

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

MIGRANT CARAVAN



Nine thousand men, women and children are walking north in a caravan from Honduras because capitalist crisis has forced them to leave their homes to survive. They hope to get to the US and apply for asylum. But the National Guard and police in Guatemala have stopped them—under orders of the Mexican and US bosses. This is our human family, struggling and desperate to survive capitalism's crisis. Their struggle shows that no boss is the friend of the working class. We and they must learn from this that only communist revolution will get our class what we need.



COMMUNIST SOLIDARITY WITH GARMENT WORKERS OCCUPYING FACTORY

EL SALVADOR, January 20—A group of 210 workers at the Florenzi factory in San Salvador, mostly women, were fired early last year, when the coronavirus crisis began. They weren't paid their severance pay or pending wages. In response, 113 workers occupied the facilities. The boss has fled, backed by the government and the police, and doesn't show his face to the workers.

The workers stayed in the factory where they have been protesting, and have now gone on a hunger strike. This shows clearly that capitalism subjects workers to hunger and poverty.

Last weekend, comrades from various sectors of the International Communist Workers' Party met and discussed the situation of these garment workers.

"We have to go visit them and show solidarity," suggested a comrade.

See COMMUNIST SOLIDARITY, page 3

Fighting Fascism from India to the US

"IGNITING THE FURY OF THE FUTURE"

INDIA, January 26—Farmers march into Delhi, welcomed with flowers by masses of workers lining the streets. There are 250,000 tractors, each carrying dozens of people. Many breach police barricades. Elsewhere, farmers leave the tractors on the freeway and start marching on foot. The enormous rally escalates into pitched battles as police attack with teargas and batons at hundreds of locations. The police, completely overwhelmed, are forced to retreat. Finally, masses reach the Red Fort, a symbolic rallying point. Police fall into deep ditches to avoid serious injury as they come under sustained attack.

Comrades of International Communist Workers' Party participate in large numbers. They are prepared to distribute literature but amidst the battle — running, shouting, teargas, retreat, and then advancing again — that isn't possible. They

stick with the friends they came with.

"The masses have just woken up, the fight for communism is in our hands," exclaims a comrade, inspired. "There is no going back to the old days of misery and helplessness," reports another. "It will be a battle between communism and the brutality of fascism. There is no third way."

From a big march in Bengaluru a comrade declares: "We are igniting the fury of the future. The farmers have shown that barricades will come down. We have to show that communism will usher in a new society without money. That is communism. We will win!"

INDUSTRIAL WORKERS, FARMERS AND YOUTH EXPLAIN WHY WE NEED COMMUNISM

INDIA, January 22—On a cold January night in Delhi, several comrades of the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) were glued to the news of fascist coup attempt in Washington D.C. They discussed how it would affect the farmers' struggle in India. "It calls for all of us to show that only communism will end fascist brutality from India to the US," they concluded."

This was a recurring theme among comrades who were reading Hindi-language copies of the ICWP document *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*.

Trump's fascist coup attempt has exposed serious dangers faced by the US ruling class. Biden's White House will lead an extremely weak US imperialism. The irony of this weakness was revealed when Trump was banned from Twitter at the same time fascist Modi and his

See INDIA page 4

Volume 12, Number 1, January 27 to February 17, 2021

INSIDE:

FIGHTING RACIST FASCISM IN USA: PAGES 2 & 6

TRANSIT WORKERS GROW COMMUNIST COLLECTIVES: PAGE 4

BIDEN-HARRIS PLAN TO CONFRONT CHINA: PAGE 5

WORKERS, SOCIAL MEDIA AND "FREEDOM OF SPEECH": PAGE 5

PARIS COMMUNE: COMMUNIST STRUGGLE 1871-2021: PAGE 8

More Potential for Party Growth:**COMMUNIST DISCUSSIONS ON RACISM AND FASCISM FIRE UP
COMRADES AND FRIENDS**

The communist fight against racism is—and always has been—central to the battle to bury fascism. Only communism can rip out racism by its roots and the white supremacist ideology it fosters.

Boeing workers are passionately debating what caused the D.C. fascist riot.

“The cause? It’s history,” said a longtime friend, Comrade C.

He spelled out how racism helped develop a mass base for fascism. He put the blame at the feet of the capitalists. Every step of the way, they used racism to inflate their profits and maintain their power.

“The phrase ‘the chickens came home to roost’ upsets some people, but that’s what happened in D.C.,” said C, borrowing Malcolm X’s words. Four hundred years of racist lies propelled these white supremacist fascists to attack the very institutions that have been seeding and exporting racist violence throughout the world.

“The fascists fear they are losing ‘their’ country,” C said in amazement.

“But who built this country?” he demanded. From the slave plantations before emancipation to the convict labor in the steel plants afterwards, black workers have been super-exploited and slaughtered to secure the capitalist’s profits and power. From the sweatshops to the fields and food processing plants, this racist plague of super-exploitation of people of color and millions of immigrants filled the bosses’ coffers.

“I also hate racist Native American stereotypes,” he continued. Native Americans took in runaway slaves because they, too, suffered genocide at the hands of U.S. capitalism.

C made no excuses for the fascists, but he didn’t rule out the potential of the white working class. For example, he commented on a religious TV show. The church leaders were bragging about their “good works” when a white guy called up. “How can you brag about your good works, when you don’t do a thing about the rampaging racists,” the caller demanded.

C punctuated his history lesson with his personal story. After World War II, his family migrated north for jobs in the burgeoning industrial factories. His first job involved building missile guidance systems.

“I didn’t know what I was doing,” he confessed. “Those guidance systems killed workers all over the world. I won’t do that again. Now I know that we were just convenient workers to exploit.”

The history, so elegantly presented over an hour’s worth of conversations, was actually the history of capitalism. C has been isolated by the pandemic, but now is fired up. The struggle is for him to share his passion and knowledge with his family and friends.

Shedding Illusions

The bosses’ press and the Biden administration frame the fight against fascism as one for democracy and national unity. Nothing can be further

from the truth.

“The ruling class will try to silence Trump and his Nazi, racist supporters. They went too far, exposing the rulers’ plan for US-style fascism,” declared a hospital worker. She, too, must share her insights more widely, as well as join and recruit her friends.

The capitalists face economic, political and military crises. These crises force ruling classes around the world to turn to fascism. U.S. bosses will implement their plans under the cover of a call to preserve U.S. democracy with national unity.

Meanwhile, the ruling class spreads the illusion that capitalism can contain racism and avoid fascism with a mass, militant reform movement. The capitalists designed every governmental, cultural and educational institution to guarantee their rule. Only communist revolution can smash these capitalist roadblocks to ending racism and fascism.

Advance Under Attack

The vision of communism opens up new avenues of struggle against racism. For the first time, the potential to end racism becomes real.

Communism thrives on international, multi-racial unity. The collective might of the working class will be unleashed and aimed at the racist scourge that plagues humanity. Capitalist competition, the wage system and the bosses’ need for racist super-exploitation will no longer hold us back. Communism will destroy the material basis of racism.

Racism is an ideological prop that fascism needs to build a mass base. In the U.S., this revolves around white supremacy. Communist revolution will permanently remove that pillar.

The debates over communist answers to racism and fascism are firing up comrades and all those around the party. Everywhere, our party collectives can advance under attack.

**Use Collective
Discussions to Build ICWP**

“I know that a revolution would mean lots of injuries and death,” said a comrade’s friend when they were discussing the riot at the Capitol. “How do I know that it would be worth it?” They were talking about what communists and their friends, families, and co-workers should do in the face of these fascist, racist attacks.

One young couple said they had been afraid of just such a fascist outbreak. They are activists. They said, “[We] may be in a bubble, but almost everyone we know is either socialist or communist.” Although comrades had talked to them before about the contradiction between socialism and communism, they still think of socialism to communism as some kind of progression.

A laid-off Boeing worker said that it was hard for her to put her thoughts into words when she is learning something new (i.e., about communism). A comrade offered to help her with the math in her machinist classes. This led to a short discussion about the best way to learn new things, particularly political things. Our comrade said he learned about politics by discussing and debating with his friends. He asked her to discuss the attempted fascist coup with her friends, then to get back to him with the results. “I will. I appreciate your encouragement!” she responded.

Many of our friends are asking two specific questions: As anti-racists and anti-fascists, what should they do next? And what will we, as communists, do next? We are using these discussions to develop our relationships with our base and are urging them to spread these discussions to others.

We are inviting the people who have been asking these questions to join an online group chat. Together we can struggle to enlarge and enrich our ideas about life in a communist world and how to get there. Collectively discussing anti-fascist, anti-racist ideas and visions of a communist world will help our Party grow. We will develop more and deeper communist relations with our base. As they discuss these ideas with their friends, our base will widen, our struggles will sharpen and our Party will have more input to develop our line and pave the way for a communist future.

This is a clear opportunity to build the ICWP and increase the confidence of the working class in itself and in our Party.



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WORKERS NEED REVOLUTION, NOT ELECTIONS

EL SALVADOR—“If you want, why not hold the meeting at my house? That way, my husband and my daughters will be there. They have already read *Red Flag* when I bring it,” proposed a new comrade of the International Communist Workers’ Party.

In the first weeks of work this year, we have started three meetings of small cells of up to six members to discuss the struggle for a stronger advance within the maquila (sweatshop). The first thing we have done is to distribute the newspaper for understanding the struggles that the working class leads, day by day, worldwide.

Each meeting is planned for 45 minutes or an hour so that the comrades can give their opinions. It’s a short time to talk about the Party. We had these meetings in cafeterias after work. Now new comrades have offered their houses for these meetings. That way they would also serve to involve the family.

“The working class in the factories where we have members is opening up to the ideas of the Party and fight-

ing to enlarge our communist line,” pointed out a worker leader. “We have also discussed the distress that the electoral parties are spreading, in part to win the government, also to try to confuse our working class.

“In the discussions in the cells, we still find members and readers who, in spite of struggling for a communist world, still follow the ideas of certain figures like Nayib Bukele or the FMLN. However, it was clarified that as a communist

party we are not thinking about elections.”

We are thinking of a massive revolution for system change. This was clarified with the ideas of a drawing circulated in the *Red Flag* group, which mentions that if the elections were for the good, they would already be prohibited. There is no doubt there is much to be done, but we believe that, little by little, capitalist thoughts will be transformed into communist thoughts.

—Comrade Worker



Mobilize the Masses for Communism

El Salvador: Women Workers in Resistance Appreciate Communist Solidarity

I want to thank the International Communist Workers’ Party, its members and those who are affiliated with it. On behalf of the Florenzi Women Organized in Resistance collective, we thank you for the solidarity you have had with us in these weeks.

The help that you have sent has helped us with our everyday necessities: bread, gas, water, bus fare.

The quarantine started on March 19, 2020. We were supposed to be paid on March 20, but we have not been paid yet. Neither have we received government assistance. Because of COVID-19, part of the popu-



Florenzi Accuses the Salvadoran State as a Violator of Human Rights Women Organized in Resistance On Hunger Strike

lation received \$300 and the city governments were distributing food baskets. We have received neither.

On July 1, 2020, we were notified that we were fired. The employer did not want to pay the required compensation. Instead, they offered us old and obsolete machinery. Some of us have worked in the factory for 20, 25, or 35 years. We are owed half a million dollars.

We are 113 workers carrying out this struggle. Most of the women are between 30, 50 and even 60 years old. We have not been able to get jobs in other factories—partly because of the struggle we carry out and partly due to age discrimination.

So far, we have been fighting for more than seven months. This criminal Sergio Pineda López is one more boss who has had total impunity from the Salvadoran state. Historically we know that the government never imprisons an employer.

We have taken this complaint to the Ministry of Labor. This institution and all the institutions have been disastrous for us. Faced with the rejection and total abandonment by the state, we have initiated a hunger strike.

We have been on hunger strike for 18 days, three women and one man. We have a lot of debts and the banks have been harassing us. Also, the Social Housing Fund wants us to pay up to this date. Otherwise, we will lose our houses. And we are not in the condition to continue paying.

For all of our fellow workers, our situation has been very difficult and our situation is quite painful. Each of the workers has their own story. But we all want to thank you and your comrades for your help.

—Florenzi Women Organized in Resistance, San Salvador

COMMUNIST SOLIDARITY from page 1

“Do we have contacts or friends in that factory?” asked another.

“M lives in that area, she can take another couple of Party members. Let’s collect help for them and send it to them, along with the *Red Flag* and, if possible, a leaflet,” said a comrade.

We spoke with M, a worker and member of ICWP. She answered very enthusiastically, “Of course I’m going! Tell me who else is going to go. We’ll meet in the center of the city after we leave work, and we’ll go.”

Just as planned, comrades went to this factory to bring our *Red Flag* newspaper, leaflets, and solidarity support. They were very well received, as was our *Red Flag* newspaper.

“What union are you from?” asked the workers from the Florenzi factory.

Our comrade worker who lives in the area answered, “No, friends, we are not from any union. We are from the International Communist Workers’ Party that is in several parts of the world. This our *Red Flag* newspaper. We bring it to you

so that you who are on strike can read it. And we bring a small contribution for solidarity that we collected. We will write a letter to our newspaper and if more aid is collected, we will bring it to you.”

A political criticism was made of the leaflet we distributed. We believe that the criticism has a good ideological point since there was a contradiction between *Red Flag* and the leaflet that had a reformist basis. Self-critically, the leaflet should have said that the reforms will not solve the problems of the working class, that only communism will. But this was the product of not having discussed it collectively, which caused it not to go deeper with our political line. Therefore, there is a need for the workers to know ICWP’s ideas, our communist line.

We are in a war for a system without bosses, without money, without the poverty to which we are subjected today. In communism, things will not be produced for the market; they will be produced to meet the needs of all workers. We will all be responsible. Therefore, we commit our-

selves as Party members to also accept the necessary criticisms.

We are excited that women workers who are Party members are taking the lead in these workers’ struggles. They are contributing to the process of elevating these strikes over money to political strikes.

Another comrade ICWP worker who also went wrote: “They told us that if we supported them in any activity they did outside the factory as ICWP, it would be very helpful. We told him that we were going to communicate with the other comrades of the Party, and we said goodbye to them with a lot of class feeling and communist solidarity.”

We invite the workers of the Florenzi factory to continue reading *Red Flag* and learn about the fight for communism that is being waged internationally. A communist world is possible! Let’s mobilize for communism and build workers’ power.

GROWING ICWP TRANSIT WORKERS' COLLECTIVE

LOS ANGELES (USA), January 27—The political work of organizing the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) at Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) is a sea of opportunities to spread communist ideas among this sector of the workers. For some time now we have been working for this. Through the distribution of *Red Flag* and follow-up to with interested workers, we have consolidated a party cell that is distributed in three different locations. We have been able to hold study groups and other activities inside and outside our workplace.

Some new members are giving outstanding leadership and others are on that path. We are planning to use Zoom, video calls, etc, to continue learning more about communist ideas and history.

A comrade talks about his recent experiences.

Sharp Political Disagreements on the Job

“The fascist attack that took place on January 6th, 2021 at the U.S. Capitol opened some conversations with different co-workers and members of the ICWP. We have many co-workers that support the fascist attacks and knew that they were all planned because they were heavily discussed on social media platforms. What amazed me was how vocal some people were. I felt like they wanted to intimidate others with their hateful beliefs.

“But later that day, a co-worker mentioned that he enjoyed that we were like-minded and able to discuss these things and at times disagree but still be respectful to one another. These discussions will help change the mood on the shop floor and help us advance our work.

“In the last meeting of industrial workers of the party at the international level, four MTA workers participated. It was very positive because this is consolidating this group more and more.

“The meeting helped me realize some important factors of the development of the ICWP here at MTA and worldwide. To see the faces of some co-workers that attended, how positive they were, motivated me to do more for the ICWP.

“I was trying to analyze why our party's growth has slowed down due to the Covid-19 pandemic. I asked myself, what can I do now to better myself so I can be more effective for the day to day struggles towards a communist world.

It seemed like the best thing I can do is focus on my quality of work and not so much of quantity. For instance, build my knowledge on basic vocabulary and what things mean, such as, the difference between a Communist world and Capitalist world that we live in today. Other words would include: Fascism, Socialism, Imperialism, Nationalism, just to name a few. There is a lot of information on the internet. It can be a bit intim-

idating for me at times, but it is a start. It really helped so I can make more sense of it when I participated in an ICWP virtual meeting.

Nurturing the Growth of the Party

“I'm first generation. I was born here in L.A. My family migrated from Mexico in the early 1970s. My parents came from two different small towns in Mexico and met here in Los Angeles. My dad is from a poor family and my mother from a family of ranchers. The rancher influence from my mother's side has always played a big role in my life. I soon realized that my struggles and my family's upbringing on a ranch are similar. Our work is like growing a plant that will eventually give us food. But the thing is, I soon found out I am not a good rancher.

“To be able to produce a healthy plant, I need experience and knowledge about how to cultivate. The right ratio of nutrients, water, and sun needed to grow this plant. If it goes unattended, the plant can no longer be of use. But if attended properly it can produce an abundance of food. With that comparison, our collectives are our plants. Our collective efforts, fundamental knowledge platform and genuine acts of compassion toward one another are the nutrients for the growth of the ICWP towards a communist world.”

INDIA from page 1

lieutenants, who openly carried out fascist pogroms in India, are courted by executives from Twitter, Facebook and WhatsApp.

In another gathering, two dozen friends and members of ICWP discussed why communism will win. “We are living in a world that is unbearable to the workers everywhere,” said a comrade with urgency. “The bosses resort to fascism to terrorize us. But look at what is happening. The farmers are rebelling. There were mass murders of Dalits and Muslims last year and millions came out to oppose the fascists of the ruling BJP.” Building a mass base of communists, with ICWP's leadership, can transform mass anger into an explosion for communist revolution.

Many comrades in Delhi continue participating in the mass protests of over a million farmers and workers, bringing them communist literature. In last three months we have circulated 10,000 leaflets and papers. This struggle has given us an opportunity to get to know people. We spend almost every day with them. We sleep, cook, sing and discuss politics them.

The Price of Onions and the Struggle to Survive

A major issue is the government's proposed elimination of Minimum Support Price (MSP) in 23 essential commodities. MSP subsidizes farmers against fluctuating prices and also shields workers from sudden increases in food bills.

Onion is one key crop controlled by the government. When MSP was eliminated, hoarding of

onions and skyrocketing prices of pesticides and fertilizers increased the food price to Rs. 50/kg (US\$0.31/lb.) while the farmer was paid less than Rs. 1/kg (under US\$0.01/lb.).

The low price of onions made it impossible for thousands of farmers to survive. Many were forced to migrate to cities in search of jobs that don't exist. Many more have died by suicide. Some youth, facing a bleak future in the villages, try to join the army. Women work as domestic servants in cities and some join the ranks of garment sweatshops.

Migrant workers resort to day labor. Some find industrial work. As the situation worsens, some turn to drugs, prostitution and gang violence. Hunger, starvation, cramped housing, eviction notices, racist harassment... all because the price of onions has dropped!

What is happening to the onion growers is happening to tens and even hundreds of millions around the world. We need to get rid of capitalism, whose production for maximum profits creates unending horrors, up to and including fascism.

Sowing the Seeds of Communism

Communism will eliminate money, hoarding, production for profit, capitalist agribusiness and markets. We will produce to meet the masses'



needs and struggle to share scarcity as well as abundance.

In our conversations with the farmers in Delhi, we are sowing the seeds of communism. More workers are reading our literature. We are creating nuclei of workers to form cells that will continue to do communist work when they go back to their villages. Several new comrades will be able to translate *Red Flag* into Punjabi.

ICWP is also taking this struggle to the garment work in Bengaluru. Six comrades are talking with their neighbors about the importance of the communist organizing in Delhi. Many workers relate directly to the struggle because they are only one generation removed from the land. They have been very passionate about distributing clothes to Delhi, where the farmers are facing subzero temperatures. Last month we were able to send a letter of communist solidarity with a package of clothes.

We coordinated these efforts with comrades in Chennai who work in the auto industry. One has reconnected with his son, who is in the army. He is going to send us letters from others in the army about abuses they face.

ICWP comrades in three cities, possibly more, are planning a communist May Day this year under the banners of ICWP. We invite all to increase circulation of our communist literature, and to join. We extend comradely greetings especially to the brave workers in Pakistan who have been supporting us.

Biden-Harris Administration Prepares to Confront China

LET'S MOBILIZE FOR COMMUNISM, NOT FOR "DIVERSE" IMPERIALISM

January 26—A friend tweeted, "Happy Inauguration Day U-U-USA! U-U-USA!"

A comrade answered, "I do not appreciate patriotism, sorry. Will you still be saying that when the US goes to war with China?"

Her friend answered, "AW, let's hope that doesn't happen. I'm just relieved everything went ok today...How about instead of USA, phew!"

Like this friend, a lot of people are relieved that Biden won, and Trump is out. But it's a mistake to feel relieved. The US and Chinese imperialists are on a march to war.

China's imperialist plans require that Taiwan must be incorporated with the mainland by "any means necessary," as Xi said in 2018. On November 7, US Marines trained with troops in Taiwan for the first time in 40 years. Biden's invitation of Taiwan's ambassador to his inauguration was a further provocation.

Last weekend, China sent additional warplanes over the Taiwan Straits as a show of force, in a clear warning to the Biden Administration.

"If the Biden administration follows former US secretary of state Mike Pompeo's extreme operations," editorialized China's Global Times, "the situation is doomed to deteriorate. Sooner or later, these [PLA jet] fighters will appear over the island of Taiwan."

"Our commitment to Taiwan is rock solid," the US State Department responded. Then the US sent carrier group Theodore Roosevelt into the South China Sea on a "routine training mission."

Biden's War Cabinet

Biden's cabinet picks show that US imperialists are more seriously preparing for war with China. For that, they seek allies. And they need to win over the US population.

Biden's picks are Obama-administration war hawks. But the world has changed dramatically. China is overtaking the US in every sphere.

Antony Blinken, Secretary of State, supported the Iraq and Afghanistan wars and the US slaughter in Libya. "When we don't lead," he warned, "either some other country tries to take our place—but probably not in a way that advances our interests or values, or there's chaos."

"President Trump was right in taking a tougher approach to China," Blinken said during his confirmation hearing. He called on international organizations to support Taiwan diplomatically.

Biden, like Blinken, believes that the US must fight for world leadership despite its steep decline. They don't plan to share power with rising China and Russia. They, like all imperialists, will willingly sacrifice workers' blood for profits and global power.

uniform."

Then Austin characterized China as the "most significant threat going forward because China is ascending." He favors a high-tech military strategy that allows the US "to hold large pieces of Chinese military inventory at risk."

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen called China "our most important strategic competitor." She promised to "take on China's abusive, unfair and illegal practices."

Let's Mobilize for Communism, not Multi-Cultural Imperialism

The US imperialists desperately need to win the US youth and other workers to sacrifice, fight, kill and die for US imperialism. They hope that putting in a Black man as Secretary of Defense and the most diverse cabinet in history will help win over angry youth disgusted with racist, sexist capitalism.

Nearly three-quarters of Biden's cabinet picks are BIPOC, women and/or members of the LGBT+ community. This is the politics of representation—a strategy to fool people into thinking that because a person in power looks like you, they are on your side.

Biden's diversity in the service of imperialism may fool some temporarily. But we are confident that masses will see through this trick and will fight for our class' communist future, not for the US bosses' empire!

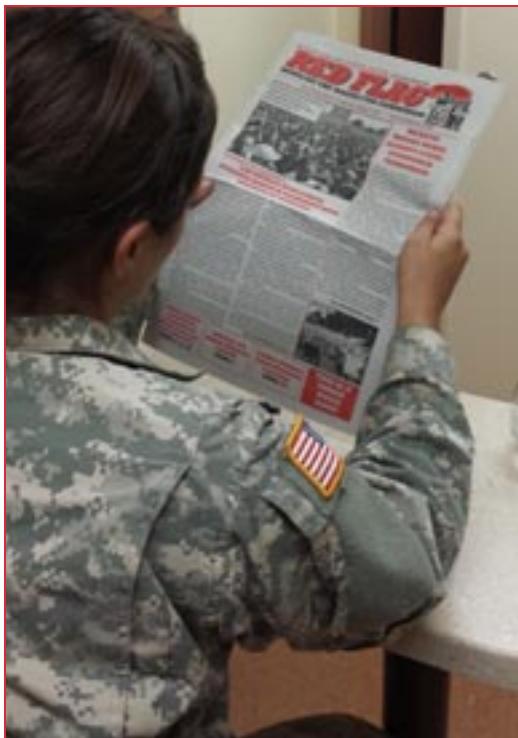
The Democrats are promising reforms to try to restore faith in US capitalism-imperialism. But their system can't deliver what the masses need. Racist police terror, racist inequality in COVID deaths, lack of health care and jobs will continue.

We must boldly and consistently show that communism will end capitalism's racist exploitation and murderous wars for profit. Many will come to understand the need to fight for the international working class, not for any capitalist no matter what their appearance.

Only communism will meet the aspirations of the masses for a world without racism, sexism, wage slavery and capitalism-imperialism's inevitable murderous wars for world domination and profit.

General Lloyd Austin, the first African American Secretary of Defense, led US operations against the Islamic State across the Middle East. He headed the US Central Command. Austin serves on the Board of Directors of Raytheon, the third-largest defense contractor.

At his confirmation hearing, a Senator introducing him said, "As a Black man, he will be an inspiration to millions—in and out of



Read our pamphlet

Soldiers, Sailors, Marines: Crucial to a Communist Workers' Revolution

available at

predflag.org/MIL/mpe.pdf

TRUMP, FREEDOM OF SPEECH, AND THE FUTURE OF SOCIAL MEDIA FOR THE WORKING CLASS

LOS ANGELES (USA)—"Hey, did you hear they banned Donald Trump from social media?" a coworker asked a comrade over lunch. "They are taking away someone's freedom of speech. I don't like Trump but to ban him completely off social media is wrong."

"I've been having similar conversations since the attack on the U.S. Capitol on January 6," reported the comrade. "Capitalist media and big tech corporations like Apple, Facebook and Twitter have decided that Trump's incitement of violence at the capital was enough to ban him from their platforms. The people I've talked to had mixed feelings about it."

What is being used in the name of protecting the public, will be used against us in the future. That is the nature of capitalism. If the tech companies really cared about Trump's racist rhetoric, they would have stopped it years ago. They have helped create the atmosphere for more fascists to be open with their ideologies.

Social media is deeply sewn into capitalist society, largely due to workers not being able to socialize in more meaningful ways. As the capitalist crisis intensifies, so will workers' need to survive.

This means less time in person with friends and family and more dependency on social media for interaction. Covid-19 has intensified this.

Donald Trump's ousting from social media shows that the tech companies can purge anyone from their services whenever they want. The problem with liberals is that they want the appearance of equality for all while still maintaining the status quo and the rule of law. We want to abolish all of these capitalist systems.

The fight against racist practices and ideology is critical to building class consciousness among students and others infected with the long history of institutional racism and segregation. Universities have frequently been used as a breeding ground for racist, sexist and xenophobic ideology. In this decade, Milo Yiannopoulos (now also banned from Twitter) toured campuses under the auspices of "free speech" to attack Blacks, women and Muslims.

We have fought hard against racist theories and theorists, showing how they serve capitalism. We have even helped chase these racists off campuses under the slogan, "No Free Speech for Racists!"

Due to the nature of our work, we, too, one day will be targeted by the bosses. Being banned from social media will be the least of our worries. We are organizing for revolution, and a communist society where we will have more time for real-life connections with people of all backgrounds while we will work to fulfill workers' needs rather than for the profits of the few who make billions off our labor.

What can we do now with all of this information?

Gil Scott Heron once said, "The revolution will not be televised," Today we say that "the revolution will not be tweeted." The revolution will not take place on the internet despite what capitalist media says, but we can use it to our advantage while we have it.

We should always be working to build in-person connections so that when we can no longer use the internet, we will still have access to *Red Flag* and each other. Visit our website, write to us, help distribute *Red Flag*, and mobilize for a communism society—where racist and fascist ideology won't be welcome.

“FIGHT FASCISM. IT IS LOOMING. I WILL DO THE SAME.”

“Appalled by law enforcement’s lax reaction to storming of capital and disruption of procedures!” a long-time *Red Flag* reader texted to a comrade. “If we had done that in ‘69 they would have shot us down like dogs!!! If Black Lives Matter had done that, they would have been shot in mass.

“We are stuck between the fascists (Trump and company) and the neoliberals (Biden and the Democratic National Committee),” this friend continued. “And, of course, we are the bogeymen... creeping socialism. Sounds like the Weimar Republic all over again. Hoping for a different outcome,” he concluded.

The Weimar Republic was Germany’s socialist-led government from 1919-1933. It came to power after a year of mutinies and strikes throughout Germany in 1918. That November, communists had led a revolutionary uprising inspired by the Russian revolution a year earlier.

Ultraconservatives and the military opposed the Weimar capitalist democracy. But so did German communists. The Weimar constitution guaranteed a “right of private property” and Article 48 allowed the President to suspend civil rights and ignore the Parliament in an emergency.

Almost immediately, the ruling socialist party ordered the assassination of communists Rosa

Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht. They intended to smash the revolutionary workers’ movement.

Then the imperialist victors of the world war imposed punishing “reparations” on Germany. The Weimar government ordered German workers to strike but not to resist the imperialists’ attempt to collect the reparations. Conditions for the working class went from bad to worse, especially after the global capitalist crisis of 1929.

The Communist Party regrouped around elections and reforms, growing rapidly. Meanwhile, the fascist Nazi Party also grew under the banners of “national socialism.” Communist-led workers fought pitched battles against Nazis in working-class neighborhoods.

The Nazi Hitler had led a failed coup attempt in 1923. Ten years later, the president Hindenburg (who succeeded the socialist Ebert) appointed Hitler chancellor. He quickly invoked Article 48 to suppress communists and other opponents. The seats in Parliament that communists had fought so hard for proved useless, as they were forcibly prevented from voting.

We know the rest of that story. If the US is “the Weimar Republic all over again,” we need to fight like hell, and with a better strategy, to change the outcome. That means mobilizing for communist revolution, not elections or democ-

racy, right now.

“Fight fascism... it is looming. I will do the same,” the friend texted a few days later. “In the meantime, I suspect the threat of massive force will hold the fascist stormtroopers in bay this next week.”

“Probably, and going forward, too,” replied the comrade. “But the massive force, prosecution, etc. show the fascist essence of the US capitalist state even, or especially, under the new management.”

The *Red Flag* reader agreed. “The actions of the tech companies couldn’t make that any clearer. We are stuck between the outright fascists and the neoliberals,” he repeated. “Between a rock and a hard place. It is all a battle in the cultural apparatus. We don’t have that kind of influence.”

We don’t, yet. But we’re not permanently “stuck.” Masses of workers aren’t committed to any faction of the US ruling class. Our battle is to influence and organize them into the revolutionary communist force that will smash the rock and blow up the hard place. That will empower masses to liberate themselves and create the communist outcome we need.

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

Democratic Party Politicians Are the Main Danger

In the immediate aftermath of the attempted coup in Washington, D.C., we met twice on Zoom to hammer out a statement that would serve as a basis for discussion with our friends about the situation. It is posted on our website, and says in part:

Many of our friends see hope in the elections in Georgia, where voters mobilized to elect two Democrats to the Senate. This will give the Democrats a narrow majority in the Senate.

Fighting to go back to capitalism-as-usual pre-Trump is no solution. One of the biggest illusions we have to overcome is that there are good [progressive] capitalists and bad [Trump and Hitler] capitalists. Capitalists are capitalists who will [and do] jail, bomb or impoverish anyone as long as there are profits to be made.

While some wonder if Democratic politicians like Biden, Pelosi and Harris can be counted on to oppose fascism, we think it’s more correct to say that, in fact, the Democratic Party leadership united with the anti-Trump Republicans are the main danger...

The illusion of democracy is extremely important to the US ruling class. Biden’s choosing a multi-racial cabinet, the impeachment of Trump, and the move to restore order on January 20 are all measures being taken to win the allegiance of the working-class masses to US imperialism.

It is also key to the continued US pretension of global leadership, especially as they move towards war. The measures that they will take now to suppress the Trump faction are a small taste of the fascism they will use to keep masses in line when they do decide to go to war. That’s why we say the Democratic Party leadership and their allies are the main danger.

“Amazing and powerful,” responded a friend. “Gives me something to think about when I’m in ‘hope’ that Biden/Harris can do good things.” She added, “I’ve been duped, and shouldn’t be.”

Another friend said, “I like your point about how dangerous the anti-Trump but still pro-capitalism-as-usual forces are....I, too, want to aim for a society in which racism, sexism, homophobia, etc. are extinct and in which no one

has to struggle to survive and in which we live as one human family...and to bring about this state of affairs, capitalism would have to be replaced with something radically different.

“What do you think a communist revolution would look like?” he continued. “For most Americans, I think the words ‘communism’ and ‘communist’ have very negative connotations... Of course ‘revolution’ as opposed to, say, ‘transformation,’ also conjures up some pretty scary images for many people. Do you worry at all about whether your terminology may alienate more people than it wins over?”

It’s good that the leaflet was able to bring up these key points—about communism and revolution and armed insurrection. People all over the world are having exactly these discussions. *Red Flag* at its best sets about answering these questions from all corners of the world and from all sectors of society. We urge our friends to continue reading our paper and we promise to continue having these discussions with them and writing them up for *Red Flag*.

—Comrades in a US schools collective

READ OUR MANIFESTO:

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

AVAILABLE AT:

[HTTP://ICWPREDFLAG.ORG/MMC/
MMCE.PDF](http://icwpredflag.org/MMC/MMCE.PDF)



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RACIST NEW YORK CITY POLICE (AGAIN) USE EXCESSIVE FORCE. ARRESTING DOZENS ON M.L.K. DAY

On January 18, 2021 the nation was still reeling from right-wing, Trump supporters having stormed and rioted at the Capitol building in Washington, DC. That night, NYC saw dozens arrested in Lower Manhattan the night of the Martin Luther King's Birthday holiday.

According to the police and to witnesses, their "crime" came down to having participated in a march organized by Black activist groups.

Perhaps unironically, this happened shortly after the New York State attorney general, Letitia James, had sued the New York Police Department and the Mayor's Office, over their handling of protests this past summer, after George Floyd's death.

Videos posted online by witnesses and participants showed New York Police Department officers with helmets, batons and zip ties pushing against protesters who had gathered on the streets and sidewalks near City Hall.

This racist attack was barely covered by mainstream news outlets. But images of officers yanking individual protestors out of a crowd began circulating widely on Twitter and TikTok. The images were near copies of those from last summer, when Black Lives Matter demonstrators had flooded the streets of New York and other



major U.S. cities.

Ms. James' lawsuit calls for control of the Police Department to be stripped from the mayor and given to an independent panel. The State's Attorney General said that her office had found "an egregious abuse of police power; rampant, excessive use of force; and leadership unable and willing to stop it."

She continued, "There was ample ability and opportunity for the city and N.Y.P.D. leadership to make important changes to the way that officers interact with peaceful protesters, but time and time again, they did not."

Ms. James' actions are admirable. But civil litigation, including oversight and reforms, will not end the racial bias and unnecessarily militarized presentation of law enforcement agencies in the U.S.

Only complete abolition of the police, and their replacement with unarmed, social welfare and human safety personnel, under a system that is of and for the people, such as communism, will eradicate the crisis of police racism and violence.

(Information and image from New York Times, January 18, 2021)

—New Comrade In Los Angeles (USA)

Comrade in El Salvador Talks About His Experience in the Guerrilla Army

El Salvador—My father sent me to the national army in 1974 and I left at the end of 1975. My brother was already organized in the base committees of the Front (FMLN). He was my first contact with the organization that was growing among the farmworkers and some young workers and students from the city. He asked me when I was going to go on leave so he would organize the groups of farmworkers to teach them how to arm and disarm the weapons, as well as the tactics of war they taught me in the barracks. We would leave at night and take them to the countryside.

This is a clear example of the importance of winning soldiers to our party.

In the government army I also worked in military health. When I finished my two-year term my father wanted me to continue my military career. But my mother was against it. She realized how the army and the so-called security forces like the National Police, National Guard and Treasury Police, captured workers for any reason and tortured and killed them.

I applied for a position in the Ministry of Health and was accepted because of the experience I had gained in the army. But my real task was to organize the workers so that they would not continue to be oppressed and exploited by the rich. Being a promoter of health, I could not leave aside the problems we faced as poor people and in every talk that I gave imparted the need to organize against the bosses.

But they denounced me and reported me to the right-wing paramilitaries several times to interrogate me, so I would give them information. But I did not tell them anything. They told me that I was a red communist. They locked me in a dark room and put a gun to my head, but I never agreed to the charges they said they had against me and the organization.

The guard was looking for me to kill me, but since they didn't find me, they went to where

my parents lived and tortured them. But my parents were saved that time. Then we sent them to the refugee camp in Honduras and that's how my relatives and I fully entered the civil war.

We went to the mountains, at the border with Honduras. We dispersed among the sawmill workers and there we organized several young people for the organization. We started a music group to attract more young people. After several experiences, I was given the mission of being a healthcare worker and had internationalist doctors under my command, I learned to do different types of healthcare work.

I am very happy that they come to visit me and leave me *Red Flag* newspaper. I am convinced that communism is the only solution. The young people have to follow the line of the party and distribute *Red Flag* so that the change of systems for which we have fought can be achieved. I'm going to give them cheese to take, cheese for pupusas that I make so they can eat it on the way.

—a veteran of the struggle

Migrant Caravan: Fight for Communism Wherever You Go

The January 2021 caravan of thousands of migrants leaving Honduras has strengthened the WALL in its first phase: The National Guard on Mexico's southern border with Mexico. The new US president won't cancel this wall.

Two hundred million people migrated from one part of the world to another in 2019. Most of us who live in cities migrate from rural areas, seeking better living conditions. Some move to other countries.

It is not a question of the sovereignty of nations or homelands. The working class has no homeland. Nations and countries were formed by the exploiters, the slave masters of the labor force.

Mexicans are extremely anti-immigrant. On July 17, 2019, the Washington Post and Re-

forma reported the results of a survey of Mexicans that said that 51% approved having the armed forces fight migrants, 55% wanted them deported and 84% said they are a burden.

It is a painful and shameful nonsense: 20 million Mexicans are in another country and send remittances—money they have earned abroad. This makes up 2.3% of Mexico's Gross Domestic Product.

End the borders! starting with becoming aware that they are artificial and rejecting everything that the rulers say about them. Supporting one or the other imperialist side will not liberate us. We must organize against wage slavery.

Every precarious, violent and exploitative situation the working class experiences contains within it a revolutionary potential.

But only the politics of a party can catalyze that potential and turn it into concrete reality. That is the task of communists. People struggling to come out of their horror must become fully aware that the historical change they represent is shaking the masses around the world.

The images of the thousands of migrants facing the wall of police who try to prevent human advance is extremely moving. This goes much deeper than borders and their usefulness to capitalism.

At some level, each migrant must know that wherever they go they will be accompanied by the rage of living in a world like this. Wherever they go, other possibilities arise that may at some point allow the working class to put an end to this constant and perpetual crisis. The International Communist Workers' Party assumes this task as its own.

—Comrade in Mexico





CELEBRATING THE PARIS COMMUNE OF 1871 BY MOBILIZING MASSES FOR COMMUNISM TODAY

“Are you going to fire on us? On your brothers? On our husbands? On our children?” A Parisian woman defiantly challenged French government troops on the morning of March 18, 1871. The troops came to disarm the masses, and especially to confiscate their cannons.

The masses were not intimidated. They heroically confronted the bosses’ troops and passionately called on them to turn their weapons on their officers, not on the workers. Many troops responded.

Elsewhere in Paris, General Lecomte commanded government troops to cold-bloodedly fire on the workers and charge an unarmed gathering of women and children.

A non-commissioned officer’s voice thundered: “Point your rifles to the ground!” The soldiers did so, rebelling and killing an officer. Later they arrested and executed Lecomte.

Insurrection for workers’ power

The Paris National Guard defeated the troops that refused to join them and ran them out of Paris. It became the first workers’ army, fighting against both the German invaders and the French capitalists.

A month earlier, the Paris National Guard leadership (7200 delegates) had declared that they would fight for the interests of the masses and not be “instruments of despotism.”

By March it had grown to 340,000 troops. Many were unemployed workers who joined for the small stipend and to defend Paris.

After taking control of Paris, the triumphant masses proudly flew the *Red Flag* of workers’ revolution and founded the Paris Commune.

The Commune lasted only a short time, but this armed workers’ insurrection had a profound impact on the international working class. It showed that workers can take power and organize society to meet their needs—under the harshest conditions.

As the British communist William Morris said in 1886, the Paris Commune aimed for “freedom of labour from the trammels of wage slavery. All its acts were aimed at the extinction of class slavery.”

The Paris Commune inspires us to have confidence in our class. To build a mass ICWP to fight for revolution for communism and nothing less—worldwide.

promoted the Commune as an alternative to capitalist power.

They produced and distributed food and medical care, debated military strategy and fought. Women gave leadership to all aspects of the struggle, including the military.

The French and German capitalists were terrified that revolutionary Paris was inspiring wage slaves everywhere. They hurriedly negotiated a peace, freeing 250,000 captured French soldiers to throw against the Commune.

The Commune was the culmination of a revolutionary process with roots in the revolutions of 1789 and 1848. The Communist Manifesto (1848) pointed the way forward. In Paris, members of the first Communist International gave leadership. They advocated arming the masses. And the masses went further: they built the Commune.

The Communards were internationalists. They adopted the red flag, not any capitalists’ flag. They welcomed members from Poland, Russia and Germany to the Commune, which they planned to spread to all of France.

Today we are building one International Communist Workers’ Party to spread communism worldwide to destroy all capitalists, borders and nations.

The Commune pointed to a new way of living.

The Commune declared a moratorium on rent and evictions. They used hotels to house those made homeless by the war. They encouraged workers to take over their workplaces to produce and share what was needed without money.

They freed education from the control of the Catholic Church, which defended the rich and trained workers’ children to be wage slaves. They called for combining work and education and insisted that girls be educated as well as boys.

The key lesson Marx drew from the Commune was that the capitalist state must be smashed. Workers must set up a workers’ state rather than take over a capitalist bureaucracy.

Today ICWP envisions and fights for a communist society led by a mass party with millions of communist doers and thinkers. We invite you to join that party now!

This is the first article in a series commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Paris Commune. Next: Women in the Commune and the Struggle for Communist Workers Power. Following: Political Struggle inside the Commune and Today

Revolutionary Parisian masses changed the main contradiction from inter imperialist conflict to class struggle.

The Commune took place during a brutal war between France and Germany, in which the French army was decisively defeated. With Prussian troops besieging Paris, the French bosses abandoned the city, fleeing to their villas to live in luxury.

The masses rose to defend Paris. They mobilized mass meetings in neighborhood committees, councils and the Paris National Guard. They elected a Commune Council of workers from each neighborhood. The National Guard’s Central Committee gave leadership.

During siege, the masses converted town halls into soup kitchens and closed-down theaters into Red Clubs. Later these became forums for daily discussions where workers massively

