

# RED FLAG



## MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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



India:

Farmers block road on 100th day of protests (left).

International Working Women's Day Protests (below)



## INDIA: COMMUNIST PHILOSOPHY AND REVOLUTIONARY CHANGE

DELHI (INDIA) March 8—"As farm workers we plant seeds. We see how these small seeds grow into mature plants. When harvest time comes, we see the small seeds that we planted produce plants that produce thousands more seeds. How can small seeds produce thousand and millions more seeds?"

"The seed changed into a mature plant because it got the correct amount of water, sunlight, and fertilizer. But you can plant a stone and give it water, sunlight, and fertilizer, and it won't produce another stone. It is something inside the seed. When put in the correct environment, the seed develops roots and leaves. It is not a seed anymore.

"This is how revolution develops. We are like seeds. When we are confronted by the bosses, we no longer are small seeds. We turn into a working class, and when we unite in large numbers, we have the potential to destroy them and form a new society."

The above is from a group of about 25 young farm workers meeting with six ICWP comrades to discuss the communist philosophy of change. Since December, meetings like these have taken place every day. These comrades all talk with many people who get inspired and who are connected with many others. Through these connections, discussions about the need to organize for communist revolution reach thousands of people.

### Small Numbers of Communist Seeds can Sprout into Millions

A small group of ICWP members joined the Delhi rebellion in December. We already had the experience of organizing among hundreds of thousands of migrant workers during the pandemic. Before that, we were active with the students and others who were rebelling against

[See INDIA, page 2](#)

## MAQUILA WORKERS ORGANIZE

### NEW PARTY COLLECTIVE

EL SALVADOR, March 7—"I work in a maquila. I brought my two children and my husband. We all read *Red Flag*," commented a worker.

The workers' leadership in the factory is strong. They have recruited new members. They organized this meeting that reflects the advance of the party in the industrial zone of El Salvador.

This new group had its first extended meeting of the International Communist Workers' Party. Three family groups attended. There were eight people in all. Three other workers could not be there for various reasons, but they sent messages committing to attend the next activity.

Eight ICWP members also attended. They spoke about the history of the Party and about the historical journey to reach the point of fighting directly for communism, the guiding principle of our movement.

A worker commented, "Where I work, we produce ice cream. The boss bought a machine a couple of months ago that cost him a million dollars, so he could produce thousands of pallets in a few hours. He fired ten workers. When he realized that he needed workers for the rest of the production, he hired back those he fired. That showed us that the boss is the one who needs us." This worker is an ex-soldier and the husband of another worker.

He continued, "I was in the army. I worked as a medic. We learned to do surgeries in practice. I had the opportunity to realize what communism was, outside of the official version of the bosses and army officers. For me, communism is those people like you, who fight for the dignity and well-being of other workers. That's why I'm here."

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# INDIA: COMMUNIST PHILOSOPHY AND REVOLUTIONARY CHANGE from page 1

vicious police attacks on Muslim workers.

So when the farmers started marching to Delhi in December, we joined them. Our outlook was to recruit masses for the communist revolution. We are the seeds of revolution.

Today we are still with over 300,000 farmers, farmworkers, and some industrial workers camping on the outskirts of Delhi. They have brought tractors, trolleys [trailers] and lots of people. Young women, men, and children have turned Delhi into a battle zone against the police and their weapons.

Our day-in and day-out activities are all about communist change.

We wake up very early in the morning. It is extremely cold. We have to organize hot water by burning wood into charcoal. We have only half a bucket of water to bathe. There are 300,000 of us.

How will communist power provide hot water to everyone? Now, we are living under the restrictions of the bosses. In a communist society, houses and work places will be organized collectively. This will give everyone things to do. We

see this every day in our encampment in Delhi. Each person contributes something for everybody - whether getting wood to convert into coal (charcoal), tending the coals or bringing sacks of vegetables to cook.

## Langar Inspires and Expands our Vision of Communism

As the day progresses, we begin to think about preparing breakfast again for 300,000 people! Older comrades, both women and men, are very skillful in organizing continuous groups that bring the tea, flour, oil, vegetables, etc. This collective effort is called Langar, where everyone is involved in cooking and preparing food and cleaning dishes. No money changes hands.

Communist society will provide food on a much larger scale. Delhi gives us a vision of the future. Unrestricted by money, rent, and loans backed by a fascist police state, the masses will unleash their imagination and creativity to collectively produce food and everything we need.

We will learn the nutritional aspects of food and exercise and the benefits of entertainment

like singing and dancing. Cooking, cleaning, and taking care of each other will be a joyful activity unlike the dreadful experience of capitalism's wage slavery.

As the day progresses, our communist tasks continue.

There are millions of people around us talking about everything - from their family problems to the looming crisis in the farms to political parties. The farmers have created their own newspaper *Trolley Times*. We reproduce some *Red Flag* pages in Punjabi, the language spoken by most people here. We insert copies of our literature into *Trolley Times* to avoid detection by the undercover police agents when we are with the masses.

Our distribution of these pages takes about two hours. Dozens of comrades are involved. It is like a small city with over 300,000 people. Soon it is going to be time to cook and prepare for lunch. Some rest in the afternoon. Others are singing, talking politics. The evenings bring more political discussions and we talk about communism.

## Our Communist Seeds Will Produce Millions More: Communism Will Triumph

The above example about seeds producing thousands of more seeds is one of several we have collectively produced to explain how things change. These explanations are from the examples and experiences of many people around us. The masses are inspired by how we explain communism and they immediately tell others about our ideas.

We have created similar examples to illustrate how the farming crisis shows the worldwide massive need to organize for a communist revolution. The dozens of communist seeds we have planted are producing dozens more today. This will turn into millions tomorrow. Our communist future is bright!



Langar in Delhi

## SUPPORT AND BUILD ON OUR COMMUNIST WORK INTERNATIONALLY

The inspiring article above shows the immense potential and the great opportunity we have for mobilizing the masses for communism and nothing less.

In three short years, a handful of comrades in India have grown into a dedicated core group: over two dozen in Delhi and scores of others in the garment district of Bengaluru, the auto industry in Chennai and the tea plantations in Kerala.

They have participated, putting forward communist ideas, in dramatic university student rebellions and in fights against the massacre of Dalit women and men and the brutalization of women.

They fought shoulder to shoulder with the masses against anti-Muslim pogroms, joining the resistance in the Shaheen Bagh. They helped distribute food to migrants fleeing Covid-19 while vigorously distributing *Red Flag* and explaining communism.

And they are teaching us all, as they are learning in the heat of struggle, to understand more deeply what it means to mobilize masses for

communism.

In South Africa, too, our young comrades are advancing under fire. While hemmed in by pandemic restrictions, they are collectively focusing more on critical industrial work in the mines and factories.

In El Salvador, 81,000 work in maquilas (sweatshops) and another 160,000 in related jobs. Our comrades in the maquilas are consolidating Party collectives in these factories. They are building new ones among workers' families, including students and workers in other industries.

We all have much to learn from their careful attention to deepening communist social relationships and developing new leaders.

We are one International Communist Workers' Party. Advances in El Salvador, South Africa and especially India, inspire us all. They help advance the work of the party everywhere.

The deepening worldwide capitalist crisis requires that we grasp this potential for doing and advancing communist work everywhere. And

for us to build Party collectives with broad and deep communist ties to the masses. Collectives with plans to realize that potential.

And, of course, our Party needs money to continue and expand our international work. We have to be self-supporting. We don't get or want money from the capitalists' foundations or NGOs.

We ask all members of all Party collectives, all regular readers of *Red Flag/Bandera Roja*, to "stretch" to give as much as they can. No contribution is too small.

And let's make and carry out plans to ask our wider circle of friends to help. If nobody is refusing you, you're not asking enough people.

All our resources must come from the working class: from each according to ability and commitment. That is the only way we can meet the needs of our growing communist collectives.

Workers understand that. Asking them for money is a concrete step in mobilizing them for communism.



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## WORKERS DEBATE HOW TO ESCAPE BOEING'S LEGACY OF MASS UNEMPLOYMENT

SEATTLE (USA), March 7— “Sad, the collapse of Boeing. Who would’ve thought?” said a laid-off aerospace worker. More Boeing workers than ever are contemplating this possibility, or, at least, the possibility that the company will never again employ as many workers at current wage levels.

The debate started when a comrade sent out a text that ended: “Some of my friends think capitalism has outlived its usefulness, but assumed Boeing workers would never entertain such an idea because they are too well paid, not like other workers around the world or in the U.S. What do you think?”

Many related questions have come up. Who is to blame? Can we ever trust this system to serve our needs? Does the answer lie in workers taking individual initiative or organizing collectively for communist revolution?

A multi-racial group of over a half dozen have joined this conversation. We expect more will be involved by the time you read this.

Most of these workers agreed with one who said, “Manufacturing needs to become strong again without the owners reaping all the benefits.”

But then a twenty-something new hire said, “Making the bosses or workers into enemies or victims creates a bias that neglects the upside of the current situation.”

When questioned further, he put most of the blame on workers for not taking initiative in finding new jobs.

The debate quickly turned to the question of “blaming the victim” [the working class]. “As I’m sure you know,” answered a comrade, “blame-the-victim is also used to justify sexism, racism and xenophobia. Of course, none of this excuses workers who do the bosses’ dirty work by encouraging and tolerating these capitalist evils.”

The new hire saw the connection with the blame-the-victim strategy when it came to sexism, racism and xenophobia, but wouldn’t acknowledge this strategy when it came to the economy and the working class.

### Capitalism Offers Us Only Mass Unemployment

Comrades and friends took time to consider each other’s thoughts. Eventually the discussion got around to the difference between how the bosses and their intellectual apologists described capitalism versus Marxist political economy.

Rather than just accepting the bosses’ way of portraying economic development, our group began to explore the ways communists expose the system’s exploitative nature.

What the capitalist calls a saturated market, a communist calls a crisis of overproduction. More is produced than can be sold profitably. Crises of overproduction are global. They are baked into the system.

The Boeing new hire argued that “the wage slaves have the knowledge at their disposal to get a different, good job.” In fact, that’s not what happens for most workers.

Millions upon millions of workers—through no fault of their own—are thrown into the streets when these inevitable crises emerge. The ability to escape this catastrophe through individual initiative quickly disappears as the capitalist crisis spreads like a pandemic.

### Working for the Collective Needs of Our Class Opens Up a New World

Next, we began to discuss how production will work in communism.

Communist production is organized to provide for our collective needs, not to enable the capitalist to steal the surplus value (profits) from the working class.

Communist production eliminates the necessity of an exclusive sphere of activity (that is, a job). By eliminating corporations, it frees the workers to provide useful work for all of society in many fields.

In communism, where you work and what kind of work you do will no longer determine your economic survival or social status. Everyone will be provided with the necessities of life as we build a society based on our collective needs.

These terms and ideas may be new to the young Boeing worker, but he is willing to tackle them.

He has a close family member who has helped lead our political fights at Boeing for many years. He knows that our comrades and friends have

## BOEING'S DISASTERS LEFT HUNDREDS DEAD AND THOUSANDS OF WORKERS IN THE STREETS

The causes of Boeing’s downfall are many. Errors were made in the pursuit of profits. Some resulted in the deaths of hundreds of people. The company has been fined millions of dollars, but they can shrug that off easily.

So, they did what capitalists do to save their necks. They launched a massive layoff (tens of thousands) of workers and outsourced hundreds of jobs. Many of their subcontractors have closed up shop for good. These lost jobs were union jobs. However, the union (IAM) didn’t put up a fight.

Of course, the pandemic has meant a loss of profits for aerospace corporations worldwide. But Boeing’s main competitor, Airbus, delivered 566 planes in 2020. Boeing delivered only 157.

And China is scheduled to deliver its first jet that competes with Boeing’s MAX and Airbus’s A320 series at the end of this year.

consistently been involved with anti-racist struggles on the job.

Mass unemployment will be the Boeing legacy. There is no reason that workers have to accept this fate. When workers like our friends who are debating this situation join the ICWP, we can build a new world. A communist world where work can be transformed into a labor of love for us all.



For decades, Boeing workers have fought hard against company attacks. In the face of mass unemployment, the only way forward for them is communist revolution.

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### Communist Struggle with Our Base Leads to Greater Understanding within the Party

Our conversations about mass unemployment resulting from Boeing’s collapse have sparked political struggle within our party collective—as they should. Communist debates with our base should help drive the party’s politics and practice forward.

Two questions came to the fore. How important is it to spend time struggling with young industrial workers who have illusions about capitalism? Should we feature dialogues like these in our paper?

One comrade said the people he knows already agree with communism. They need ex-

amples of how communism works, not long dialogues in our paper. Most others thought the retelling of these stories of struggle at work was what people wanted to hear; they inspire comrades and our base to raise communism in every struggle and in their day-to-day lives.

After hearing about the conversations among Boeing workers, a comrade teacher was inspired and contributed the following observation. “It does seem like more teachers are also more willing to entertain radical ideas. We must go beyond pushing to assimilate students in new ways. We need to imagine how things might be different. Definitely younger teachers, millennials, are far more likely to be anti-capitalist.”

The discussion continued online after our collective’s meeting. The consensus seems to be that these two ways of writing for the paper are not mutually exclusive. *Red Flag* needs articles that show how we invite our base to participate in political struggle. That means the collectives that write these articles must take into account where our friends are coming from, as well as where the working class has to go.

To be sure, this does not eliminate discussions about how communism works, but it puts these discussions in the context of shaping our lives around the workers we know. The best articles come from and reflect this focus.

—Seattle (USA) Collective

## FACING POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CRISIS, WORKERS NEED GREATER ORGANIZATION

EL SALVADOR, March 8— “We need a new vehicle for struggle that takes up the principles of a Communist Party. One that inspires the new generations with the histories of past struggle. That doesn’t allow unions and reformist organizations which have sold out to the system to divert the support of the workers for a better world,” wrote a health worker to a comrade.

The elections for parliament and municipal authorities just occurred. The working class didn’t find any solutions to our problems in the results.

Our only real alternative is to organize ourselves into urban worker / farmworker and student cells within the International Workers' Communist Party, to fight to establish the dictatorship of the proletariat. We must be in the workers' struggles against abuses in cases like that of the workers at the Florenzi factory. They have trusted in the capitalist legal system, but it has once again shown them that it is always on the bosses' side.

An election to elect rulers is a business. It represents an investment for a group of new or old entrepreneurs to become richer. These groups don't care about the lives of the workers and their families. Their sole objectives are to accumulate greater wealth, and to lull the masses of workers to sleep. From the moment of their election, they will make a new family business from the State

treasury for themselves and for their friends. This is what all the electoral parties have done.

**How will we choose leaders within a communist society?** Our class must make decisions that serve our own interest instead of choosing between politicians who represent the capitalists' interests. The masses will be involved in the process through party structures built in each work center, study center and barracks. Decisions will be based on the needs of the collectives and the global working class. They will not respond to individual millionaires. Further, decisions will be made on a daily basis.

"Participation in the bourgeois and reactionary parliaments do not only happen in socialism," commented a young man. For the revisionist groups, the permanent organization of workers, not only in electoral situations, is not a priority. As ICWP we alert the working class in El Salvador not to fall into the games of the electoral parties. They only sell their propaganda during the campaigns.

After the election they make deals in their offices

that result in the millionaire debts that all us workers will pay. The populist government of Nayib Bukele already did that a year ago during the COVID-19 quarantine.

Let's organize ourselves in communist cells, linked to an international party, ICWP. Let's develop our understanding of philosophy. Let's question the bosses' system and, above all, let's unite as a working class to fight for a communist world. We are going to organize political strikes by developing communist class consciousness in the collectives inside and outside the factories and barracks.



Let's Destroy Capitalism and Build Communism

## COMMUNISM IS THE ONLY SOLUTION TO CRIME AND EXPLOITATION

PORT ELIZABETH, SOUTH AFRICA, February 25— “I’m looking for freedom,” said a student in South Africa. “We have no freedom in this country.” She went on to say that we cannot say we are free in society when there is crime and poverty.

Crime is a result of capitalism. The real criminals are capitalist exploiters. Freedom is when we are free from crime and exploitation. That is when we have destroyed capitalism, and that's when we will have freedom.

Many people are influenced by NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations) to have capitalist ideas. NGOs are lenient towards capitalists and towards capitalist ideas. Most of the time NGOs are just public relations stunts by the capitalist bosses. They lead workers and students to be passive towards capitalism. They tend to view capitalism as something that can be done or practiced right in order for it to benefit everyone.

Such ideas need to be combated and refuted by our communist ideas. They are dangerous to the working class. They prevent the working class from seeing capitalism for what it is, a “horror without end.”

These wrong ideas prevent the working class from struggling towards reaching their full emancipation: communism. This was evident in the college I attended where most students were non-communists, not because they disagree with communism, but because they've never heard of

communism, let alone ICWP. Most students generally see the 44 of the society we live under, the ills of capitalism. They are looking for solutions.

Under capitalism we don't have power. That means we don't have freedom. Our freedom from exploitation will come when we collectively destroy capitalism and capitalists, and we live collectively in communist society. Free from bosses. Free from exploitation.

The conversation with the student was centered around this. After I gave her our party's Mobilize the Masses for Communism document, she came back and told me, “I hear what your manifesto is saying, but how are we going to reach and win many people.? Because people listen to the media and you will never hear them talking about this.”

I said, “We are mobilizing the masses for communism. That is our driving motto. Our ideas have reached many workers and students around the world. As they reach many workers, they will continue to reach even more workers through workers' collectives and mobilizing in mass events and factories. You and I are talking about communism and ICWP today. It's something you've never really heard of, and you generally agree with most of what we are saying. And many more are agreeing too. That's how

we will win.”

She was interested. She said she was going to visit our website more often. We exchanged Facebook details and also exchanged them with two other students.



Xhosa: Workers of the World, Unite!

## EL SALVADOR MAQUILAS from page 1

We explained to these new comrades that ICWP worldwide and locally is making a great effort to reach the different factories and barracks, to build thousands of communist workers' cells. We do this to protect us from the bosses' attacks, and, as our main goal, to build a new economic, political and social system: communism.

“In communism there will be time for recreation, culture and leisure for the workers. We are not machines; we are human beings,” said a teacher who was actively participating for the

first time. She explained to us very excitedly, “In communism the work will be necessary to meet human needs, not for the profits of bosses. I agree with the Party.”

Three young people attended: two university students and one high school student. They participated in the discussion. One said, “We understand that it is a process, and that capitalism does not allow young people to develop. We need to be organized in the Party. I had a teacher who, if she heard you talk about communism, would be the first one here.” Someone responded that he

should invite her to the next meeting.

At the end of the meeting, we asked the people new to the Party if they were willing to continue in the fight for communism and attend upcoming ICWP meetings. They responded positively. In their faces you could see their interest in the work and political line of the Party, reflected in *Red Flag*. We invited them to discuss, contribute their ideas, and write for *Red Flag*, newspaper of workers for workers. Then they went to enjoy the swimming pools and the sea, on a day of radiant sunshine.

## CAPITALISTS CREATE DISASTERS, WORKERS CREATE SOLUTIONS

TEXAS (USA)—Nature creates hazards, capitalism creates disasters.

“I like that, it’s exactly right,” said a Houston friend, reflecting on the week-long power blackout and infrastructure collapse after a winter storm hit Texas in February.

A Dallas comrade also agreed. He spelled out, in great detail, how capitalism turned a cold snap into a deadly disaster.

He started with what happened at the hospital where he works. The pipes burst because they weren’t winterized. The toilets wouldn’t flush, creating unsanitary conditions in the middle of the pandemic. And they didn’t have enough clean water to sanitize surgical instruments, forcing the hospital to cancel surgeries.

Our comrade went on to describe the flawed electrical system. Fifty percent of the power plants went down. Scores died because they had no heat.

These plants are designed to function only during the four or five hot summer months. That’s when electrical companies that own the power plants make their money.

These cold spells will become more frequent because of global climate change. Even so, the cold snaps don’t last long enough for the capitalists to invest in winterizing the plants.

He drew an analogy to capitalism’s failure to prepare for the pandemic. It isn’t profitable for capitalist businesses to produce the masks and other necessities for these emergencies beforehand. But communism can, because all production is for our needs. Profits don’t enter into the picture.

### Thousands of Texans Show How Communism Will Work

“In all of my time of being a so-called activist, I have never seen people come together and get work done the way these people have,” said an Austin resident.

This work was to provide for the needs of the people. Ashante Reese, who works at the University of Texas, was one example. Reese and a few of her colleagues created an online spreadsheet to gather information about the needs people have. They then used their social media platforms to promote the spreadsheet. After that, they started divvying up the tasks and putting out the call for volunteers and donations,

Within days, the group had helped more than 200 households with food, transportation, medicine, shelter and other needs.

### Dancing Plumbers to the Rescue

Seeing the desperate need for emergency plumbing repairs across Austin, five friends who met through the dance community set up the Austin Guerilla Plumber Corps.

They created a spreadsheet for people in need of plumbing repairs who didn’t have access to a professional plumber and went to work. In

three days, they repaired the plumbing for 20 properties, including the refugee house Casa Marianella.

While these plumbers were providing free repairs for the refugee house, the Texas Governor, Greg Abbott, was screaming that diseased immigrants were spreading Covid throughout the state.

Mobilized masses can overcome whatever hazards nature might throw at us. But first we have to smash the disaster-making capitalist governments that Abbott represents. Communism will unleash the creativity and power of the workers, such as we saw in Texas.



Austin, TX, USA, February 25—Members of the Austin Guerrilla Plumber Corps work to replace a water heater. The corps of five friends worked to repair workers’ plumbing problems caused by the winter storm.

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### When Capitalists Speak of Peace, Communists Prepare for Class War

“America is back!” US Pres. Biden told European leaders in a recent meeting. The USA is not America, Mr. Biden. And masses around the world wouldn’t welcome a resurgence of US imperialism. If that is even possible.

Trump’s supporters say they “want their country back.” Liberals and moderates may think they “have their country back.” But communists know that working people have no country. Starting with one international party now, we work for communist revolution to end nations, borders and all divisions among the masses.

We don’t know when and where that revolution will become possible. Already, right now, almost everywhere, masses cannot continue to live in the old way. In many places, the rulers cannot continue to rule in the old way. In India, Myanmar, Thailand and elsewhere, the masses are in motion, fighting for change.

The growth of our International Communist Workers’ Party is the key to transforming these conditions into a revolutionary situation.

Wars among “great powers” formed the backdrop to workers’ revolutions, from the Paris Commune of 1871, through the 20th-century Russian and Chinese revolutions.

Today, Biden’s attempts at “reconciliation and unity” with Europe are part of US imperialism’s plans to prepare to confront both Russian and especially Chinese capitalism-imperialism. As Bertolt Brecht wrote in one of his best poems:

“When the leaders speak of peace  
The common folk know  
That war is coming.”

It’s not clear at all that Biden will be able to unite with Europe against Russia and China. Here are just a few of the contradictions between US imperialism and its hoped-for Euro-

pean partners:

\*“China may be a peer rival for the United States, but it has long been a vital trade partner for Europe. And while European leaders see Beijing as a systemic rival and competitor, they also see it as a partner, and hardly view it as an enemy.” (NY Times, 2/18/21)

\*Germany is eager to complete the Russian-backed Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline, currently held up by threats of US sanctions. Biden and a bipartisan US congressional coalition consider Nord Stream 2 a threat to the US “national interest” because it would link Europe more tightly with Russia.

\*The human rights group Amnesty International just declared that Russian opposition politician Alexei Navalny is not a “prisoner of conscience.” They said this was because of past xenophobic comments that he hasn’t renounced, publicized by a campaign orchestrated by the Putin government. It weakens the case for recently-imposed European sanctions against Russia, which US leaders want to be strengthened.

The US is increasingly isolated, with fascist Modi’s India potentially its closest ally. But as Biden said recently, “China is eating our lunch.” Another great-power war is in the cards. No workers anywhere will escape the ravages of such a war.

Let’s all understand that none of these capitalist-imperialist powers – not China, not Russia, not Europe – is a friend to the working class.

If communist revolution cannot happen soon enough to prevent World War III, it must emerge from a war-torn globe. We must make a priority of communist organizing inside the bosses’ militaries.

Comrade in California (USA)

### Lycurgus and His Economic Revolution

According to some historians, during the 7th and 9th centuries BCE, there was a Spartan law-giver who tried to carry out a political economic revolution.

He established for the first time that the land should be for the one who works it. He divided the land to the Spartans equally, doing so at harvest time. He commented that all the land should be passed down equally among the descendants.

On the basis that there will not be rich or poor, he abolished money. He had iron coins minted, because in that way greed and avarice would end.

Likewise, to destroy the distinction of social classes, he issued an order, forcing all people to consider themselves equal, both from the rich houses and from the humble houses.

I was impressed by these accounts, especially given the harrowing history of class society since the Christian era. I compared those stories to our current struggle for a world without money. I have argued with some friends about this, that we are not the first in humanity to think about and fight for a better world for the working class.

Our struggle for a communist world is the essence of hundreds or perhaps thousands of attempts that are bringing us closer and closer to the true liberation of the working class.

Veteran Comrade in Los Angeles, USA

**Red Flag:** In the Sparta of Lycurgus, helots worked the land as state-owned slaves. Women were not equal to men. For more information about communistic ideas and struggles in early history, read the series on the ICWP website: *Historical Heritage of Communism* [http://icwpredflag.org/DepthE/HE1\\_4.pdf](http://icwpredflag.org/DepthE/HE1_4.pdf)

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### Re-Opening the Schools—For Whom?

Schools in Los Angeles, like a lot of the US, have been closed for a year due to COVID-19. Parents, teachers, and students are fed up with the situation. So are the bosses and their politicians. But they're fed up for different reasons.

Parents, teachers and students have been forced to be socially isolated and to adapt to an overwhelming new technology. Mothers in particular have had to juggle work and helping their children in online teaching. There has been an alarming decline in learning, coupled with the rampant stress that comes with it all.

The bosses and their politicians worry about other things: production, profit loss, and being re-elected. They worry that parents, teachers, and students will completely lose faith in the system.

"The danger exists for the bosses that we are all collectively surviving, that the capitalist system is not necessary and we are reinventing ourselves," said a comrade. They worry that we can do without the schools, in themselves pillars to maintain capitalism.

The Governor is offering billions for schools to reopen, especially for the youngest children up to age eight. The Los Angeles School Superintendent and the president of the teachers' union have announced a tentative deal that will have young children back in school for half a day by mid-April, and older students doing online instruction in school by early May.

Teachers have already voted by 91% not to go back inside the schools until all teachers can be vaccinated, the county-wide level of infections is reduced and schools are properly equipped and made completely safe to avoid infections. The union leadership is saying that these conditions have been met, and teachers will probably vote to approve the agreement.

But why should we trust them? In Los Angeles County, extreme racism and overcrowded housing have already resulted in devastating rates of infection and death.

Many schools lack adequate ventilation; in many cases it is non-existent. "They want to kill us. This opening will increase infections," said another comrade. This young Black mother knows that the capitalists don't value workers' lives.

Another comrade replied, "It is true they want to kill us and they are killing us. But they can't kill us all. The US Army is made up of working-class young people, and the rulers need their loyalty to fight against rivals like China or Russia."

The bosses have a contradiction. Their economy is in trouble and they want workers back in the labs, the factories, the stores and the restaurants. The politicians are in trouble—the governor of California is up for recall.

The bosses want to open the schools to boost their economy. They only care about workers and their children whom they need for their profits and wars. They will kill us with their pandemic, with their armed police or in the fields of war.

Mobilizing the masses for communism is necessary now. It will ultimately lead us to communist revolution. In communism, we can live in a world in which all life is valued to the maximum.

Comrade teachers in California (USA)

### Let's Unite for Communism

I would like to take some time and talk about what is happening in South Africa. First off, nobody, no human can rule another human. We are supposed to be together and fix this world. We must unite and struggle together to shape our lives. Not the way it is happening now. Money is being stolen left, right and center. The rich are getting richer, which means the government system. We, the society, are the ones suffering the most.

Our schools' environment is very poor. How can kids learn in such an environment? While the premier kids are driving vans, attending private schools, we are the ones who are voting.

Now there is a disaster: Covid 19. They went all the way to go and fetch a vaccine, came back with an invalid vaccine. Tell me, is that possible? One thing I can tell you. I know be-

fore you can do anything, you verify it first to see if it's in a suitable condition to be used.

These people always come up with empty promises, but they never forget to deduct the tax money. I feel that we are being used by the capitalist system. We are being lied at. They never care about us. Only care for our strength. There are no jobs for us. But they are only looking for experience. Where will you find experience if there are no jobs?

We watch our television news. We only see the money that is being stolen. Food is going up; petrol is going up. But no solutions. They only come up with problems for us, not solutions. They say when you are 35 years old, there will be no work for you.

They're supposed to provide grants for us. Not R 350 (US \$22.60 or 1650 Indian rupees). What can you do with R 350, while they are

### Workers' Kids Need Communist Education, Not Capitalist Schools

"I'm worried about the kids in the Chicago Public Schools," said a close friend.

"My daughter's school in our well-off suburb is open and doing fine. But the Chicago Teachers' Union is fighting against reopening the city schools.

"My mother was a Chicago teacher," she continued, "and I have walked picket lines with her. But I went to those schools and I didn't learn anything. Those children are already so far behind. My high school friend who was voted 'most likely to succeed' went away to university. He dropped out after a year because he had never learned to study."

"That's a contradiction," I said. "You say that the kids don't learn anything in school but yet you are worried that the schools aren't open. Would you or your friend have been worse off if you'd missed a year of high school?"

She saw my point and agreed that it was a contradiction. She also saw that her daughter's nice new school is very different from the run-down, chronically underfunded Chicago Public Schools.

Only communist revolution can resolve contradictions like this.

Whether capitalist schools are "in-person" or "remote," they don't serve the working class and our children. For some, success in school can pave the way to an easier, better-paid or less alienated job. For a very few, it is a path to becoming an exploiter rather than exploited.

But there is no way to reform capitalist schools to make them serve the masses. Systems of education exist to reproduce existing social relations of production.

Communist education will not be an "improved" version of capitalist schooling. Even young children will do real, useful, age-appropriate work. Learning new things will be part of everyone's lifelong work.

Communist education includes new technical skills and a deeper understanding of how to strengthen communist social relations. And many other things that will satisfy our curiosity about the natural world and our desire to make and appreciate beautiful and wonderful things.

Sometimes our usual social arrangements may be disrupted because of war, pandemic, extreme weather, or other events. We have seen, in the pandemic, that those with money can make alternative arrangements for themselves. In communism, we'll make alternative arrangements for everyone.

Many of us, and our friends, are struggling with the school-reopening question. Let's reframe the discussion as "capitalist schooling or communist education?"

Former Chicago Teacher

Read our pamphlet

### Communist Education for a Classless Society

available at

<http://icwpredflag.org/epe.pdf>



stealing billions?

Tell me who can trust South Africa a few years from now? Nobody will want to invest here.

I can sense the war is coming. Let's just watch.

What will happen to our kids?

Let's just heal society and make it a better place for the entire human race.

If we can unite together towards a communist movement, I see a very much better world for the whole human race. There will be no bosses, no mayors. We work hard together for a better world. Everything will be owned by us. Its for us by us.

A luta

Comrade in South Africa

## JUDAS AND THE BLACK MESSIAH: ANOTHER HOLLYWOOD COVER-UP

*Judas and the Black Messiah* is the latest in the plethora of “revolutionary” films that have the masses talking. The film focuses on real-life FBI informant Bill O’Neal’s experience in infiltrating the Black Panther Party and his role in the 1969 assassination of Fred Hampton, Chairman of the Chicago chapter of the organization.

Workers and youth who have been flooding the streets in mass multiracial rebellions against racism and police are the target audience. Movies like this one are produced to tell these workers and youth that we can’t win. However, learning from past revolutionary movements has taught us that we can win and that we must.

Fred Hampton was class-conscious and understood that mobilizing for true revolution required the mobilization of all workers. In his time working with Hampton, O’Neal witnesses Hampton uniting the Panthers with militant groups like the Young Lords, (Puerto Rican youth) and the Young Patriots (white youth from Appalachia) in Chicago to form a Rainbow Coalition.

O’Neal is conflicted with the job he took on after seeing the work the party was doing. Ultimately, the film plays out as it did in the Biblical text and this Judas decides to sell out Hampton and the rest of his comrades. By the time O’Neal realizes he’s been double-crossed by the FBI, the deed has already been done. Hampton is shot in his bed, and multiple other party members are killed across the U.S by cap-

italist attack dogs.

The film grabbed mass attention through its depictions of Black men and women in armed struggle against the bosses, but it intentionally cuts out a lot of Hampton’s anti-capitalist politics.

Hampton’s most famous quote is: ““We don’t think you fight fire with fire best; we think you fight fire with water best. We’re going to fight racism not with racism, but we’re going to fight with solidarity. We say we’re not going to fight capitalism with black capitalism, but we’re going to fight it with socialism. We’ve stood up and said we’re not going to fight reactionary pigs and reactionary state’s attorneys like Hanrahan with any other reactions on our part. We’re going to fight their reactions with all of us people getting together and having an international proletarian revolution.” You don’t hear that in the movie!

### Not a “Rainbow Coalition” but Multiracial Working-Class Unity

The Panthers were very militant and hated the racist police. We learn from their commitment and hatred of the racist system.

But they and the militant organizations in their coalition thought that unemployed youth could pick up arms and make a revolution by themselves. They didn’t aim to build a mass base for revolution in the industrial working class or among soldiers. Fred Hampton was a Marxist and sought



Minneapolis, USA, March 8—Protestors at trial of killer cop Derek Chauvin. His murder of George Floyd sparked multiracial rebellions around the world.

coalitions with others. True. But their strategy couldn’t win.

By building one mass party across “racial” lines, among workers, youth and soldiers for communist revolution, we can win. We must learn from the mistakes of our past revolutionaries who have fought and died in the name of abolishing capitalism. We must fight directly for communism.

And while rats and informers are ever a threat, we must not allow that to stop us from organizing the masses. We continue to fight for a communist world where all our children will be fed, where no one will be judged based on the color of their skin, and where we will all share tighter bonds with one another.

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

### Music Also Fights Injustice and for a Better World

On February 18, a sharp confrontation broke out between the Spanish police and protesters supporting Pablo Hasél. Hasél is a young Catalan rap musician who is known for being a communist with a great revolutionary spirit.

Hasél has been accused of promoting terrorism and slander and insults against the crown, in particular for his harsh phrases. (Death to the fascist state! Death to the Bourbons!)

Through his protest songs, he denounces the atrocities and abuses of the Spanish monarchy. The currently reigning royal house has ruled since 1700.

But the main cause of Hasél’s arrest is his tendency to promote the heroic victory of the Bolshevik party that defeated the Nazis and because of his admiration for the Russian revolution of 1917 and other victories. These historic revolutionary events make the bosses tremble! They show that the strength of the workers is capable of overthrowing any empire.

In retaliation, the monarchy ordered the police to attack the protesters, who bravely came out in solidarity with Hasél, with tear gas and rubber bullets. Hasél took refuge in the University of Lleida Catalonia, after being persecuted by the authorities. The cowardly attack was answered by the protesters with stones, bottles and fury against the system, demanding the freedom of Pablo Hasél.

His arrest has been denounced by some singers and writers who declare that there is no such thing as free expression. This vile act is a hostile statement to the working class that is fighting against injustices.

The real terrorists are the capitalist system and the monarchies that maintain power based on repression so that their bosses’ interests are not threatened, and they are free from accountability.

We workers cannot settle for reforming the rotten systems that represent repression and social inequality! The fight must be for communism. Only communist revolution will make it possible to live in harmony and achieve true liberation from the chains of capitalist slavery.

In solidarity with Pablo Hasél for his love for humanity and for the fight for communism.  
A Comrade in the USA



“Liberty for Pablo Hasel. Rapping is not a crime.”



**MEXICO CITY, March 8**—Thousands of women across Mexico took to the streets on International Women’s Day despite the pandemic and the history of repression of these demonstrations. They made their anger and shock visible in a country where eleven women are killed each day.

Protests targeted President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, who has proved himself incapable of addressing women’s problems. His supporters within the fragmented feminist movement can’t force him to comply with the demands of organized women. Nor has any opposition group been able to catalyze the anger of millions of women who face daily the sexist oppression generated by capitalism. Communism must become the alternative.

### PARIS COMMUNE from page 8

party we need to fight for communism. That’s why ICWP is building a party of a new type: a disciplined and mass Party with unbreakable communist ties among the world’s masses, especially industrial workers and soldiers. A party that unleashes the masses’ imagination and creativity to enthusiastically build communism.

We need millions of critical thinkers and doers who constantly advance communist practice and theory. ICWP invites you to join a collective which fights to mobilize the masses for communism.

## Commemorate the Paris Commune of 1871 by Mobilizing the Masses for Communism Today

### PART III: WORKERS MUST SEIZE STATE POWER

Paris workers and National Guard soldiers drove the French army out of the city and seized state power there on March 18, 1871. They established the Paris Commune. It was the first time that workers anywhere took power.

The Commune immediately abolished the police, replacing both police and army with the Paris National Guard, consisting of workers loyal to the commune. They aimed to build a society to meet the masses' needs.

The crucial question they now faced was whether or not to march immediately to Versailles to destroy the French capitalists and their government there. The communards' leadership was divided on this question.

The Marxists, led by Blanqui, advocated marching immediately on Versailles before the capitalists gathered enough forces to march on Paris to destroy the Commune. They called on sympathetic soldiers and workers throughout France to defend the Commune.

The Marxists, however, did not have a mass base for this strategy. They were not organized in a Communist Party to take their strategy to the masses to mobilize them for this.

On the other side, the anarchist leader Proudhon argued for negotiating with the government while setting up the Commune as a model of social transformation. This position, based on not understanding the murderous nature of the capitalist state, had more followers. Thus, instead of marching on Versailles, the Commune held elections for its new Council.

The capitalists in Versailles had no intention of negotiating. They were buying time to organize to crush the Commune and take Paris by force. They soon began shooting and bombing the outskirts of Paris.

For two months the communards kept the French army at bay, fighting pitched battles daily on the outskirts of Paris. But on May 21, the French capitalist army stormed the city itself with 200,000 French prisoners of war who were released by the German capitalists. They, too, were

terrified of the workers' revolution.

Masses of women and men set up barricades and fought bravely, but unsuccessfully, to defend the Commune. Aided by the German government and its army, the French rulers unleashed a campaign of mass murder and terror against the Parisian masses.

Tens of thousands were executed. Many more were imprisoned or exiled. The bosses tried to erase the memory of the Commune. They shed rivers of blood. But wipe out its memory? Never! Instead, the Commune has remained a beacon of inspiration for 150 years. Its lessons have shaped the communist movement. We are learning from them today that we must overthrow capitalist state power and replace it with communist workers' power.

As the Russian communist leader Lenin wrote in 1908 about the Paris Commune, "in certain conditions the class struggle assumes the form of armed conflict and civil war; there are times when the interests of the proletariat call for ruthless extermination of its enemies in open armed clashes." He said the Commune was too easy on its class enemies.

Lenin concluded from the Paris Commune that the working class needs a communist party to

lead the way to victory. The Bolsheviks built a disciplined communist party with a unified line of socialist revolution. They organized party collectives, especially in the factories and in the Tsar's armed forces, to fight to turn the bosses' war into a revolution for workers' power.

Forty-six years after the Paris Commune, during World War I, the Russian workers and soldiers led by their Bolshevik Party seized and consolidated power over one-sixth of the world's surface. This inspired an epoch of revolutionary struggle worldwide.

Also learning this lesson, the Chinese Communist Party led the Chinese working masses to take power in 1949.

But both parties fought for and built socialism supposedly as a transition to communism. Socialism kept money, banks, the wage system and production for buying and selling. It was state capitalism. It never has nor will lead to communism.

In the mid-1960s, masses of rural and city workers and youth organized the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution to get rid of the "Red Capitalists" that socialism had created. The Shanghai People's Commune, established in January 1967, was modelled on the Paris Commune. They fought for communism, the elimination of money, and production directly for human need. They were defeated because they hesitated to build their own communist party and fight decisively for power.

Today we are building the International Communist Workers' Party to mobilize the masses to fight directly for communism, nothing less. We strive to take the lessons of the Paris commune to a higher level.

The communist collectives we build today will become the basis for communist workers' power. When the communist masses take state power, we will organize to meet the needs of everyone.

The kind of party that the Russian and Chinese communists built to fight for socialism is not the

[See PARIS COMMUNE, page 7](#)

**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.**

#### Abolish Private Property: Communism Will Be the True "Beloved Community"

"What is the 'beloved community'?" A few church members discussed how a community could truly welcome everyone, however "difficult" they might be. And to recognize that every one of us might be "difficult" to someone else.

One question was, "What are the obstacles to creating a beloved community?" I had just read the *Red Flag* International Women's Day article, so I offered that a huge obstacle is capitalism. I summarized the article. Others were intrigued and related it back to the church, not exactly the direction I'd intended.

This excellent article covered a lot of ground and couldn't go into detail about everything. I think some things need clarification.

A gendered division of labor existed even before the earliest class societies. Its material basis was the biology of reproduction, though women were (if anything) more respected for their ability to bear and nurse children. Communities valued the work of all genders.

As the article explained, in many agricultural

societies, members of more than two generations lived and worked together. Such a family "was an economic unit of production, reproduction and consumption."

This is important because many of us were taught that "the family" consists of a husband, a wife and their children, and that anything else is substandard or unnatural. As the article said, imagining communism requires much more expansive thinking.

But even before capitalism, many working people were separated from the means of production and forced to work to support a propertied ruling class. Ancient Mesopotamia and Egypt, China, Greece and Rome all relied on slave labor. The forms varied, but most slaves were not part of their own family unit.

The agricultural societies referred to in the article are (or were) class societies. The rise of class society institutionalized a qualitative change for the worse in the status of women. Within village family units, men were often considered the owners of their wives and children. Their mothers might treat the wife (or wives) as servants or worse.

In some societies, the gendered division of

labor extended into women's councils with real power. Elsewhere—especially under the ideological cover of Confucianism or monotheism—women in oppressed families were doubly oppressed.

This is why it's so important, as the article says, that "we are building a communist future, not trying to replicate the past."

What will our households look like? What work will we do in (and as) a household, and what work will take us out of our households? Will party collectives be based on households, other workplaces, neighborhoods (or villages), or a combination? How can we make communism be the "beloved community" that my church friends want?

Will the answers be the same everywhere, or differ by region? And how will we knit these collectives together into a party in which everyone works for the greater good of all, everywhere?

Our practice today – especially the work of building party collectives – must enable all of us to start thinking about these questions and more.

Church-going Red