they go, even camping. The comrade knew their son as a good, well-liked kid. But he and all his crowd are deathly afraid of being assaulted anywhere. They obviously cannot depend on cops, etc. to save them. Most white folks who are not communists would assume that they could always call the police to save them.

People of color have to think about racism all the time. There is no getting away from it, closing your eyes and ears, taking a “break.” A white person, even a person of good heart who hates racism, has the opportunity not to think about it for a while – in school, work, walking on the street, grocery shopping, wherever. For POC, racism is a reality, and potentially a deadly one, ALL the time.

As communists, we must have the same vigilance about racism no matter what our color. The working class around the world is in a life-

and-death struggle with the ruling class and only communists have the tools and historical understanding to provide the necessary leadership to mobilize the masses to overthrow the rotten system.

And essential to this mobilization is the fight against racism. Unless we are in the forefront of this struggle, unless we are fighting every day in the best way we can to smash racist ideology, there is no way that communism can win.

So being an anti-racist fighter is at the very heart of being a communist. We want to be sure our friends, families and co-workers understand that this is key. We fight against racism not because we are good people, but because we are communists who understand that the only way we can truly break our chains is by uniting and mobilizing large sections of the working class. We truly have a world to win!

Comrade in the US

## COMRADES DISCUSS CUBA: NOT A COMMUNIST COUNTRY

“My parents are Cuban refugees,” said A’lelia, a new comrade. “I often asked them why they chose to come here. They had such a hard time, culturally. What do you all think of Cuba?”

“In MEChA [a Chicano student organization] we studied what we could get hold of, about the Cuban revolution. We loved Che and admired Fidel. I loved the idea of literacy programs, health clinics for all, the brigades of youth, trying to meet goals,” replied Bella, another comrade.

“When I read *Children of the Revolution*, I was inspired,” said Claire. “But Fidel declaring that illiteracy would be ended in a year and everyone scrambling to carry it out is a long way from the communist society we’re fighting for.

“This discussion has to be put in the Cold War context of rival imperialists,” she continued. “I don’t think the Fidelistas were fighting for a communist—not even a socialist society—when they overthrew Batista.”

“When the Fidelistas took power, they wanted a few concessions from the US,” said Donna. “When the US refused any concessions, they turned to the Soviets who were glad to step in and become Cuba’s new imperialist master—cutting them a little better deal on the sugar they produced...in exchange for support against US imperialism.

“That’s when Fidel declared he was a communist building socialism,” she added. “They didn’t eliminate wages or money or production for the

market. They had to rely on Soviet subsidies until the Soviet Union imploded. Then they started accepting EU investment in hotels and tourism.

“They have trained a lot of doctors and ended illiteracy (I also found their literacy campaign inspiring!) but they didn’t have the outlook of mobilizing the masses to build communism,” she concluded. “They mobilized masses for reforms. But they have inequality and their system depends on markets and imperialism.”

“Yes. I’m very familiar with the history,” replied A’lelia, “as well as anecdotal experiences from both sides. I’m disappointed in the continuing prostitution, black markets and aggression/policing of LGBTQ persons. What do you all think of those issues, specifically? I’m going to Cuba this fall.”

“Most Cubans are poor,” said Donna. “It’s terrible that some feel forced into prostitution! It’s probably related to the exploitation of the tourist industry.”

“I heard it said, in the 1970s, that for all to be equal, would mean we would all be equally poor,” Bella said. “Using the US as a comparative standard. We have to be mindful as to a finite planet.”

“The Castro family lives in a fancy neighborhood,” Donna added. “They and their close group don’t live like the masses. It’s a capitalist class society.”

“I hope you meet up with some open-hearted

people, enjoy the weather and scenery,” Bella told A’lelia. “I heard that the food is organic and carefully grown! I’d love to see that!”

“It’s true,” answered A’lelia. “I follow Cuba closely. They wiped out prostitution for a millisecond, but after they lost Soviet support, it crept right back in.

“Poor is relative,” she continued. “They have housing subsidies, food subsidies, free healthcare, free lower and higher education, free daycare, but no/low cooking spices (most recent shortage), meat, fingernail polish, Levis, Prada, Gucci, etc. I remember my cousin asking me for money when I was a single parent, working 3 jobs. I explained that I had to choose between paying for daycare or the electric bill, every month.

“Fruits and vegetables are plentiful. Only the major tourist restaurants have meats and spices. The street food vendors do not have tasty food, due to scarcity of olive oil, cumin, oregano, etc. I am bringing a TON of spices!

“Yes! It is classist society. There ARE spices but the government reserves them for the tourists’ restaurants, hotels and resorts. Still, I’d rather have subsidized rent and free healthcare than spices!”

“You can write about Cuba for *Red Flag*/Banderita Roja,” suggested Ellen. “Especially if you talk with anyone there about communism.”

“I would LOVE to do that,” A’lelia replied.

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

### Young Party Leader: We Have Profound Work to Do

My political work began at the age of 14. Back then I read books from such political figures as Che Guevara and Malcolm X and that’s about as political as I was. In high school, I took a class where our comrade was my teacher and he introduced communism to me. After a few months of learning about it, I decided to join the party. A lot has changed since then and I have developed a lot politically.

During the protest movement that was sparked by the death of George Floyd, I went to plenty of protests. When I went by myself or with my friends who weren’t in the party, I experienced so many people with various points of views and political beliefs. Some advocated for racial justice, defunding the police, and various other reforms under the current system. But I realized that my presence there was just one more person in the crowd.

I talked about that with party comrades, and I decided that there’s more profound work to do. When I went to protests with my comrades in the party, we spoke with National Guard personnel, we distributed communist literature to protestors and even got contacts for the party. Through this we have been creating real change and fighting for the world we envision—a communist world.

—Comrade in Los Angeles (USA)

### Workers Need Communist Class Struggles, Not Reform Struggles

In a letter in the last *Red Flag*, a comrade in El Salvador makes confusing, and at times contradictory, remarks about the role of reform. The letter says, “We should support these types of struggles for reforms, without being the ones leading them.” The end of the same letter states, “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 a possibility of a world without money,



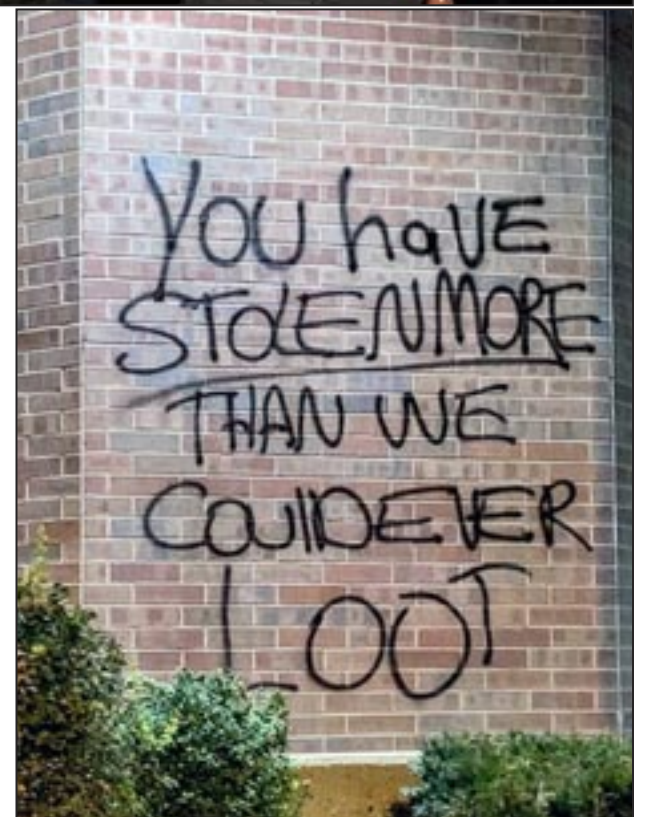
without borders.”

Our goal is to break the wage slavery that binds us to the unions. That means participation in communist class struggle to tear down every aspect of reformist struggle. Reform struggles, in one way or another, are about money. How is it possible to support these demands for more money by telling the working class that it will lead us to abolish wage slavery? To avoid this question, the comrade says we should support reform demands without leading them.

Comrades who clearly put forward the demand for water in the garment factory made it clear to the entire working class: We will take the water, the unions don’t have to beg for it, the bosses cannot stop us, no money was exchanged. This is an example of communist class struggle.

What will inspire the working class is breaking away from the reform struggle. Perhaps that is where the fear of the unions is. And that is the reason comrades tell us to participate in the reform without leading them.

—Comrade in the US



Graffiti in Seattle



LOS ANGELES (US), September 1 – Hundreds marched and rode in car caravans for the second day in a row to protest the LA Sheriffs' execution of 29-year-old Black bicyclist Dijon Kizzee. Even the Sheriffs admit that he had nothing in his hands when they shot him at least a dozen times.

Comrades of ICWP distributed about 90 copies of **Red Flag**. "We're from the ICWP and we believe that this system has to be overthrown with communist revolution," one said. "You got that right," a Black woman responded.

One man said, "But it doesn't have to be revolution." The comrade responded, "This country was built with slavery and stolen land and it cannot change until we make revolution." The man conceded that "I guess that that's the reality of it, so I guess I agree with you," The comrade sat down next to a woman sitting on the curb who was reading the paper and asked her, "What are you reading so attentively?"

"I'm taking a picture of the South Africa article," she said. "I'm from South Africa and I'm sending it to my family and friends over there." We had an extended conversation and exchanged numbers. "Yes, invite me to any events that you have," she said.

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.**

### Teachers and All Workers Need Communist Politics, Not Unions

"The little angel has died/and I don't want to cry/the little angel has died/who knows how many more will go/the little angel has died/it wasn't a natural death/it was the social system that kills us a little at a time... (Popular song)

Preventable diseases have caused a mortality rate in Mexico (11.5%), which exceeds that of other countries. These include obesity, diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular and respiratory diseases caused by poor eating habits and living conditions under capitalism

The ruling class is taking advantage of this pandemic, like all natural disasters, to strengthen its grip. After the earthquakes in Managua and Mexico, the rulers and businessmen filled their pockets with the million-dollar aid they received from their external allies.

Similarly, the world's big financial sharks are gloating and preparing to extend their loans to governments around the world. They plan to collect and concentrate wealth from all corners. The European Union, through its Central Bank, has approved a "support" fund. A little less than half of it will subsidize businesses and the population, and more than half is low-interest loans.

The working class will pay for the imbalances in the capitalist economy, made worse by the Covid-19 pandemic. First are the dead. Although this disease "affects everyone" in each country, it has killed the most vulnerable: the elderly in retirement, but even more so Black and Latino/a workers in the US, immigrants in England and the European Union.

The pharmaceutical companies increased their sales. And in general capitalism will recover as long as the working class does not focus on overthrowing it.

I went with other professors to the Rectory of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) this week to demand that those without permanent employment (more than half of university teachers) not be thrown out of their jobs. They told me in disbelief that we are not going to overthrow the system because the teachers don't even come to defend their jobs.

I answered that we are starting from scratch, because the old communist movement became capitalist. No matter how long it takes, the working class will fight to emancipate itself from wage slavery. It will not resign itself to living forever under the domination of the capitalists.

These teachers believe that unions are bad today, but they can be cleaned up and defend workers. Some have formed a new one. I have been arguing that we need political organization and I am inviting them to read **Red Flag**. It will take time to convince them. However, if we don't take the communist ideas to those who are fighting, they will continue to be deceived by false leaders. Let's Mobilize the Masses for Communism!

—Teacher Comrade in Mexico

### World War Not Inevitable but Communism Is

In the past two issues, RF/BR has published two articles putting forth the inevitability of an imminent US/China armed conflict. I think this was a serious mistake.

These articles were very long (800+ words each), and neither had much to say about communism and why (or even that) it will eventually make violence obsolete. Instead of communism from Marx, Lenin and Mao, we get geopolitics from Kevin Rudd, Napoleon and Admiral Mahan.

But the worst aspect is prophesying war just around the corner ("sooner rather than later" and "approaching a boiling point").

I realize that Lenin's theory of imperialism predicted inevitable wars to re-divide the world. When WWII broke out, that seemed to confirm his theory. But Lenin's theory is more than a century old and there hasn't been a full-scale war to re-divide the world for 75 years. Perhaps all out world war is not inevitable (although still a possibility). Perhaps they've found ways to re-divide the world without total conflict (e.g. Mali and Belarus).

The fate of the Soviet Union is a case in point. For a long time, leftists predicted the Soviets would resort to nuclear war to defend their system. It didn't happen. Instead, the Soviet

Union collapsed.

Could the same thing happen with the US and China? Why couldn't the US collapse? It's not looking very stable at the moment!

The reason I'm skeptical about predictions of imminent war is that I've heard them all my political life. In 1951 the US Communist Party published *We Charge Genocide* (a very powerful document) and in it they predicted imminent war and fascism.

When the PLP, our predecessor, emerged from the old party, they soon took up this call. In 1976 (!) I remember reading a review of the *Star Wars* movie that said it was obviously propaganda preparing workers for the inevitable US/Soviet war.

Ten years ago, I was at one of the founding meetings of the ICWP and one comrade made a serious plea that we prepare the Party for imminent war.

I've been assured that these articles present the Party's line though I don't recall any debate about imminence. It's not in *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*, our founding manifesto. Do we really require members to believe that cataclysmic war is around the corner?

We should not be in the business of making prophecies. When they fail, it discredits us. Instead we should talk about possibilities. World war is definitely one but so is economic collapse, which I think is neglected. Another possibility is civil strife between factions of the bosses, brought on, for example, by a disputed election.

I agree that eventually communism will replace capitalism, but we shouldn't assume that the inevitable revolution will come out of a world war. There are other roads to victory.

Comrade in Canada

**Red Flag note:** *Thank you for the letter. Disagreements and debate are good for the party. We don't think our party can or should try to "require members to believe" anything. We welcome all as members who want to contribute to the collective work of mobilizing masses for communism.*

## Iran: More Oil Produced Than Can Be Sold

### CRUSHING POVERTY FOR WORKERS AND SHARPENING CLASS STRUGGLE

August 23—Capitalism's economic crisis is ravaging workers worldwide. The oil industry is a major culprit. If we understand it, we'll be better able to understand and explain why the only solution for workers everywhere is communist revolution.

The demand for oil had been dropping before Covid-19 because economies were slowing. Early in the pandemic, transportation and production dropped steeply. The worldwide demand for oil plummeted.

Capitalists' competition for maximum profits intensified the crisis. Each oil-producing country, including Iran, increased production. Each tried to capture the greatest possible market share. The result: more oil produced than could be sold profitably, or even stored. This is an example of a capitalist "crisis of overproduction."

The price of oil crashed. The price of US oil futures fell from \$75 a barrel in January to an unprecedented *negative* \$38 on April 20. "Rising stockpiles of crude threatened to overwhelm storage facilities and forced oil producers to pay buyers to take the barrels they could not store." (*Guardian*, 4/22). Global capitalist markets brought the price back up, but only to \$45 a barrel.

From Nigeria to Malaysia to Venezuela to Iran, workers are paying the price.

#### Iranian Workers Rise Heroically against Capitalism-Imperialism's Fascist Onslaught

In 2018-2019, Iran – a highly industrialized country – was one of the world's top oil producers. By 2020, US sanctions had cut Iranian oil exports by 90%. This blow to Iran's economy led to skyrocketing inflation and mass unemployment (officially over 26%). And on April 21, Iranian crude was selling for only \$11.51.

Meanwhile, Covid-19 continues to ravage Iran.

Massive worker protests have grown rapidly in response to the sharpening crisis. Over 5000 sugarcane workers in Haft Tappeh, on strike for ten weeks, chanted "Drive out the private sector thieves and embezzlers!" Workers of Hefco heavy machinery have been out for 10 days.

In the oil, petrochemical and natural gas industry, 10,000 workers in four provinces have been on strike for two weeks. Medical staff and public service workers struck in seven provinces on August 8. Railroad workers joined the strike wave on August 14.

Striking teachers have gathered in social-distant protests in front of the parliament and at education centers in the provinces.

#### Reformism is not the solution

The main demands of these protests have been to receive delayed payment of back wages, job security, the removal of contractor companies and an end to privatization.

Under capitalism the productive power of the Iranian working class can never serve the needs of the masses. Capitalism guarantees that it serves the needs of a tiny sector of society: the ruling class.

In Iran, the main sections of wealth and capital are supervised by affiliated institutions belonging to the Supreme leader of the Islamic Republic. Through these institutions, the rulers decide how to spend the wealth the workers produce. Their highest priorities are warmongering in the region and strengthening their security and military forces to suppress mass protests.

This will always be the case as long as we are wage slaves. For a miserable salary we are chained to them. They decide how we live or die.

#### Iranian Workers Must Fight for Communism

The masses of workers and youth in motion against the rulers need to mobilize for an armed communist revolution.

In communism, neither oil nor anything else will have a price tag. There won't be competition for resources or market share. The masses, mobilized by ICWP, will produce safe, clean energy.

In communism, the masses will collectively produce to meet the needs of everyone—without bosses or money. Everyone will contribute what they can and receive what they need

There won't be a privileged elite ruling over us. Instead, the communist masses will collectively decide what and how to produce and share what's needed to build a safe, sustainable future. The life of the masses will be nourished and pro-



South Pars Oil workers on wildcat strike, August 2020



Haft Tappeh workers on strike, August 2020  
"Families need money! We are starving!"

tected above all else.

Only communism can give the masses the world we need and deserve! Only communism will put an end to capitalism's crises, exploitation, wage slavery and imperialist wars.

A communist-led worker movement in Iran would bring down the wrath of capitalists from Beijing to Moscow to Washington. At the same time, it would inspire workers throughout the Middle East and the whole world to join and build the fight for a communist world

Workers and youth: In the face of the worst global crisis since the Great Depression of 1929, support the Iranian workers by mobilizing the masses for communism everywhere. Learn from their experiences to see the need to organize ourselves everywhere with the most advanced ideas of a communist world without exploiters.

Join and build collectives to read and spread **Red Flag!** Join and build ICWP!

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

#### Question About Dialectical Materialism

Comrades, in one of the virtual meetings, someone spoke about the importance of writing articles in dialectical terms. Specifically, about form and content. I kept thinking about the recent events of police brutality and the killing of George Floyd.

What is the form and what is the content in this process? I asked a friend with whom I frequently discussed politics.

At first, I thought the content was George Floyd's death. He thought it was police brutality. Until we concluded that the content was racism. And the form is the political technique

in which the process is handled.

My question is this: does the form change the content? I hope the experts help me understand more about this point.

—A Comrade

#### Another Question

I think the first question to ask is "form or content of what?"

Specifically, what is the aspect of the murder of George Floyd that provoked mass outrage? I think that Floyd's murder was another in a long series of racist murders by police. This would agree with the person who said it was a case of

police brutality. But before we talk specifically about form and content, we still need to say content of what specifically?

The form of the presentation of the murder by the press was video and television with announcements and commentary. The content of the video showed deliberate, sustained suffocation of a nearly helpless Black man by a cop surrounded by other cops who all belonged to a department with a long record of racist killings. We can also talk about the form and content of the Black Lives Matter protests, which is a related, but different issue.

—Another comrade