

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

October 14—Mass protests against Indonesia's new labor law enter a second week. A million workers have joined strikes and militant demonstrations in sixty cities and industrial zones across Indonesia's 3000-mile archipelago. The "omnibus" law attacks workers and weakens environmental protections. It aims to spur investment by intensifying exploitation in southeast Asia's largest economy. Indonesia has the world's fourth-largest population and largest Muslim population. Muslim organizations are joining trade unions in legal challenges to the anti-worker law. But workers need a communist outlook, not trade-union or religious ideology. Only revolutionary communism can lead workers to destroy the capitalist system at the root of the masses' misery. Indonesia once had millions of communists. Today's rebels must now join and build the International Communist Workers' Party.



Profit is Made in the Factory, Not the Market

ABOLISH WAGE SLAVERY!

SOUTH AFRICA, October 12—A worker in a nearby township complained about working shorter hours while still maintaining the production levels of before, when they worked full time. I told him that I think this was happening even before corona.

We talked about how profit is made, about surplus value—in the factories. They are not getting paid fully for the amount of time they work. The bosses steal the value of their labor to make profit. Profit is not made in the market. It's made in the factory.

From his expression, it was clear that he was surprised to learn this. Even during normal times, the bosses are still stealing from them. If they work eight hours, they are probably getting paid for five hours—or less. The rest goes straight to the bosses. That's how they make profit.

We need to educate workers about this, especially now with the impact on the working class of the pandemic. In South Africa, before the pandemic the official unemployment rate for the whole population was about 35%. For the youth it was around 40%. If we can believe government statistics now, about a million jobs have been lost so far in the pandemic. Obviously, the figure could be higher than this.

Now the capitalists are squeezing workers further and further. This shows the need for the working class to fight back for communism—to put an end to exploitation.

This was the essence of our conversation. That even if the ruling party, African National Congress, can bribe workers with 350 R (US\$21) a month, it won't solve the problem. The bosses are even stealing the unemployment funds for
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India:

UNITE WORKERS AND SOLDIERS FOR COMMUNIST SOLUTION TO UNEMPLOYMENT AND WAR

September 21— Amit, who is in his 20s, works in a major auto plant in Chennai. Several months ago, he met a member of the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP). "In my village," he said, "almost everyone is unemployed. Young boys and men line up at 4 am for day labor. If they are lucky, the army will hire them. But most will not make it."

Amit did not make it but he got the job in the auto industry. The remaining 90% of young men spend their days hoping to find a job.

Amit has worked in auto as a casual (temporary) labourer for six years. Every year he hopes for a permanent job. In May, amid the pandemic, he and tens of thousands of others lost their jobs. Over three months later, even more workers are losing jobs. They are getting eviction notices from landlords and food is running out. The small savings people used to send to their families are drying up fast.

In a small makeshift shelter, Amit and other

young men are reading *Red Flag* in their own language, Telugu. They discuss the communist solution to this mounting problem. Why is there unemployment to begin with? The bosses say they need fewer workers because there is no demand. There is plenty of demand for good and affordable housing, health care, hospitals. There are many other useful things that people can do.

But in capitalism, workers have no choice of where to work, who to work with. Capitalists in India use racism in the form of dividing the workers based on religion. Hindu, Muslim, Dalit fight with each other and blame each other for the jobs the bosses decide to keep.

Now we have a bigger problem. Indian bosses are blaming Chinese workers for the loss of jobs. Chinese goods and services are banned in India.

India and China have amassed over half a million troops. Each side can deploy several hundred nuclear weapons. The Indian army, used to tropical weather, is no match for the frigid and

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CAPITALIST CRISIS SHOWS NEED—AND POSSIBILITIES— FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

Not since the 1930s, the years leading up to World War II, has the capitalist system presented us with such a chaotic and precarious future as it does today.

On one hand: a steadily declining US super-power, armed to the teeth, with open or covert, but mostly losing, ongoing military operations everywhere on the globe. On the other: a rising China super-power, armed to the teeth, with trade initiatives and infrastructure projects everywhere on the globe.

This is the product of a crisis-ridden, climate-destroying, profit system that was on the path to crash before Covid-19. The virus has accelerated its weaknesses: its falling rate of profit and crisis of overproduction.

In the US, this is reflected in the deepening splits in the ruling class alongside a massively impoverished working class. Our working-class family is dying in record numbers from Covid-19, incarcerated in historic numbers, murdered by racist policing, swept by record deaths of despair, and horrified by migrant and refugee children yanked from their parents and thrown in cages.

US Situation: Volatile and Unpredictable

On October 9, the FBI arrested 13 white supremacists for plotting to kidnap the governor of Michigan. These fascists heeded Trump's tweets to "LIBERATE MICHIGAN."

They are not alone. So-called "anti-government militias" have led large anti-mask and lockdown protests. These armed groups have been encouraged to plan a fascist coup in November by Trump's refusal to commit to an orderly transfer of power if he loses the election.

Trump has openly egged on these violent white-supremacists repeatedly since the summer of 2017. Then, he commented after the fascist murder of anti-racist activist Heather Heyer that "there were good people on both sides."

These so-called militias are fascist white supremacists. So are the loners who have perpetrated mass murder in schools, gay bars and the El Paso Walmart. But many US workers of all "races" own guns, and many more have military

training. Eventually, the working-class masses will have to take on the fascists and defeat them in order to take power and build a communist society.

"Business as Usual"?

While Attorney General Barr, the FBI's boss, is enthusiastically doing Trump's bidding, the FBI—an agency officially under Barr's control—is arresting those that Trump has encouraged. This illustrates a deep division within the US government and the capitalist ruling class it serves. While Trump is spinning out of control, the *New York Times*, dozens of retired generals, and the even the rank and file of the FBI are trying desperately to maintain the stability of US capitalism.

The US ruling-class media publicize their worries about a possible Trump post-election coup with the message "we need a landslide." The volatility and instability of the US in the midst of global decline, economic depression and a global pandemic has got the main wing of the ruling class freaked out. They don't want another four years of Trumpian chaos. They want a return to business as usual.

A "Return to Business as Usual" is a Reactionary Fantasy

No worker, student or soldier should think that secretly checking a name on a piece of paper (the ballot) will calm this chaos in any meaningful way. The world of the last fifty years is gone. Capitalism is in a deepening crisis and there's no way back. There's only a way forward.

Capitalist business as usual—the pre-Trumpian "good times" — has always been a nightmare for the working class. In 2014, racist cops got away with murdering Michael Brown in Ferguson and Ezell Ford in Los Angeles. Obama, then known as the "deporter-in-chief," initiated the separation of migrant families at the border.

The wealth gap has grown since Covid-19. But, by 2015, twenty billionaires already owned



as much wealth as 50% of the US population (<https://ips-dc.org/billionaire-bonanza>). In that same year, tens of thousands of working-class people died in wars around the world.

Communist Revolution: A Realistic Hope and Plan

We do not call on workers to defend democratic rights. The duty of communists is not to rescue capitalism in crisis. It's to plan for world revolution.

Working people, faced with the chaos and instability of capitalism, can see more than ever all the weaknesses of capitalism. It becomes clearer that even in the USA, working people can and must put an end to capitalism and its atrocities.

We can and we must overthrow this capitalist system and build a new world from the bottom up. We can smash the state apparatus, end the wage system and build a world where we work together to meet the needs of society, not profits for a few.

We know it won't be this year. Our job now is to mobilize the masses for communist revolution. In the streets, in the schools, factories and barracks. In the Zoom meetings that have taken the place of church, family and community gatherings.

Talk to the person who gave you this paper or email us at anonymousspeech.com. Join us to see how you can help hasten the day.

"United Front Against Fascism": Misleading Masses Since 1935

DON'T VOTE - ORGANIZE FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION!

LOS ANGELES (USA), October 1—Nobody in the discussion group wanted to talk about last night's Trump-Biden "debate." But Ryan had a question.

"The Prison-Industrial Complex is an agency of institutionalized white nationalism," he said. "Biden condemns people fighting that. The Green New Deal — he said it wasn't part of his platform, and officially it is. How are the left-wingers in the Democratic Party going to react?"

"Is there a high-level agreement to make sure Biden wins?" Carlota asked rhetorically. "Is this a real fight or just a show? They all agree on capitalism. Did they let Trump play it [the debate]

like that? Were Republican operatives in on the fix?"

"Biden advocated and legislated for the oppression of people of color, poor people," said Carlo. "During the Obama-Biden administration, there were similar atrocities in more insidious form. He is OK with locking up Black and Brown people."

"So is Harris," Marcia added.

Susana wondered why Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Bernie Sanders, Angela Davis jumped on board with Biden. Is there any difference between their messaging vs "Vote Blue [Democratic] No Matter Who?"

"As things sharpen, liberals are either coopted or radicalized." Someone brought up a point discussed earlier. "AOC & Bernie helped write the Democratic Party platform. They're clearly coopted. Never really radicals."

But what about Davis? Carlota thought she had been coopted into a comfortable life style by her success as a bright, attractive college professor and media star.

Marcia disagreed. Even before Davis got "comfortable" and even after she left the Communist Party USA, her political line reflected the "United Front Against Fascism" policies of the

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Capitalist Production Model Fails:

TIME FOR COMMUNIST COLLECTIVE PRODUCTION

PUGET SOUND (USA), October 1— “Time to get up and start talking about Boeing,” demanded a Boeing friend who called from work, waking up a retired comrade. Half of our friend’s crew had been laid off. Even though he is still employed, there is no work for him to do.

Capitalist production models can no longer even pretend to serve the needs of the working class. We must prepare for a communist revolution in production and in society at large. That’s the only way our collective needs can be met.

During the chat, our friend started joking about how the company is going to “move him to China.” Chinese aerospace firms will launch their equivalent of the narrow-body 737 MAX next year, making the future of Boeing’s plane precarious.

Airlines have cancelled over a thousand 737 MAX orders. Other jet models have also been canceled and delayed. Many of the delayed planes will never be delivered. For the first time in the company’s history, Boeing forecasts significantly fewer deliveries in the next decade than in the previous one: 2,200 less.

Meanwhile, Boeing layoffs are accelerating. Tens of thousands have already lost their jobs. Subcontractors have shed hundreds of thousands of workers. Major suppliers, like California’s Impresa Aerospace, have gone bankrupt. What is



left of widebody 787 production is being shifted to lower-wage South Carolina, leaving the vast Everett, WA plant near empty.

The MAX isn’t the only plane with dangerous flaws. In the last few months, hazardous manufacturing errors have occurred in the South Carolina and Salt Lake City 787 factories.

The military’s air tanker has also been pulled from service because of defects. Nevertheless, the Pentagon is paying Boeing more than the contract requires at this stage of production. These advance payments—along with the federal government’s manipulation of the bond market—are keeping the company afloat. And executives wealthy!

Airbus is also laying off, but they are doing marginally better. In the first nine months of this year, Airbus delivered 341 planes compared to only 87 for Boeing. Neither of these figures approaches the nearly 2,000 combined total a couple of years ago.

All around the world, the capitalists are spending trillion\$ of our stolen labor to save their production facilities—particularly those related to war production. We should have no illusions that any of this capital will be spent for our benefit.

In fact, the bosses have escalated their attacks. The global industrial job losses are devastating.

Racist Attacks Spark Recruitment, Consolidation

At this time, one of the biggest political weapons the bosses use against industrial workers is racism. The capitalists use racism, along with sexism and nationalism, to super-exploit and divide workers. The inevitable wars perpetrated by desperate imperialists will surely compound the horrendous suffering.

For example, the wages are two-thirds lower in South Carolina because of a history of racist divisions and super-exploitation. These divisions

have made it harder to fight racist speed-up, which not only hurts employees but contributes to the many manufacturing errors in these southern factories.

The constant barrage of racism at work fueled the Party’s efforts to bring workers to anti-racist demonstrations throughout the city. Black Boeing workers were the first to respond. Two joined the party, including one who helped organize a feeder march of 400 high school students to one of the first big BLM marches.

Our modest collective’s orbit extends to scores of *Red Flag* readers, including friends, family, students at local high schools and co-workers. These co-workers are either working, recently laid off or forced into retirement.

Red Flag Gives Workers an International Class Outlook

Boeing *Red Flag* readers are often motivated to fight budding fascism throughout the world. “It looks bad for Boeing workers,” commented a recently retired friend after reading the paper. “But this stuff [about racist-sexist atrocities in US Immigration concentration camp] is even more important.” He saw the parallels to NAZI Germany. He also appreciated the part about U.S. eugenics history.

The Boeing crisis is part and parcel of the general crisis of capitalism. Cries for returning to “normal” capitalist exploitation are misleading. Now more than ever, the answer is to produce for the needs of the working class, not the profits of the capitalists. We’re talking about communist collective production. And that requires a communist revolution.

Boeing workers must join their international brothers and sisters in the ICWP and help build industrial workers’ collectives everywhere. Our Boeing friend’s humor has its place, but only communist organizers will end this tragedy.

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themselves that were supposed to go to workers. The workers are seeing all this corruption displayed in the news on a daily basis.

The mining sector, according to our comrades in Marikana, is retrenching thousands of workers. The government is continuing to bail out the same companies who are waging this direct assault on the working class. This shows that the capitalists will always look out for themselves. If we workers are to survive there must be unity within the working class.

Even now the South African president announced a stimulus package of about half a trillion Rands (US\$300 million). In that half a

trillion Rands, instead of them advocating for bailing out the workers, they are advocating for bailing out the same companies that are attacking the workers.

There is clearly a need for communist revolution and nothing less. Anything less will be detrimental to the workers.

The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) party is proposing their same old plan (which they present as new). That is: nationalize land without compensation, nationalize the mines, the banks, etc. All these policies are just meant to reform capitalism, not eradicate it. In the past, they have created another group of exploiters who enjoy privileges which the working class does not.

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20th century communist movement after 1935.

This wasn’t the ill-fated “popular front” line of “uniting the left.” The Communist International called on workers to ally with “liberal capitalists” like Roosevelt and Churchill. “Churchill, whose policies caused the 1943 Bengal famine that killed more than three million people!” Marcia sputtered.

She explained that the Communist Party - USA, put the brakes on class struggle and anti-racist action during World War II in the name of “helping the war effort.” It even disbanded itself. In 1964 it backed LBJ against Goldwater for president. Later, it helped de-radicalize the Black Panther Party by enmeshing it in liberal “sup-

port.” That’s about when Angela Davis came in. The politics of the “Communist” Party corrupted her outlook well before she was ever rich or famous.

The “United Front Against Fascism” was a deadly mistake from the start. It’s even deadlier now, with capitalism in an even deeper crisis and preparing for yet another world war. A minority in the CP argued in 1935 that the way to defeat fascism was socialist revolution. The International Communist Workers’ Party has updated their position: to defeat fascism, mobilize masses for communism.

The discussion group concluded that Biden’s campaign wrongly suggests that Trump is an aberration. That the US should now “go back to the way we used to do things.” That is, massive numbers of people deported or in ICE prisons,

The EFF’s proposals are no solution. It is futile and dangerous to follow that path. We need to fight directly for communism.

History has shown that capitalism can’t be reformed to meet the masses’ needs. It has to be smashed. Hence, we as the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP) are organizing workers to mobilize for communism. To do this, the working class has to be united.

In communism, we masses will produce to meet the needs of everyone. Everyone will contribute what they can. There won’t be any profits or bosses. There won’t be wages or money. No one will exploit anyone. We call on the workers to join ICWP to mobilize for communism.

with minimum-wage jobs, no health insurance, etc.

Carlo pointed out that neoliberalism is not generating the same fervor for Biden as it did for Obama. Carlota mentioned that membership in the National African-American Gunowners Association has increased 400% in the last two years.

The electoral onslaught makes it harder (for now) to engage liberals in discussion of a revolutionary communist future. But there are others like us, especially young people, who are more open than before.

“Can I invite a friend to our next meeting?” Ryan asked. Of course! Discussions like these help us advance the and broaden the struggle for communism.

MASS OUTRAGE AT BRUTAL RAPE-MURDER MUST LEAD TO MORE COMMUNIST ORGANIZING

INDIA, October 8—Women and men across India are outraged by the gang-rape of a young Dalit woman by four upper-caste Hindu men in Uttar Pradesh. The rapists assaulted her repeatedly for two days, leaving her partially paralyzed and bleeding. After ten days in the hospital, she died from her wounds. Before she died, she told the police the names of the four assailants.

The police, conspiring with the upper-caste Hindus, claimed there was no rape. They did nothing to punish the rapists. Then her wailing family tried to claim her body for burial. Instead, police locked them inside their home while they burned the body to destroy all the evidence.

Uttar Pradesh is the largest state in India. It is controlled by fascists with deep hatred for Dalits and Muslims. In last two weeks alone, there have been eighteen reported gang rapes and murders. Several Muslim men have been tortured by the fascists. Not a single person has been prosecuted.

Mass demonstrations throughout India have condemned this brutal rape, murder and police cover-up. Masses are furious about the continued rapes and attacks on Dalits and Muslims. Women have taken the lead. The All-India Progressive Women's Association said the police action of cremating the body in the dead of night without the family's permission "reeks of caste supremacy."

India's 200 million Dalits (even below the lowest caste) have long faced discrimination and abuse. Attacks on them have increased during the coronavirus epidemic as the government pushes more fascism.

"Damn the system that condemns women to barbaric atrocities as they toil hard to make wages!" comrades in India exclaimed. "Damn the system that, on top of other unbearable conditions, forever puts layers of sexism and caste oppression! Damn the system in which politicians, police and judges commit the victims of



horror to insanity."

Our young ICWP members and growing group of friends in India have demanded that the entire system of capitalism has to go now. We are resolutely organizing so that communism and only communist revolution will avenge the system that stifles our voices.

Communism will eliminate wage slavery: the material basis for sexism, Islamophobia and the racism of the caste system. Every person will be nurtured in a society that guarantees everyone's safety and values their contribution to the collective. Communist masses will wage a relentless fight against class society's sexism and racism until these are eliminated.

The sharpest attacks on the working class confront us with numerous opportunities. The murders of primarily Dalit and Muslim women are a result of extreme sexism and racism that targets wage slaves with unending horrors. We need the working masses: women, men, Dalit, non-Dalits, Muslims and non-Muslim, Hindus and secular – the united working class – to end the capitalist system of oppression.

The bosses and many of their nationalist politicians push the idea that the solution will come when Dalits fight the so-called upper-caste Hindus. Their vicious outlook paints the Dalits only as victims. It pushes Dalit workers further into backward ages of sexism and capitalism. The real solution comes when the working class, as a united class, stands up and fights to end the system of wages. We will have to unite our

to 'decoupling' India: that is, moving its resources away from China. It wants economic and military ties with the US, France and Israel. Meanwhile, Iran and Pakistan—a former US ally and India's enemy—are building massive infrastructure to support the Chinese oil industry for the next 25 years.

Wars are written all over the rulers' faces. That is why Amit and millions like him in cities and villages have no jobs. And it is the same reason the army is luring young soldiers to their quagmire.

The International Communist Workers' Party knows how to end bosses' wars for profit. The key is to smash the vile racism that is dividing the workers. We are witnessing fascist and paramilitary forces kill Muslims and Dalits with impunity. More people are targeted in Kashmir with



The cremation was a second rape by the system! The system must come down!

working-class sisters and brothers including the millions of soldiers who have the power to change this oppressive system. Those attacked the hardest by capitalism's sexism and racism will give crucial leadership in this struggle.

Meanwhile, the army is inflicting horrific terror in Kashmir. Millions of troops are massing up to fight on the border of India and China. Our task is to take our fight to the capitalist bosses. Our young and emerging communists of ICWP are developing the voices to fight for communism.

We will bring these voices in the form of communist podcasts that will spread our messages in many languages. We fight for a future where nobody will be raped or tortured or murdered. Our class tormentors have every reason to tremble because our small but determined communist group is growing in strength. Communism is the future.

Read our pamphlet:
The Communist Fight Against Sexism
available at:
icwpredflag.org/sxse.pdf



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unforgiving mountain terrain over 15000 ft (4500 m). High-altitude sickness can kill troops in days. Many more take their own lives.

India also faces a tremendous trade deficit. Last year, India exported \$16 billion to China but imported \$64 billion from China. Chinese autos, computers, software, chemicals, heavy machinery, TVs flood the Indian market.

Modi's government banned 106 Chinese software companies from India, but they can't stop Chinese companies like Alibaba, Xiaomi, Oppo and Vivo. Alibaba and Chinese banks have financed major India companies like PayTM, Make My Trip and the cab-hailing company Ola.

The Indian ruling class is increasingly looking

rubber bullets, pellet guns and tear gas. The military is now put in charge of more areas, like Kashmir.

But we have seen that soldiers, if they are organized, are open to the plight of the working class. Those who joined the army from the ranks of the unemployed can play a key role. This has happened before. The mighty British army was brought to its knees in Mumbai by a combined detachment of Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians demanding food and not war. This galvanized sailors and soldiers from Iraq to Indonesia and everywhere in between.

Our organizing will draw masses of soldiers and working-class comrades like Amit into the revolutionary fight for communism.

COSTA RICA: GENERAL STRIKE AGAINST BANKS AND IMF

October 14— The Costa Rican masses have taken to the streets by the thousands for two weeks. They are protesting the agreement that President Carlos Alvarado intended to make with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The \$1.75 billion loan was supposedly to alleviate the capitalist economic crisis that Costa Rica was already going through, which the Covid19 pandemic has deepened, intensified and made more devastating.

The masses are protesting because they know that IMF loans mean tax increases, privatization of vital public services, and criminal budget cuts. Even though the government announced that it had withdrawn its petition to the IMF, blockades of ports and roads, and massive confrontations with the riot police, continue.

“The problem is the banks,” said one worker. Like him, many of the protesters in the streets have shown aspects of knowing that their fight is actually against capitalism. The solution they are looking for, through class instinct, is communist revolution and building a communist society on the rubble of capitalism.

But they will not hear this nor will they be led towards this goal by the heads of the “National Rescue Movement” that is leading the protests. One is Célimo Guido Cruz, a former deputy for a now defunct socialist political party. Another is José Miguel Corrales, a former presidential candidate and former deputy for the National Liberation Party, the older of the two traditional bourgeois parties.

It is the duty and honor of our comrades in Central America to bring to the Costa Rican working masses the message that the only solution is to mobilize for communism. That we and they need to join and organize the



No more taxes on the people!

International Communist Workers’ Party.

Our goal is to put an end to capitalism-imperialism and establish communism all over the world. In communism there will be no money, markets, banks, wages, or wage slavery. Collectively we will produce and share everything we need according to the principle: From each according to their ability and commitment, to each according to their need.

This is our future: where workers’ lives will be more valuable than anything else - especially during pandemics and natural disasters.

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.

The Main Thing Communists Must Do Now

“The main thing is to struggle with people to get them to accept new ideas and join the party,” said a comrade’s son, as we began to mobilize for the protest against the racist murder of Breonna Taylor. A teacher comrade and neighbors checked their networks to find the time and place. They couldn’t attend, but three other comrades did.

We distributed all our Red Flags and party leaflets, but that wasn’t the main thing that came out of this rally. Our experience sparked exciting conversations with comrades and new friends on communism, fascism, and what could replace police forces.

When our neighbor returned from work, the first thing he wanted to know was how the rally went. This led to a longer conversation about the development of fascism and a comrade’s experiences fighting it over the years. The neighbor made an interesting point about how calls for free speech for fascists ran counter to getting rid of racism. He was clear that not only Trump, but also neo-liberals, were promoting fascism.

Then things turned real. He asked the comrade what organization he belonged to. That led to a conversation about the ICWP. He really wanted the literature the party distributed at the rally. The comrade gave it to him. The discussion turned to the differences between socialism and communism.

About a week later he texted us to say that he had read “a few columns” of *Red Flag* and would read more as soon as he found the time. Around the same time, two comrades had another political discussion with his wife.

The Saturday after the rally, we discussed what we can write about for *Red Flag*. The teacher is working on a letter about restorative justice. We are trying to explain how commu-



nism will exist without laws and cops, and where restorative justice falls short. Our participation in the rally helped to open the door to the ongoing struggle about this.

This is a continuing story involving others as well, but you get the idea. The communist conversations we have with our neighbors, co-workers and comrades are crucial. There is no substitute.

—Seattle (USA) Comrades

Website proposal

I would like to make a simple proposal that would greatly increase our social media presence and help comrades all over the world with the conversations designed to bring workers closer to the party.

The proposal is that our RF/BR website have fresh material everyday about current events, the things workers are currently talking about, and the things we would like to talk with them about.

We can start it right away, and involves very little extra work for the collective that puts out RF/BR and our website. I can personally handle most of the extra work, including translating.

My proposal is very simple. Currently on the ICWP landing page we find a list of articles from the current issue, each with a small image and a few sentences from or about the articles. This is an effective use of space.

My suggestion is that at the top there be a similar item, labeled “Breaking News”. Ideally, it would change every day. Anyone could contribute but the RF/BR collective would be in charge of approving contributions. A proposed article would be posted on the chat group and if there are no objections, it’s posted on the site.

I suggest that the articles be shorter (<500 words) and more informal than regular RF/BR articles.

Given the current crisis, there will be no shortage of things to talk about. Just this week we would have the debate, war in the Caucasus, Trump’s tax returns, the anniversary of the founding of ‘Red’ China, the anniversary of the founding of the First International, 40,000 airline workers laid off, Trump gets COVID, and a general strike in Costa Rica.

Currently the ICWP site has nothing about any of this and won’t have for another two weeks, when a new issue of RF/BR comes out.

This is an opportunity we can’t afford to miss.
—Comrade in Canada

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Why I took an interest in the ICWP

I first learned about the existence of the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP), during 2019, through one of its members. This member's gritty determination and undoubted commitment to the ideological stances of the ICWP was one of the many factors that sparked my curiosity and interest in the ICWP.

I am a product of 'working class' parents and extended family. So, I was no stranger to the 'shortcomings' of the modern-day (global and domestic) intrinsic capitalist economic, political, and social orders. I joined various local 'socialist' political parties, as a means of expressing my disdain for the current capitalist economic and political systems.

Many of the grievances I had with the existing capitalist state of affairs, however, could not be remedied by the policies put forth by these so-called socialist parties I joined. I did find a viable solution to almost all of my grievances in the concept of communism.

I have been a member of the ICWP for almost two months. I have since concluded that the ICWP is unequivocally the best vehicle, for me, for bringing about a successful comprehension of Communism.

I have also found the ideology and

the ICWP's approach to the study of Communism as a whole to be far more comprehensive compared to other sources I have utilized in the past. It is precisely more 'comprehensive', for me, in the sense that it integrates theories, methods, etc of various disciplines. I have also found the study guides of the ICWP to be more detailed than any single discipline's under-

standing, as they often transcend each discipline's insights.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the learning experience the ICWP has presented me thus far. With great expectation and excitement, I look forward to learning so much more!

—Comrade in South Africa



World War is Inevitable Unless Communist Revolution Destroys Capitalism First

The lives of masses everywhere are affected by rivalry among imperialist powers. These leading capitalists fight for control of workers' labor power, markets and resources. Their rivalry is the main contradiction in the world today. Sometimes it takes the form of trade disputes. But it increasingly explodes into war.

Wars have killed thousands already this year in Afghanistan, in Yemen, in Syria. In South Sudan, Congo, Libya, the Maghreb (northern Africa). In the Mexican drug war. And now in the Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh) conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia. Most if not all of these, involve conflicting imperialist powers. So do the equally deadly insurgencies in West Africa, Iraq and Mozambique.

Still, some think that "all-out world war" might not be inevitable. That perhaps the imperialists have "found ways to re-divide the world without total conflict."

This is not a new idea. The German socialist Karl Kautsky argued in 1914 that "it is not impossible that capitalism is now to enter upon a new phase marked by the transfer of trust [mo-

nopoly] methods to international politics, a sort of super-imperialism." However, the first World War was already underway.

But it is a dangerous idea. It's true that imperialists sometimes make deals, but their unity is temporary. They have competing interests. Eventually these deals fall apart, like the Versailles treaty after World War I. The Versailles treaty itself contained the seeds of World War II.

It is dangerous because the vain hope that imperialists can peacefully divide the world diverts us from the fight to destroy capitalism and imperialism with communist revolution.

Lenin answered Kautsky in *Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism*. He showed that the nature of capitalism's competition for maximum profit makes world war inevitable. The biggest capitalists – finance capital – control vast industries. As their profit rate declines, they must export capital.

Initially that meant subjugating regions of Asia, Africa, America in order to pay lower wages and reap higher profits. By the start of the 20th century, the French, British and other imperialists had conquered and divided up the world. Further expansion – including the rise of

new imperial powers like the US and Germany—inevitably meant imperialist war to re-divide the world's territory, resources, markets and labor power.

The resulting wars "re-set" capitalism by massively destroying productive capacity: factories, of course, but most tragically workers' lives. They left different imperialists on top of the heap.

Understanding this, Lenin led the Bolsheviks to prepare for world war by building a base among industrial workers and soldiers. Their aim was to turn the imperialist war into a war for workers' power.

And they did! Soldiers and workers turned their guns and tanks against the rulers to destroy the capitalists' power.

Today's imperialists and regional powers – from the US to Turkey to Russia to India to China—are once again preparing for even deadlier world war. So must we.

Communist-led masses stop imperialist war by destroying capitalism with communist revolution.

—Comrades in Los Angeles (USA)

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El Salvador: No! to Capitalist Electoral Parties – Build ICWP Collective!

“You can’t give complete control of the Assembly to a power-obsessed madman,” a student and health worker said. “What choice do we have then? For which party should we vote?” he asked.

“We have no electoral choice,” answered our comrade of ICWP. “We should abstain from voting, that’s what we have to do.”

This discussion took place within the context of studying a report on money laundering by President Nayib Bukele and his most intimate circle of friends and officials, together with one of the top leaders of the FMLN party, José Luis Merino. This group was established by ex-president Antonio Saca of the ARENA party. They are accused of laundering three billion dollars throughout the whole last decade through Alba Petróleos and PDV Caribe in complicity with the government of Nicolás Maduro in Venezuela.

Bukele is the new leader of the Salvadoran right wing. Their objective is to gain a majority in the Salvadoran Legislative Assembly to run the state’s policy for their interests and those of the members of the bourgeoisie who finance them.

The electoral right wing won’t solve this health and economic disaster of the current Bukele government. El Salvador’s debt of almost 93% of GDP is a debt that all the workers in the country and the future generations will pay. All for the benefit of a small group of bosses.

This discussion leads us to reflect on the urgency of the revolutionary alternative for the working class. We must urgently stop the vicious cycle of crisis and debt into which the bourgeoisie has plunged us in this country and in the whole world.

It’s essential to open spaces for discussion to share the real political alternative for the working class. To discuss communist ideology, bringing information about the alternative and the choice of revolution which is reflected in *Red Flag*.

The political task is great. The social, economic and political situation of the working class makes it urgent. We need more political discussion and more dissemination of *Red Flag*. Our duty is to move the struggle from the social networks to our workplaces.

Many lives are in danger when we denounce the bosses’ system. Therefore, the task is to build more unity with the International Commu-

nist Workers’ Party. The communist cells will be the support and guide so that those who feel overwhelmed by the capitalist system can find respite and relief from the economic situation they face. The capitalist management of the Covid 19 crisis has caused this situation.

The communist cells of the ICWP serve as a link between the party and the workers, to make the struggle for communism more militant, intelligent, united, and critical and self-critical.

Giving part of one’s life for the welfare of others is one of the noblest tasks that communists in the world decide to take on.

—Comrades in El Salvador



San Salvador, September 2020—They say that we’re essential and they treat us like we’re disposable

Hospital Workers Refuse to Be Sacrificed on the Altar of Profits

“Uh-uh. That’s not happening!” said a New Jersey (USA) hospital worker at a work meeting. The hospital administrators were trying to push an unsafe procedure on the assembled healthcare technicians. The bosses wanted workers to accept using surgical masks with face shields. These workers had to be very near patients to perform necessary medical procedures.

Face shields with surgical masks do not provide adequate protection from small particles. Hospital administrators try to push this method because it’s cheaper and available.

The N95 mask would maximize protection for healthcare workers and patients but under capitalist health care N95 masks are not stockpiled. There is always a shortage of the safest method.

Big and small struggles like this are occurring all around the world. Sometimes they provide partial relief for a short time, but the overall trend during the pandemic is in the opposite direction. Healthcare workers are being sacrificed on the altar of profits.

It has become clear that the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) cannot be trusted. Some in the bosses’ media blame “political” influence, but that is only a part of the story. Hospitals and the healthcare industry have started a full-on campaign to avoid safety measures that would cost real money, like widespread use of effective air filtration systems.

Hospital Infectious Disease departments are

also complicit. They always try to get workers to accept the least safe method of protection.

The latest CDC flip-flop centers around the scientific proof that the pandemic spreads through aerosol droplets in the air. Some CDC employees knew this and for a few short hours this warning was posted on the organization’s website. Soon, it was taken down.

The workers in this New Jersey hospital were right that face shields without N95 masks would not protect workers and patients. Similarly, aerosol spread made the plexiglass barriers during the vice-presidential debate next to useless.

The New Jersey technicians got N95 masks, but had to wear the same one for a week. Ade-

line Fagan, a 28-year-old resident OB-GYN in Houston, died of COVID-19 after wearing the same “N95 [mask] for weeks and weeks, if not months and months” according to her sister.

Internationally, all healthcare workers are forced to use N95 masks for longer periods than are safe. Eventually, they provide inadequate protection because the seal comes loose.

The next time the hospital bosses try to force unsafe practices upon us, let’s answer “Uh-Uh! That’s not happening. We need a new healthcare system, a communist healthcare system dedicated to the needs of the working class, not profits.”

—New Jersey Healthcare worker



Health Care Workers in New York

Thai Democracy Protests and the Kra Canal:

FROM INTER-IMPERIALIST CONFLICT TO COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

October 11 – Hundreds of thousands protested last month against Thailand’s monarchy and its fascist military government. There are calls for an October 15 general strike- a political strike for democratic reforms.

But in this situation – as is often the case – what we see in the pictures doesn’t get to the heart of the matter. Why now? What’s at stake?

We often say that inter-imperialist rivalry is the main contradiction in the world. That is, it affects or shapes or even drives many of the other processes at work. Turns out, the Thai crisis is one of those.

The main issue confronting the Thai government today is the Kra canal project. China wants to invest up to \$30 billion to construct this canal across the narrowest point of the Thailand’s Malay peninsula. This would open a second sea route from China to the Indian Ocean. It would allow trade – and, critically, naval vessels – to bypass the crowded and contested Malacca Strait.

The Thai military/monarchy initially supported this proposal. However, it’s not clear how much Thailand would benefit. Like other partners of China’s Belt and Road project, the Thai government could end up with overwhelming debt and little to show for it. The Indian government is promoting this view.

A canal could also intensify tensions between the Thai government and a separatist movement in the mostly-Muslim southern part of its peninsula. What if China, motivated to defend “its” canal, supported an independence movement there?

Export of capital is a key feature of imperialism. Those on the receiving end often end up badly, whether the creditor is the World Bank or Chinese imperialism.

And if a canal is dug, it might not be financed by China. Within the last month, Thai government officials have stated that India, the US and Australia are also interested in the project. Whether the Thai ruling class is divided or simply undecided is hard to say.

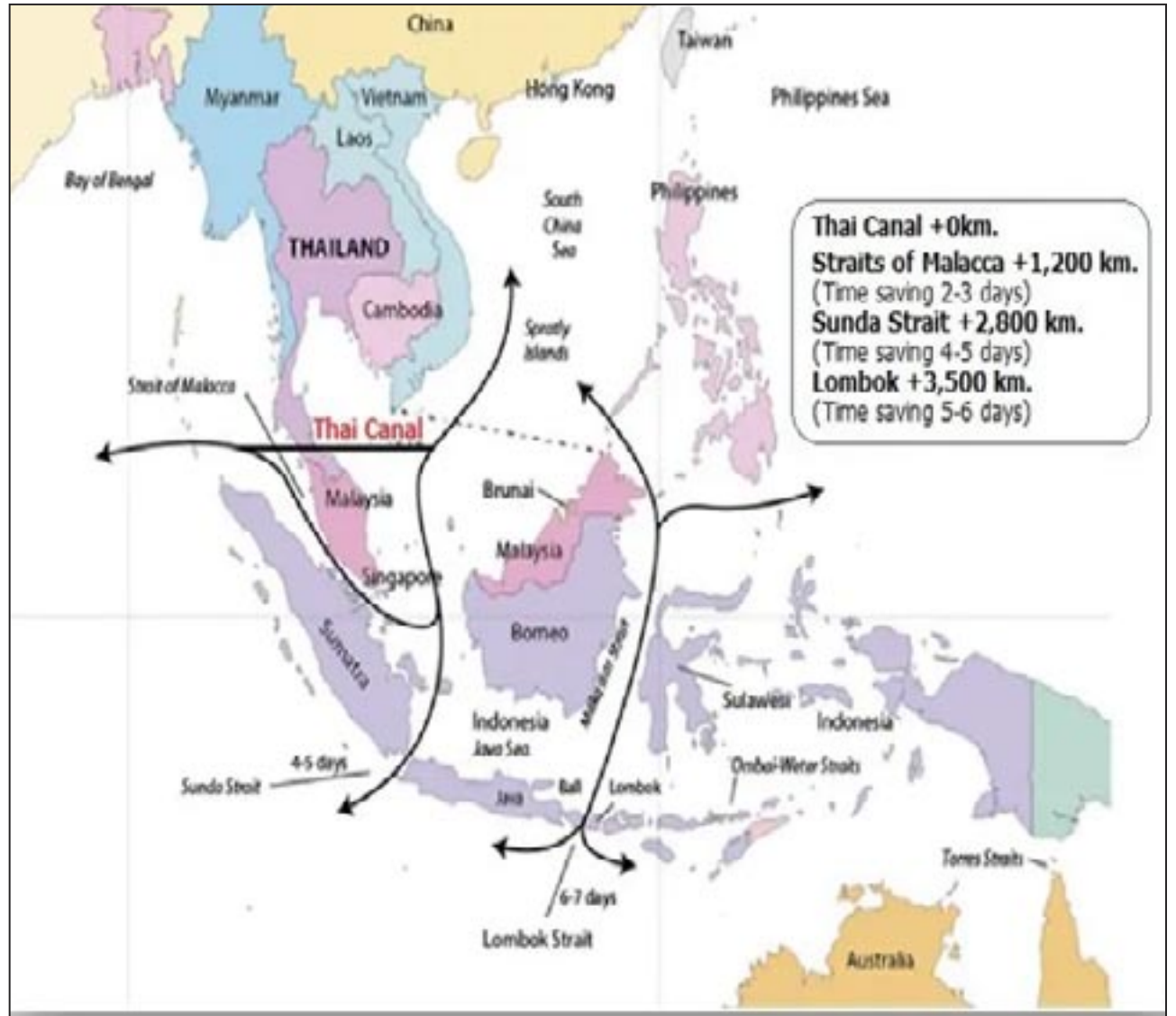
“Instability in Thailand matters,” declared a US analyst. Thailand was the first US stronghold in southeast Asia. It was a US bulwark in the 20th century “cold war.” US imperialism backed US-born King Bhumibol Adulyadej from 1946 until his death in 2016. (Is it coincidence that the Hollywood movie “Anna and the King of Siam” premiered in 1946? And the Broadway musical “The King and I” five years later?)

As the king’s health failed, political fights among the Thai ruling class sharpened. Massive street protests began. The military stepped in, executing a coup in 2014 that was quickly endorsed by the king. Anti-coup protesters adopted the three-finger “Hunger Games” salute still seen in the streets today.

The US Obama administration condemned the coup, although Thailand was still key to its opposition to militant Islamism in the region and to the rise of China. Since then, contradictions between the US and Thailand have sharpened.

Meanwhile, China has become Thailand’s leading trade partner and its second-largest source of foreign investment. Thailand has purchased Chinese military materiel. The two nations have conducted joint naval and marine exercises.

So, US-China imperialist rivalry is the context – and possibly a driving force – of the ongoing “democracy” protests. It’s no longer clear which



This map shows how much time ships would save with the Kra (Thai) canal

India and China: More Struggle Than Unity

Cultural and trade relationships between China and India go back thousands of years. As recently as the 1950s, India’s Nehru hoped for friendly relations with Mao’s China. But where there is unity there is also struggle. Today the struggle is sharper than ever.

In mid-September, India and China – mediated by Russia – seemed close to resolving their fifty-year border dispute in the Himalayas. No more! Both sides are building roads, airstrips and other infrastructure. They are preparing for more war.

A more serious conflict is brewing in the Indian Ocean. China seriously outguns India in naval power. It is increasingly active in the Indian Ocean, especially near the Strait of Malacca. India has responded by expanding its presence in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands at the western access to the Strait.

That’s why India is warning Thailand not to let China build the Kra canal. And why India is joining with the US and Australia to possibly finance it themselves.

Imperialists build alliances based on profit, not principles. Such alliances are never stable.

From the Sino-Soviet split around 1960 until after the Cold War ended in the 1990s, both China and the US supported Pakistan against Soviet-backed India. Now, Chinese (and anti-US Islamist) influence is growing in Pakistan. That – much more than the Trump-Modi connection – explains why India and the US are moving closer.

Contradictions have two sides – not three or more. The capitalist governments of Malaysia and Singapore (astride the Malacca Strait), Thailand, Philippines and Indonesia may prefer to remain neutral as a US-China war seems increasingly likely. But they can’t.

And workers everywhere can’t remain neutral in the class struggle. Wherever we live, it’s becoming impossible to live in the old way. That’s why anti-government protests are exploding.

We must resist with all our might the capitalists’ attempts to build patriotism and “national unity” and to divide the masses with racism and religious communalism. We must mobilize masses for communist revolution – now. Amidst the deepening depression and the increasing threat of world war.

Our party is growing in India and elsewhere in south Asia. There is potential for much more. The international working class needs every one of us to step forward and realize this potential.

side Thailand would take in a US-China war.

Workers and youth have no material interest in taking sides in fights among imperialists. Our fight is the revolutionary class struggle for communism everywhere. Stepping it up means that the working class, not the imperialists, will drive world events. The future will be ours!

In a communist world there will be no empires or nations. No trade conflicts or imperialist wars.

Our global working-class family will produce what we need and share it wherever it’s needed. No prices or wages or money or profits. No kings or exploiters, whether elected or unelected.

The fight for that communist world must start now. Help get this message to rebelling youth and workers from Thailand to Indonesia – and wherever you live.