

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

ICWP in El Salvador:

GARMENT WORKER COMRADES CONFRONT FASCISM WITH COMMUNIST ORGANIZING AND IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE

EL SALVADOR, August 2021— “We’ve spent more than a year in unusual circumstances due to the COVID-19 crisis. This presented obstacles to having frequent activities, collective meetings outside the factories and extended meetings. Family groups of workers and students were involved, and they have given us very good results,” a comrade worker leader observed.

S said to V, a former comrade: “We are going to come to your house to visit your family, so that we can talk about the Party. Both of you are factory workers who are important to the struggle.”

“We’ll be expecting you,” V answered.

We are currently meeting and making plans to visit worker comrades who read *Red Flag*. So that they join the ranks of the party and so we can strengthen communist relations with other comrades who have been less active.

“We are not going to deliver newspapers in a

mechanical way,” said a comrade party leader. “Instead, each worker must understand the political and ideological struggle that they are carrying out with the other readers within the factory.”

Communist Ideological Struggle Makes ICWP Grow

We are developing a permanent campaign to understand and spread ICWP’s ideas. We will do this through *Red Flag*, motivating each comrade to read it, write for it, and take more copies to give to other workers, relatives and friends.

These activities inside and outside the factories have enabled us to build three new collectives and develop new men and women worker leaders. This also helped us to march as an organized disciplined group in this year’s May Day march.



During the worst part of the Covid-19 pandemic, we made necessary changes, communicating through social media. Of course, we missed the personal social relationships that are so necessary among comrades.

“But during this time, thanks to the solidarity of workers organized in ICWP internationally, we were able to support the comrades with basic necessities while they weren’t working in the factories,” a worker leader explained. “We also supported the women workers who were on a hunger strike.”

[See EL SALVADOR page 3](#)



Taliban Take Over of Afghanistan: OPPORTUNITY TO SPREAD THE FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST WORKERS' POWER

INDIA, August 23—A young comrade from Delhi started the meeting when he was asked, “What is happening in Afghanistan?” After a long pause, he answered, “Everything has changed, nothing has changed.”

Comrades from the Chennai auto industry, garment workers in Bengaluru and several others in Delhi met to discuss the Taliban’s rapid advance to power and our communist response. Five comrades in Bangladesh joined us.

Until the 19th century, what is now

region was influenced by Persia, Turkey, Russia from the north and the Mongols and Chinese from Central and East Asia. It was consolidated in 1880 as Afghanistan in response to the British effort to seize its natural resources. The British colonial power tried to divide and conquer the land. Eventually, Afghani resistance made the cost of keeping the British army there too high.

After the 1917 Bolshevik revolution, communists in British India sowed seeds of revolution that radicalized the emerging working class in

Afghanistan.

However, the communist movement led by the Soviet Union relied on nationalism as a supposedly progressive force. A coup in 1973 abolished the monarchy and another coup brought a pro-Soviet regime to power in 1978.

The Soviet Union was, by then, an imperialist power. It aided Afghanistan with education and agrarian reforms. But Afghanistan remained a colony and the Soviets used it to stop the rise of US imperialism. Until 1989, Afghanistan was heavily influenced by the Soviet Union and eventually occupied.

[See AFGHANISTAN, page 2](#)

INDIA: COMMUNIST AUTO WORKERS CONFRONT CAPITALIST PANDEMIC, PAGE 3

USA: STOP THE RACIST, XENOPHOBIC COVID “BLAME GAME” PAGE 4

SOLDIERS FIGHT RACISM: CHANGING TIMES OPEN DOORS PAGE 5

MELTING PLANET: HEAT UP COMMUNIST CLASS STRUGGLE PAGE 6

Taliban Take Over of Afghanistan:

OPPORTUNITY TO SPREAD THE FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST WORKERS' POWER — FROM PAGE 1

Soviet imperialism in Afghanistan created the conditions for Maoist groups to fight back. But they never fought for communist revolution. Instead, they chose opportunist national liberation as a road to socialism. This weakness, along with declining Soviet imperialism, allowed the US to influence Pakistan in creating the so-called 'Freedom Fighters' who became the Taliban.

Taliban Take Over

China became Afghanistan's number-one import/export market while the US was shoring up the corrupt Afghanistan regime and its army. The Taliban coming to power will drastically increase the influence of Pakistan and China. Afghanistan's vast reserves of mineral and other natural resources will be integrated into the multi-billion-dollar China Pakistan Economic Corridor.

India's influence will decline, and, as many comrades pointed out, India's fascist president Modi will use the example of the Taliban to increase anti-Muslim racism. He will consolidate xenophobic laws and more brutal repression in Kashmir, where more than 700,000 Indian troops are now stationed.

Garment workers were quick to point out that Modi and the Taliban share the same sexist, misogynist outlook.

Fight for a paycheck or fight for communist workers' power

The young comrade from Delhi said that the US defeat in Afghanistan was like the battle of Waterloo which ended the era of French domination.

Another comrade quoted former US General Wesley Clark, who said that the Afghan army trained by the US collapsed quickly because "many of the foot soldiers that make up the military saw the job as a paycheck, not a cause."

We, as communists, understand that soldiers in any capitalist and imperialist standing army in the world look at the military as a paycheck. The bosses try to win them ideologically to patriotism and nationalism. However, when communists organize, the bosses' army can collapse quickly.

The Chinese Red Army won over many soldiers from the bosses' army to their side. These soldiers saw the collectivity, sharing and commit-



ment of the communist soldiers to fight for revolution to end exploitation.

US Imperialism is Going Downhill Fast

The rapid decline of the US will escalate with its defeat in Afghanistan. The Europeans under NATO have been left alone to cut their losses. Europe is more dependent on Russian and Chinese imperialism with the decline of US imperialist power in Europe, Central Asia, and the Caspian Sea.

Just days after the ignominious US defeat in Afghanistan, Russia and Germany are about to launch the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, which will bring gas directly from Russia to Germany.

Opportunity to Spread Communist Ideas

"Nothing has changed" as the comrade said. The main thing—wage slavery—has not changed. Sexism, xenophobia and racism are increasing. What has changed is a Waterloo-like decline of US imperialism and the consolidation of Chinese imperialism.

This gives us the opportunity to go to the working class with communist organizing. The

heavily fortified "Green Zones" in Kabul or Baghdad, with US-educated power elite and politicians, can never win the hearts and minds of the working class.

After an intense discussion, we concluded that communists in the International Communist Workers' Party have the tremendous responsibility and opportunity to advance communism as the true alternative. To build a mass ICWP where all comrades fight together to spread communism.

We are reaching out to our comrades in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh with *Red Flag*. We have some contacts in Afghanistan also and we will struggle and win them to one ICWP around the world.

Communist revolution will unite and inspire the masses, who hate imperialism and sexism to fight for and build a world where our one working class family produces only to meet the masses' needs. Communism will abolish wage slavery, the material basis of sexism, racism and imperialism.

Women Workers Are Fighters for Our Class, Not Victims

During the pandemic I reconnected on Facebook with a former co-worker, also retired. We share similar tastes in music and enjoy expressing our views on political issues.

Last week my friend became very upset about the abrupt withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan. She felt that "we" left allies there (especially women) in danger of being killed by the Taliban. She suggested we write and call our state senators and representatives.

I acknowledged that no one wanted these women to die or be tortured. But why would we expect the US Military to protect them when they don't even protect women soldiers in their

own ranks from constant harassment and sexual assault?

The discussion continued, with others joining in. I corrected someone who said "we" are all complicit and "we" needed to clean up our mess. I reminded them that US workers were never asked to vote on invading Iraq or Afghanistan. In fact, millions took to the streets chanting "NO MORE WAR!" The blood of the Afghan workers is on the hands of the US ruling class.

When the ruling class is exposed for crimes of poverty, hunger, torture and abuse (especially involving women and children) they create a smoke screen, flooding the media with personal stories and graphic photos. This is

meant to bring about feelings of sympathy for the victims. It also diverts our anger away from the bosses and their warlords.

Communists must not let these crimes of capitalism make us feel helpless. We must understand that those Afghan women and children are the very ones who will lead our revolution! Capitalism cannot and will not ever bring them justice or equality.

In *Red Flag* we see photos of angry women from many countries marching with their fists in the air, holding rifles, and waving red flags. They refuse to be victims. These are the images we need to show our friends and families. The only solution is a communist revolution!

Comrade in Seattle (USA)

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AUTOWORKERS: PANDEMIC IS A DISEASE OF POVERTY; COMMUNISM IS THE SOLUTION

CHENNAI (India), August 23— “This pandemic is never going to end. We are going to have the fourth wave after the delta mutant,” said a comrade who works in an auto plant here. “Each wave is an attack on the working class. In the beginning, it uprooted the lives of millions of workers. They saved the last drop of little money they had to reach their homes hundreds of km from big cities. Many workers who had no money were left homeless or took out loans from the local money lenders.” Another comrade agreed.

Raman and Jaya are among thousands of autoworkers who have seen their neighborhood devastated by fewer workers reporting to the factory. Many have been waiting for months after getting laid off. Some are never going to come back, as fewer workers are called back because there is less demand and because massive retooling in the auto industry requires fewer workers.

“Five of my neighbors went back to Bihar when they lost jobs and all of them have coronavirus,” one said.

“Coronavirus now is like seasonal diseases like cholera, TB, malaria, gastrointestinal diseases. They can all be prevented but the profit system excludes the masses of workers getting any treatment because they are the ones to get it in the first place.”

Each wave of coronavirus protects some, but vaccine apartheid does not reach hundreds of millions of people around the world. “In the beginning, some politicians and rich people used to get coronavirus. But now, it is almost exclusively a disease of poverty.”

The auto worker comrades met with other comrades in India to discuss the emerging situation in Afghanistan and

how it affects the working class. The comrades unanimously pointed to a copy of *Red Flag*. One worker displayed it so the room full of comrades could see it.

“This is the answer, point to the articles in *Red Flag*. Communism will not only put an end to the remaining pandemics inherited by the capitalist greed, but our vast knowledge based on science produced by the masses will create a completely new society to prevent pandemics from happening in the first place.”

This comment invigorated comrades to talk about how to double or triple *Red Flag* distribution. Everybody agreed to take extra copies. It led an older comrade to bring up his son, who is in the Indian Army. Several years ago, we main-

tained regular contact with him. But now we want to do a better job. The older comrade will work with others and make sure that we not only remain in touch with his son, but get to know other soldiers as well.

Yet another worker mentioned a relative who is an autoworker in Colombo, Sri Lanka. He would like to send him copies of *Red Flag*. Our meeting ended with a very positive morale. The comrades are enthusiastic that a massive International Communist Workers’ Party is possible now. We have to overcome our internal contradictions in a comradely, encouraging way with the help of our international party.



Chennai autoworkers on strike, 2016

EL SALVADOR from page 1

Bosses’ Fear of the Working Class Makes Them Tremble

The government is using fascism as a weapon to try to stop working-class organizing. The streets are full of soldiers and police, and tanks, which haven’t been seen since the war, are in strategic places. This growing militarization is the recourse of the current capitalist leaders.

Discontent among the working class is growing in the face of the economic situation, job loss and repression. Also, workers are rejecting the imposition of the new Bitcoin currency.

Repression is the bosses’ response to the threat they feel in the face of the imminent uprisings or strikes that the working class will once again carry out. This is the fear that these “paper tigers” have. They appear to be strong, but what they fear is the greater strategic power of the organized working class, as Mao Zedong said.

Faced with this situation, we have discussed a security plan to guarantee the continued growth and advance of ICWP and the integrity of the comrades. We meet to plan the work, taking the current situation into account. We meet to understand how the capitalist system works, its weaknesses and how to build a movement to end it.

An important step is the formation of a collective in the capital. This represents an opportunity to expand our communist work. We have already planned the first meetings for the study of dialectical materialism led by women and men workers.

This knowledge is the weapon that the working class must have in order to understand how changes occur so we can win the struggle for communist revolution.

Organize among Soldiers

“My brother, who is also a worker, has a friend who is a young soldier to whom we plan to give *Red Flag*,” said a worker.

We think that the struggle to recruit soldiers

for communism is a huge step that the working class needs and is taking through the ICWP.

The work of the collectives of the ex-guerrilla combatants (FMLN) continue to bear fruit. A farmworker comrade said, “I have a friend who is in the army. This week I will give him the newspaper.”

“We did this work for many years within the guerrilla movement, and we will do it with more strength today with ICWP,” said another farmworker.

Today, more than ever, the working class needs to organize in the International Communist Workers’ Party, to fight directly for Communism and put an end to this rotten system.



MOBILIZE INTERNATIONAL MASSES TO END PANDEMIC CAPITALISM WITH COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

SEATTLE (US) — Workers at our summer BBQ debated “vaccine hesitancy.” Everyone saw through the lie that Covid spikes were caused by migrants. But one close friend said, “I can’t believe that only 14% of those unvaccinated are rabid anti-vaxxers.”

Comrades and friends pointed out the obsession of the capitalist media with blaming “stupid” workers. The *Seattle Times* runs several columns a week telling us to blame the unvaccinated for the pandemic.

They ignore capitalism’s inability to organize a vaccine mobilization that works. The Lt. Governor of Texas blames African-Americans for the low vaccination rate in that state, even though US Census Bureau data show that unvaccinated white Texans outnumber unvaccinated black Texans roughly 3 to 1.

We agreed that the failure of the US capitalists’ vaccine distribution program reflects capitalism’s racism, nationalism, individualism, and quest for profits.

We talked about how a communist distribution program, based on mobilized masses, will be successful. Mobilization of masses is one of the keys to public health that only communism can provide.

This collective struggle equipped more comrades and their friends to spread our communist analysis to others. Long-time, relatively inactive comrades and new friends took copies of *Red Flag* with articles by the party’s healthcare collective to read and distribute. Some took the pamphlet *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* to study and discuss with friends.

The group enthusiastically supported the remarks of a new comrade who belongs to the healthcare collective. She said, “I think it’d be beneficial to highlight the excess of vaccines we have without giving any to countries (primarily in the global south) who need them. I have family



members in Guatemala who’ve told us they have no access to the vaccine.”

Communist Society Will Open New Possibilities

In communism, there will be no hesitancy or distrust when it comes to healthcare from communities of color, who have historically received the worst healthcare services. With communism in place there will be no inequity within the healthcare system.

With community values at the forefront of communism, healthcare laborers and scientists will not be elitist, petit-bourgeois citizens nor will the work be rooted in racist education systems. People will not have to worry about their insurance standing, co-pays or whether they can afford to take time off from work. Black women will not have to fear that their pain is being undermined by their doctors.

Instead, we will all have equal access to scientific information without having to ask for it. Communism will undo the very narratives that create vaccine hesitancy in the first place.

A doctor in the healthcare collective said there will be “no distrust because we will all have medical knowledge in communism and contribute to the collective health.”

Past communists organized to make this happen. A million rural workers were trained as “barefoot doctors” after the Chinese revolution.

Their education included half a year of “classroom” work. The other half they labored alongside their co-workers, practicing what they had been taught. It was not long before barefoot doctors were teaching capitalist-trained doctors the communist way of mass mobilization to end deadly diseases and create a healthier society.

Another friend thought that we needed a little bit of capitalism, a little bit of socialism and a little bit of communism. Comrades argued that this illusion is precisely what will undermine any collective answer.

Both capitalism and socialism maintain production for profit and the wage system, laying the foundation for racism, nationalism, and individualism.

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Communist collective production is based on communist relationships, not the competitive drive for profits. Its goal is to provide for the collective needs of the masses. Collective production lays the foundation that opens the possibilities the healthcare collective members talked about.

Working Class: Creators of A New Society, Not Mere Victims

Communist revolution will unleash the power and creativity of our class. Workers’ power, mobilized massively through ICWP communist collectives worldwide, will do far better at learning about, preventing and managing pandemic disease. Communism will resolve the contradiction between science and capitalism by abolishing capitalism itself. Public health, including scientific work, will be a collective activity in the service of the masses.

Communist politics is primary. The communist ability to mobilize masses will free science from capitalism and advance public health in ways the capitalists can’t.

COUNTERING THE CAPITALISTS’ RACIST, ANTI-WORKING-CLASS BLAME GAME

“Recently some colleagues and I were talking about the Johnson & Johnson vaccine and how that was primarily being distributed to lower income/BIPOC neighborhoods despite the concern about blood clotting,” said J, a new member of ICWP. “A natural distrust often arises in BIPOC communities when it comes to the government. But what gets me about this vaccine is how many people gloss over the fact that it had to have been extremely calculated. I’m sure that contributes to

‘vaccine hesitancy.’”

She and L, another comrade, were discussing how the White House and the capitalist media try to shift the blame onto those who haven’t gotten a shot. The capitalist approach is that it’s everyone’s “individual responsibility” to get a shot — and if you don’t, it’s on you. At the same time, the system prevents many, many people from getting vaccinated.

Four of L’s friends had fallen into the trap that blamed the “irresponsible” unvaccinated for the continued pandemic. She did some research and was able to convince her friends that the system was to blame.

The Kaiser Family Foundation estimates that only 14% of the U.S. population is committed to refusing vaccines. It says that those who aren’t yet vaccinated are much more

likely to be food insecure, have children at home and earn little. They are nearly three times as likely as the vaccinated to have had insufficient food recently.

Vaccination usually requires taking time off work — not just to get the shot but also potentially to recover from the side effects — as well as arranging transportation and figuring out childcare. Missing a few hours of work seems easy to higher-paid workers, but for others it could mean having food for the family versus not.

Those who are unvaccinated are also likely to work in essential jobs like agriculture and manufacturing. They work long hours and may prioritize time with their families or communities when they finally get a break. People with multiple jobs may find it impossible to schedule a shot in between all their shifts.

In communism, the party will prioritize getting all eligible people vaccinated as quickly as possible by mobilizing the masses. Emphasis will be on producing and distributing the vaccine. There will be no food insecurity, no worrying about taking off work and not being able to feed your family.



US Capitalist Rulers Caught in A Bind CHANGING TIMES OPEN DOORS FOR ICWP GROWTH

August 25—The US ruling class is openly worried that contradictions within the United States will affect foreign affairs as well as domestic politics. Whatever the political spin on the scenes from Kabul, Afghanistan in recent weeks, the US rulers know they have bigger problems.

“The long-term sources of American weakness and decline are more domestic than international,” warns Francis Fukuyama, a big shot on the influential Council of Foreign Affairs. “Just how influential it will be depends on its ability to fix its internal problems.”

Every week, more US foreign affairs experts are issuing similar warnings.

Their concerns are especially urgent when it comes to the US Armed forces. Many soldiers were profoundly affected by the mass demonstrations and strikes last year against racism, sexism, inadequate protections against the pandemic, xenophobia, fascism, and global inequality.

Recently, racist “boogaloo boys” surfaced on a US army base. This sparked large multi-racial groups of rank-and-file soldiers to organize weeks of anti-racist history lectures and discussion.

The brass (officers) chose to ignore the fascists. So scores of soldiers prepared to fight against this fascist outbreak. On another base, soldiers organized against the racist Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ).

The global uprisings have affected every nook and cranny of capitalist society. The rulers everywhere must resolve these domestic contradictions to remain in power. But they can’t, because their system must intensify exploitation and division in every country of the world.

A central principle of communist philosophy is that “internal contradictions are primary.” It’s true of US capitalism and it’s true of our party.

The capitalists’ domestic contradictions create an immediate opportunity for our party. We can’t stand on the sidelines. The communist relationships comrades build during this upheaval are crucial. They are already helping the party grow. The time is now for every collective to contribute. We have to overcome internal contradictions that hold us back from doing this.

The capitalists can’t resolve the contradictions in their system. But communist revolution will end them.



US WITHDRAWS FROM AFGHANISTAN TO FIGHT ON OTHER FRONTS

“The US is retreating from the Greater Middle East while strengthening its strategic structure around China with the sole purpose of containing China,” editorialized the Chinese-sponsored *Global Times* (August 17).

The US was shifting its focus from Afghanistan to China, said US Secretary of State Antony Blinken last April.

US imperialism’s withdrawal from Afghanistan does not foretell peace. It is a strategic move to allow it to better confront its rivals, China and Russia. This will – unless the working class opts for communist revolution – inevitably lead to World War III.

The US is at a disadvantage trying to fight the rise of Chinese and Russian imperialism in Afghanistan. That’s why Foreign Affairs magazine bemoaned some US geopolitical strategists’ fixation on the greater Middle East. Its outlook represents the major sector of the US imperial rulers, who call for changing the culture left over from the Cold War. Their new strategy is pivoting to the south Pacific to confront China, and to the Black Sea region and Eastern Europe to face Russia.

In the south Pacific, the US already organized the Quad (the US, Australia, India, and Japan). It hopes to turn this into a military alliance against China. It is also courting Vietnam, South Korea, Indonesia and the Philippines.

These last two control choke points that could cut off China’s exports and energy imports by sea, to paralyze its economy and military in case of war. And then it will fight China to control its unsinkable aircraft carrier in Taiwan.

Only communism can bring the lasting peace workers aspire for and need. Our duty is to build ICWP into a mass Party capable of leading the working class to power to stop the imperialists’ insane drive to World War III. If this is not possible, we will make this war their last war.

READ OUR PAMPHLET:

SOLDIERS, SAILORS, MARINES, CRUCIAL TO A COMMUNIST WORKERS’ REVOLUTION

AVAILABLE AT:

ICWPREDFLAG.ORG/MPE.PDF

MY WORKING-CLASS HERO

My dad recently retired after decades in the workforce, most recently as an MTA Mechanic in Los Angeles. In my eyes, he is the embodiment of the working class. He has woken at 4 am day after day, week after week, month after month and year after year for as long as I can remember.

He woke up every day to the grind. I imagine he did so with a sense of duty not only to his family but also to his co-workers, his friends and in solidarity with workers all across the world.

I have vivid memories of my dad in those wee hours, making himself coffee, getting his lunch pail ready, heating up food, getting his clothes ready. Stoic. Not complaining nor trudging.

My dad is a hard worker, he has always been. He’s disciplined and leads a structured life. He’s an organizer, fighter, revolutionary, activist, and protester.

He’s my hero. I imagine there are many workers like him across the world. Hard-working, loving, caring, honest people who do everything they can for their loved ones. Workers who fight day after day to keep the machine going and in hopes of a better life for themselves and their families.



My dad has lived his life by a certain philosophy. With a strong unwavering belief in a better system, a better way of doing things — a communist system. He has had his ups and downs, gone forward and back, left and right. But he continues to push forward. He tries to walk a straight line and I admire him for that. He has always stuck to his beliefs and let his communist ideals guide his way in life.

Being part of the working class isn’t always pretty, easy or glamorous. Workers more often than not deal with crappy bosses, unfair and unjust laws and a broken system.

Many people look down on blue-collar workers, seeing them as unintelligent, lazy or even suckers. They don’t realize that without these workers our society would cease to operate.

They keep our cars going, our power on. They provide us with food and other necessities. Workers go through late nights and early mornings, deadlines, sacrifices, conflicts, persecution.

There is so much beauty in the struggle of being a worker, however. There’s honor. It’s honest work. Many people prefer to take shortcuts, take the easy road, and prefer more glamorous work. They prefer a quick rise but that is oftentimes accompanied by an even quicker fall. I admire my dad as well as the millions of workers who chose and continue to choose not to take the easy route.

Although my dad is retired, I know that his job isn’t done. Like many comrades expressed at his retirement party, his political work is not done yet. I look forward to seeing what he’ll do in the future. Although Capitalism would have us believe that people become useless after they retire, we know that isn’t really the case.

Love you, dad.

MELTING PLANET DEMANDS: HEAT UP COMMUNIST STRUGGLE

Global warming continues to wreak havoc around the globe. We see it in fires in California and Europe, floods in Europe, China and India, the continued mutations of Covid-19, the devastation of bee populations and more.

On August 14, 2021, for the first time in history instruments recorded rain at the summit of Greenland's ice-sheet. This rainfall has worsened the melting of this ice-sheet at the summit and along its southeastern coast. It had already melted extensively in late July.

The capitalist media doesn't report that there is direct causality between capitalism's profit-making and the widespread destruction of the planet and life on it.

At the July G20 climate summit, capitalist governments and elites paraded and paid lip-service to reducing emissions. They didn't actually agree even on the wording of the final communiqué, let alone on action.

There was the usual frenzy of reporting and fundraising after the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released its summary of the physical science of climate change. NGOs seized on this report to get eyeballs on their Twitter accounts to raise funds to accomplish exactly nothing.

Reporting emphasized that, under any scenario and model, the world will exceed 1.5° C above

pre-capitalist levels by 2050. It will substantially overshoot 2° C by 2080 without very stringent emissions reductions. What went unreported is that reduction in emissions is materially impossible under a capitalist system.

This was made obvious by the continued increase in CO2 concentration even as economic activity declined due to Covid-19. In April 2021, the Mauna Loa Observatory in Hawaii had a daily reading of 421 parts per million of CO2, the highest in recorded history.

The laws of physics cannot be overcome by the delusional ravings and promises of capitalist elites and their lackeys in governmental and global organizations. These exploiters are bent on squeezing the last penny of profits out of workers' bodies before escaping to their shelters in New Zealand and eventually, they believe, to outer space.

Only communism can prepare the masses for the inevitable consequences of global warming. Mitigation of flooding, fires, epidemics, hurricanes is only possible in a world in which the



Pittsburgh, USA: March 21, 2021

workers produce only what is needed, when it is needed and for whoever needs it.

This is only possible if the masses can control the means of production and direct resources to the need of the hour. Communist workers worldwide will temper the risks while organizing and building a new and better world.

And none of this is possible without a global party, ICWP, first organizing the masses for communism. This is the need of the hour - now! Join us to organize the masses for communism!

PLEASE SEND US YOUR LETTERS, RESPONSES AND SUGGESTIONS TO
ICWPREDFLAG@NYM.HUSH.COM

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.

Workers Discuss a Communist World Without Money

Recently our garment collective in Los Angeles (USA) got together for a social-political activity. We read the *Red Flag* article (Vol 12 # 10) that said, "We need a Communist World without Money".

It is an article about workers' struggles, very good. But we concluded that the content of the article was focused more on the minimum wage and not on explaining why workers need a world without money.

How do we explain to workers that a communist society will function without this capitalist instrument of oppression?

We Communists learn about the origins of humanity, which go back thousands of years, before the existence of social classes. Together with archaeologists and anthropologists, we investigate the evidence of how humans survived for thousands of generations based on gathering fruit and hunting. The whole group worked to get food, and all the work was for the benefit of all. No one lived by taking advantage of the work of another. That past makes us think of a much better future than what humanity lives today.

In capitalist society, all social relations are based on money. There are those who have the money and others only have their labor power to sell. Money is the bosses' weapon of control.

Under capitalism there is no solution, because money controls all aspects of our life, from when we are born until we die. You can't eat if you don't have money. If you don't want to freeze to death, you have to buy or rent a house or an apartment. And if you want to have a way to survive you have to go and sell your labor power to a boss.

In communist society, money will no longer exist. We workers will decide everything, from

what is necessary to learn, what needs to be produced and what does not, what is healthy and what is not. In collectives we will decide the best for all of society. We will solve many problems that capitalism has created and for which only communism has the solution.

Self-critically, our collective did not delve deeply enough into the question, but we said we would continue the discussion. This topic is not easy at all, but we must follow it up with in-depth discussions, using past experiences everywhere that our ICWP is.

Later we savored a delicious meal as the discussion continued to plan new meetings and activities to invite more friends to these discussions and win them to the Party and the communist revolution.

Worker Comrade

The Chalchuapa Case: Opportunity for Dialectical Study

In the case of the Chalchuapa murders in El Salvador, ex-policemen and ex-military men are accomplices in the disappearance and murder of 15 officially-confirmed victims so far. This case is about to fall into oblivion. It is being swept under the rug. This is thanks to the effort of the government to stop the case with court orders and also thanks to public threats from the Attorney General of the republic.

The government of New Ideas—President Nayib Bukele—is behind the statements of the Attorney General and the Minister of Justice about "reviewing" the murders (in particular, the Chalchuapa case). With this, the creation of a new "Ministry of Thought" is planned, not as an institution with a flagship building, but as a campaign to dominate the collective imagination of the working class.

Karl Marx said that, "History occurs twice: the first time as a great tragedy and the second as a miserable farce." The case of El Salvador is

not far from this description.

During a meeting, comrades said that there are similarities with this massacre and others that occur in Mexico or other Central American countries. Therefore, to address this issue, it was necessary to put this case in perspective. We must not only describe it, but take a dialectical approach. In a way they are right.

However, I would like to bring to the fore this kind of "normality," which involves taking this situation as something "similar" and not as a social phenomenon. A phenomenon that hits families affected by the irreparable loss of a loved one. From one member of our working class to numbers that eventually swell the ranks of the thousands of annual victims of organized violence and drug trafficking.

The dialectical approach to situations like this sets the tone for the organization and resistance of communists in times of calm, of crisis and in times of revolution. We learn from past events, and as developments occur, from the quantitative and qualitative approach to capitalist contradictions, etc.

The Nayib Bukele government is the prototype of the new fascist state that the bourgeoisie yearns for, with low intensity, but repressive policies. We are approaching situations seen before and during the civil war of 1980-1992. We can't forget that in peacetime the bourgeoisie prepares for war.

We need more unity and more communist struggle, in El Salvador and the world! To resist the attacks of capitalism in the economic and political plane. Our goal is clear: to destroy this system which is incapable of "justice."

We must take on the commitment to communist work, by spreading *Red Flag* and taking the discussion of the revolutionary communist alternative to the working class from today until we see our chains fall.

Comrade in El Salvador

CAPITALISTS USE SPORTS TO WHIP UP NATIONALISM AND DIVISION

LONDON (UK)— During the Euro Cup, I witnessed vicious and aggressive displays of English nationalism and Italian nationalism here. This included supporters from both sides shouting aggressively at each other across the streets of London's West End and even a minor riot by English fans who ended up throwing glass bottles at each other, the same side!

A good article in the last edition of *Red Flag* asked us to think about the role of sport under communism. As it said, we need to encourage sport for the health of the masses.

Physical education and fitness do not have to be competitive as they are in capitalist society. Athletics can be practiced on an individual level for personal improvement without being pitted against a fellow athlete. Gymnasts, for example, can perform extraordinary displays for the purposes of entertainment which need not be competitive at all.

We could invent new sports and games which promote cooperation and mutual activities. In the Soviet Union the Bolsheviks encouraged mass gymnastics and choreography for entertainment without competitiveness. This was adopted by other countries led by Communist Parties.

Because these parties attempted to 'build so-

cialism' rather than communism, they could not overcome class society and its emphasis of competitiveness, inequality and wage labour. But it showed physical education could be used in a different way.

Instead of having teams competing against other teams, why not have one team of athletes in a game in which all of them together must meet some goal or objective, perhaps as in some kind of assault course?

Or perhaps a team trying to beat a clock rather than each other. The possibilities are really endless. In communism the masses will be able to develop the new sports for the needs of communist culture and physical education. Mass games for the masses.

I spoke to workmates about this issue over lunch. They said it would be great to live under communist relations and encourage new activities and sport. They questioned if it would be possible, though. They said they think there are just too many 'greedy' people out there who want to get to the top, who will just want more of everything even if we abolish money.

I asked them if that is what they would do? They both said 'no' but said those who are rich today would not want to change or give up their

wealth.

I explained that they were correct. After a revolution we would have to stop those people spreading their ideas and we would have to transform our culture, like we had discussed about changing the type of sporting activities we would have. I used the example of how some human societies in the past lived with some communist aspects.

I also asked them to think about the difference between Chimpanzees and Bonobos in the wild. Chimpanzees fight, can be violent and have a strong leader. But Bonobos live collectively without violence. They share the food and have a less authoritarian structure and no classes in their groups.

This is not down to biology, as Humans, Chimps and Bonobos are very close genetically. It is down to the social-economic system. Humans are in the grip of capitalism and its culture. That is why we suffer poverty in a competitive, unequal, and warmongering system that pits workers against each other in a struggle to be 'best', aim to get to the 'top' or keep up with the Jones'.

After a communist revolution the culture must also be transformed as well as the economic base.

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Tokyo Olympics Hide Capitalism's Crimes

I am having discussions in New Delhi with some *Red Flag* readers about the Tokyo Olympics.

India won one gold medal and six silver and bronze medals. This is in a country of 1.4 billion people! The politicians, news media and celebrities are talking about this 'great' achievement incessantly, filling newspapers, social media, and airwaves.

The seven winners are hosted at special events with the fascist Prime Minister Modi while super-rich industrialists shower them with luxury cars, yachts, endorsements in TV.

The Tokyo Olympic Games hide horrific crimes committed by ruthless capitalism when coronavirus became a global pandemic. There were scenes of millions of workers walking home without public transport, hungry, thirsty, without basic medical care, walking up to 1000 miles to get home.

Some of our comrades participated in arranging food and transport to many in Delhi. We offered *Red Flag* and communism to the masses as the only way to end the system of exploitation. We consolidated friendships

among comrades who are still active with us.

The Tokyo Olympic games also hide that 120 million people in India have lost jobs. Food and petrol prices are skyrocketing. Unemployment is rising; over 50% of non-pregnant women are anemic. Fascist assaults on women, Muslims and Dalits are increasing every day, along with farmers' suicides as billionaires take over farms. These are the same billionaires who sponsor, finance, and endorse Olympic athletes.

In our informal talk with our comrades, we decided that *Red Flag* with communist ideas must reach the masses. It is our urgent need to see that we can form more and bigger collectives based on our experience in Delhi.

Comrades pointed out that some Olympic athletes made symbolic statements or personal stories against nationalism and sexism, but that itself gives an illusion of 'healthy dissent.'

We believe that it is very dangerous, because no Olympic athlete escapes years and years of corporate endorsement and financial rewards, and it molds them to be patriotic. Above all, they have nothing in common with the toiling masses.

We agreed with the *Red Flag* article that in

communism there will be no Olympics, World Cup, and other spectator sports. In communism, sports will be part of the masses. They will help and promote healthy collective production for the needs of everybody.

However, our most important and urgent task is to win the masses for communism now. When a society without money is created, the masses will figure out communist sports.

Comrade in India

Let's Take Personal Responsibility to Fight Collectively for Communism

"Here in the US, we will soon be able to get a Covid booster shot. But that's not right when so many people around the world can't even get their first one. Is it ethical to accept the booster?" a comrade wondered.

"It's capitalism!" a friend responded right away. "They want us to think we can solve problems by our personal choices. But we can't."

"If I refuse a third shot, that dose won't go to someone in India or Honduras," said the comrade. "When my mother was a child, kids were told to 'clean their plates because children are starving in Europe.' Any kid could see that nobody in Europe would get the table scraps whether they were eaten or if they went into the garbage."

Get the shot if you can, everyone agreed.

"It's like that with the environment, too," contributed another comrade. "We're told to take personal responsibility for how we live but isn't it like 20 fossil fuel companies that have been responsible for over a third of all greenhouse gas emissions?"

"I choose to live simply," said the friend, who had arrived at our dinner meeting on their bike. "It makes me feel more in solidarity with most people around the world but it doesn't really do them any good. It's the system that we have to change."

And we all agreed with that, too.

Collective in Los Angeles (USA)



MATERIALIST PHILOSOPHY: WEAPON FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

Material reality is inescapable. We have to deal with it whether we want to or not.

It is impossible for us to survive without eating. Iron bars can only bend if they are very hot. Water can't become solid without becoming cold.

Similarly, workers do not control the means of social production. Capitalists do. We must starve, submit or overthrow them. That is also inescapable.

Communist philosophy is called dialectical materialism. Workers must understand both dialectics and materialism in order to make a communist revolution. This article discusses some basics of materialism.

Many people think of materialism as greed, the desire for wealth or consumer commodities beyond any actual need. This is not what materialism means in philosophy.

Materialism is about the nature of reality. It says that material reality is basic. Everything else that is real, like ideas, doctrines, art and scientific theories, are rooted in physical and social material reality.

Materialism has existed since ancient times. A very simple—but wrong—version says that the only things that are real are what can be seen or touched. This is called tangible reality. This view leaves out the fact that the smallest parts of tangible reality, atoms and sub-atomic particles, can't be seen or touched. But the parts of real things must also be real.

Ancient Greek and Roman materialists had a more developed view. They said that the entire

natural world is made up of tiny particles of matter too small to see. This is largely correct. It has been updated by modern science, which also recognizes the interconnection of matter and energy.

The communists Karl Marx and Frederick Engels added a new social and historical dimension to this old materialism. Marx rejected what he called the “abstract materialism of natural science” because “it excludes the historical process” of social development.

Marx's updated materialism proposed that “All phenomena, whether produced by human hands or by the universal laws of physics, are not to be conceived of as actions of creation but solely as a reordering of matter.”

This new materialism saw societies, and the relationships among people that constitute societies, as material. Not just because people are made of atoms! The structures of society that determine whether people's basic needs are met, and how, is something material, every bit as much as a rock or the solar system is material.

What does it actually mean to be material? The older materialism said that material things have properties that humans may not know about at all, but are still real. The properties of material things are objective. They are properties of the things themselves, inherent in the things, independent of people's ideas about them.

The new materialism says the same thing about relationships of social production. Marx and Engels helpfully noted that “definite individuals who are productively active in a definite way

enter into these definite social and political relations.” Observations based on experience, they continued, must bring out, “without any mystification, the connection of the social and political structure with production.”

Garment workers, for example, know from experience that a constant struggle exists between them and the factory owners who exploit them. *Red Flag* brings out further connections between this class struggle and political structures (capitalist governments).

The old materialism said that some characteristics of material things are necessary. They are unavoidable since they are the result of the laws of nature. How material things change is at least partly determined by laws of nature. All living things eventually die. Iron rusts. Earthquakes happen. Volcanoes erupt. If something is material, it has characteristic, necessary modes of motion and change.

This is also true of capitalism. It has its own laws that “work themselves out with iron necessity,” as Marx wrote. The “social antagonisms” (class contradictions) of capitalism direct its future. Capitalism causes economic crises. Capitalism develops into imperialism and produces giant wars. Capitalism causes harmful climate change and mass pandemics.

Capitalism can never meet the needs of the masses, anymore than you can eat a rock for breakfast. Both are inescapable material realities.

Next article: *Materialism and the class struggle*

HAITI EARTHQUAKE: YOUNG DOCTORS AND STUDENTS BRING HEALTH CARE TO THE MASSES

August 24—Thousands died, tens of thousands are injured or homeless. The August 14 earthquake that devastated southwestern Haiti was a natural event, but capitalism made it a disaster.

Capitalism impoverished the masses. It forced them to shelter in structures clearly unable to withstand the earthquakes that regularly shake the island. It stranded them without food and without healthcare. This murderous racist system must go!

Amidst the destruction, the actions of Drs. Timothee Jean-Jacques, Wonston Raphael, Ruben Misaac Pierre, Stanley Ettenne, Medgina Felix and Physical Therapist Rose-Milord Celestin shine a light on the path forward to communism.

“Once we saw what happened, as young doctors, we were shaken,” said Dr. Pierre. “We said, ‘We have to bring our assistance no matter what the circumstances are.’ Even though there is insecurity in the country, we said, ‘We have to come help.’”

These young health workers pooled their resources to fill their backpacks with supplies. They braved the gang-controlled route out of the capital to reach hard-hit Les Cayes. They had no definite plan except to rely on the masses.

A clinic in Les Cayes didn't work out, but someone directed them to the devastated community of Marceline. There a local priest helped them borrow a tent. He offered the use of the soccer field by the church school. By day the tent would be their clinic, and by night their shelter.

Word spread. Patients arrived. The young medics set broken legs and treated head trauma. They enlisted others to take more severely injured patients to a government hospital. They

planned to stay until there were no more patients or no more supplies.

Then a group of university students arrived with two more tents, hygiene kits, another doctor and a mental-health specialist. Together the two groups collaborated to treat hundreds of patients.

“Whatever support you are giving to someone you have to first always consider them to be people,” said a psychology student. “You can't think you are better than them.”

“If we all move together, we will get there more quickly,” said the physical therapist. “If we all try to move together and someone is hit, we have to stop and give a helping hand. It's not something that affects just one group of people, it affects everyone.”

Contrast these young people with the NGOs that swarmed over Haiti after the 2010 earthquake. Those NGOs raised tons of money but got very little help to the masses in need. Instead, UN troops and refugee camps triggered epidemics of cholera and violence against women.

Then, as now, most of the first rescuers were Haitians who searched for neighbors in the rubble, often with their bare hands. They shared food and water. Many volunteered at hospitals.

The essence of communism is masses volunteering to do, collectively, whatever it takes to meet everyone's needs. The young Haitian doc-



tors and students in Marceline are putting this ideal into practice, whether or not they all see it that way.

Capitalism's economic and climate crises are creating more disasters everywhere, every day. These disasters create opportunities for many more of us to organize friends act on communist ideas as we see today in Marceline. But we see these also as opportunities to promote communist ideas to the masses and build the International Communist Workers' Party. Young comrades in India are showing us how to do this.

Haiti, right now, is politically as well as geologically unstable. A real communist party with a mass base would be planning for revolution to destroy capitalism. Such opportunities are becoming more common. Let's prepare now to fight for and build the communist world we need.