

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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



CAPITALISM FORCES WORKERS TO COMPETE COMMUNISM UNITES US

EL SALVADOR, September 30—"I feel discouraged and even sick, because I no longer want to work in the maquiladora every day," said a worker. "Every day the workplace harassment is more, and the bribes are more, and the profits that we are making for bosses are also much more."

One of the Party cells of women and men maquila workers has discussed workers' conflicts with each other over getting a few extra coins over the minimum wage. There are comrades who have understood the lesson that the more production in the factory, the greater the profit for the boss. "We must have more solidarity among the workers," commented a leader of the International Communist Workers' Party.

"In one production module, two workers, after arguing about producing more dozens of shirts than normal, ended up hitting each other," commented a comrade organized in the ICWP.

After listening to the comrade's story, we reached a conclusion: in this capitalist system, it is like that today. But from there comes the need to organize more workers for the party to end all these types of confrontation that the same system has created to divide our class.

And it became a reminder that in communism, bosses won't exist, nor will money, nor competition among workers.



India: Farmers' Struggle against Fascism Escalates

COMRADES FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM AS THE ONLY SOLUTION

DELHI (India), October 3—The world's second-largest city came to a grinding halt: shuttered Metros, snarled highways, trains not running. Thousands of farmers, farmworkers, and supporters are massing in Punjab and Haryana to protest farm laws that will hand over large swathes of land to corporations.

In the pouring rain, twenty comrades of the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) are showing the masses that communism is the only solution to this corporate sell-out.

The fascist ruling party BJP openly allies with India's largest multinationals. The Congress Party and various farmers' unions say they want a better deal for the farmers. But their proposals would make farmers perpetually dependent on private banks to pay for fertilizer, pesticides, seeds, and distribution of their products. This illusion has already resulted in the death of over 300,000 farmers.

We need communism where the masses will run every aspect of society without money. That means no banks, no mortgages, no wage slavery. At our rally in Punjab, every comrade passed out stacks of leaflets with this message.

We went to farmworkers and small farm owners who are in imminent danger of losing their land. Our message contrasted sharply with vari-

ous farmers' unions. We were surrounded by these pro-capitalist organizations. We were bold and at the same time careful. Our main task was to pass out our literature and get to know new people.

Our new comrades led the way by raising communist slogans that were instantly echoed by the masses. It is hard to translate our slogans, but they sent a clear message that Modi and Gandhi (the Congress Party leader) fight each other in the day but make deals at night. Communism will finish off all these enemies. Many such slogans expressed our communist vision.

At one point, the farmers' union leaders came very close and tried to intimidate us. We sensed that several were armed with sticks. We instantly recognized that the situation could get out of control. Our new comrades continued raising slogans. The masses followed it up, roaring their reply. The union bosses made a hasty retreat, but they warned us that we were too small.

Despite the constant downpouring of monsoon rains, our day had a very positive outcome. Each comrade brought some new worker. Some brought their neighbors. We estimate that at least 100 people attended the meeting. We are building very close bonds with these workers as

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COMMUNISM WILL LIBERATE WORKERS' KNOWLEDGE TO MEET THE MASSES' NEEDS

I work in a small factory where we manufacture medicines and pharmaceutical products. The management, preparing for a government inspection, are paying huge amounts of money to consultants to re-assess the quality systems and equipment we have used for years. Production has stopped until the consultation is complete. Who don't they consult the workers on the shop floor?

A whole industry is devoted to publishing books on quality issues. A workmate said, "Instead of wasting money on consultants they could have got us all to read the books on this subject". Years ago, a few of us pointed out improvements which could be made and we were ignored. Now they listen to highly paid 'experts'.

On a previous job, I worked in a large pharmaceutical corporation on a mass production line. I operated a computerised bottle-filling machine from the USA. I got to intimately learn the machine's quirks and the ways it worked.

Then, once, the machine broke down. The company brought over engineers and electricians from the US to find out what was wrong. But these 'experts' had great trouble with the general running of the machine. They had to ask me to stay behind and do overtime to show them all its quirks! Having a certificate saying you are an 'expert' does not mean you know everything or that your labour has more value than a so-called 'un-skilled' worker.

Labour creates all value. And often the lowest-paid work is the most essential—think farmers, cooks, and custodians—while those at the top of the salary scale do nothing useful at all.

Why do the capitalists need 'experts' and why are they paid so much more than workers?

First, 'experts' are necessary to promote the ideology of the capitalist ruling class and to reproduce the division of labour under capitalist production. Capitalists divide work into small

parts so that workers learn as little as possible about the productive process. They need to devalue the experience and knowledge that workers have. Workers who understand that we can organize productive work collectively, with mutual respect, can also see the potential of organizing the whole society that way.

Many 'expert' consultants specialize in organising ways to increase the exploitation of the working class. They make work processes more 'efficient'—that is, to speed us up! Communism will use our collective knowledge to organise work safely and cooperatively.

Thirdly, some 'experts' possess special knowledge of management secrets. They think and act in ways which suggests the bosses can trust them to run their enterprises. They are crucial to the bosses' competition, which capitalism requires, but which communism will eliminate.

This question of 'experts' has been a point of struggle within the communist movement for a century.

In the Soviet Union, Lenin and the Bolsheviks introduced the New Economic Policy in 1921, during the famine and crisis following the Civil War. It made significant concessions in power and pay to technicians and managers. Lenin himself soon noted that "communists are not directing anything, they are being directed," referring to the power of the economic and technical 'experts'.

During the Cultural Revolution in China in the 1960s, a key struggle was whether you needed to be 'Red' or 'expert'. Should class struggle and politics be at the forefront of work and life, or should work and cultural matters be organised by 'experts'?

Under the domination of experts, communist politics was left out. Work became focussed on economic efficiency, meaning production for profit and increased exploitation of workers. The

'experts' received more pay, perks and privileges than the workers.

The left struggled against this division of labour in the factories. They fought to merge manual and administrative and decision-making tasks. They encouraged cooperation between manual and technical workers in arriving at decisions. The work-place became a place for political study and cultural activities. Charles Bettelheim wrote about these struggles in *Cultural Revolution and Industrial Organization in China*.

However, many did not see at the time that the existence of wages encourages the perpetuation of managerial 'experts' and indeed the division of labour which sustains it. Workers will end up competing if it means more wages to survive on or getting an easier, better-paid desk job.

The left lost this struggle and China is now a capitalist power. The revolutions in the 20th century led by the Communist Parties were eventually defeated from within by the elevation to power of these very 'experts'.

We fight for a communist world without 'experts' and the division between "mental" and "manual" labour. We will create cooperative working conditions without wages and money. We will produce for human needs and not for 'efficiency' or profits.

NOTHING MOVES WITHOUT THE WORKING CLASS

UNITED KINGDOM, October 4—The results of low pay and lack of respect for industrial workers are becoming clearer during the current fuel shortage.

For decades, Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) drivers have been paid badly to work in a very stressful job with long hours and time away from home. Haulage firms, in recent years, also relied on temporary staff, often migrants. Now a combination of Brexit, poor conditions and low wages has led to a lack of HGV drivers.

This has meant petrol (gasoline) sitting in tanks in port. Delivery to petrol stations has been slow. This has led to panic buying at the petrol pumps, and stations have run dry. Many working-class people now cannot get to work in areas poorly serviced by public transport, and there are shortages of certain goods and services.

Today the government has deployed 200 military tanker personnel, including 100 drivers, to deliver gasoline to service stations. These workers in uniform are British capitalists' back-up to guarantee capitalism's functioning and profitability.

Industrial workers and soldiers are key to overthrowing this capitalist system and to building a communist world. We are reaching out to workers, including truck drivers and military personnel, around the world.



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STRUGGLING FOR COMMUNISM, NOT SOCIALISM: "IT'S A PROCESS"

SOUTH AFRICA—A comrade who was part of us briefly said he had “a problem reconciling our political line with his own views.” The struggle to recruit him will be helpful with other friends who share some of his ideas.

We had assumed that he was on board without deeply struggling with him to find out whether he agreed with our line. This conversation was an opportunity to try to understand his thinking.

He asked how society can function without money. We explained that in capitalist society, the material basis for most of the problems, if not all, is money. Money is the reason for poverty and greed, the reason for corruption and homelessness.

To destroy capitalism, we should do away with money completely and live by communist principles, where each person contributes according to their ability and commitment and receives according to their needs. That would be the most logical thing.

We need to explain further to the masses how this will be done practically. There are some examples which we can use. Before class society, people shared everything without money. After the Chinese Revolution, masses of people set up communes, mostly in rural areas. They produced and shared everything collectively without money.

Also, in the Cultural Revolution in China, there were barefoot doctors who were ordinary workers who learned in classes and then in practice how to cure diseases and treat wounds. They

took their knowledge straight to the masses to help them, as they worked alongside them.

Christian was open to our ideas. He's been a member of the South African Communist Party (SACP). We explained we don't think that the model the SACP proposes is beneficial to the working class. The SACP is in alliance with the African National Congress, who are openly serving the bosses, not the working class. The SACP is supposed to be the vanguard of the working class. They are not taking any leadership. Hence the working class generally is suffering here.

Christian views socialism as the final product to emancipate the working class, which is wrong. Socialism was never meant to be a final product. It was meant to be a transition period. Communism was supposed to be the final goal. They are not advocating fighting directly for communism.

We agreed on many things. But our point of contention is: how do we achieve our stated goal, to liberate the working class? He believes we can do that through socialism and we believe that only by fighting directly for communism, will we be able to liberate the working class.

We had underestimated our ideological differences. Struggling with him won't be mechanical. It's going to be a process. Our conversation was a good start to that process. We can expand on that to talk more about communism, how will it function.

We talked about how we will organize healthcare in communism. About the state of hospitals here. We said that in communism when

we are dealing with healthcare, we won't be solely focused on building hospitals.

Many things that we do are harmful to our health and drive people straight to hospitals. In communism they should be done away with. But because we are living in capitalist society, they sell these things just for profit. For example, diabetes kills more people here than HIV-AIDS. The only plan to address this is treatment, not prevention.

We need to encourage people to exercise more, to eat healthy diets. But now under capitalism they can't. Many people can't even afford to buy healthy food. The food they can afford is harmful to their health. But under communism, we will provide people's basic needs, including only healthy food. This will eliminate the need for them to go into the hospitals in the first place.

By talking and exposing that dynamic, Christian was able to see that there are benefits in what we are proposing. We will continue to struggle with him sharply around our line. Hopefully, he and many more friends will see that the only way for us to achieve the liberation of the working class is communism, and the only party that fights for communism is the ICWP.



INDIA: NO MORE FASCIST MURDERS! MOBILIZE FOR COMMUNISM!

UTTAR PRADESH (India). October 4—Four farmers were deliberately killed, and dozens more injured, by an SUV driven by the son of a state minister. Uttar Pradesh is run by the fascist BJP who have terrorized the masses and were considered invincible.

Thousands of protesters surrounded the helipad where the minister was to land. When the minister realized that landing his helicopter would be too risky, he aborted the mission and alerted his son who was there to receive him to turn back.

At that point, the SUV mowed down farmers who were going back. The farmers, in shock from seeing the ghastly killing, immediately attacked the minister's convoy. The masses dragged four BJP supporters out of the SUV and instantly killed them.

This has sent shockwaves all over India. Unprecedented demonstrations are rocking every corner of the country. French jets were reportedly scrambled in Punjab, heart of the farmer unrest. Punjab borders Pakistan and provides 30% of the Indian army.

Never underestimate the masses! ICWP comrades in India are concentrating forces in and around Delhi, including Punjab. They are on their way to showing that only a communist revolution will eliminate fascists and destroy their power.



INDIA STRUGGLE from page 1

everybody cooked for us and we were able to spend the night there.

“The International Communist Workers' Party calls on the international working class to join us in mobilizing the masses for communism,” declares the ICWP manifesto. The comrades in India are putting this into practice. They are or-

ganizing workers to bring communist ideas to the broader masses in the farmers' struggle.

We discussed the *Red Flag* article about communist society without money. The comrades from the garment factory in Bengaluru contributed that article. We met with four garment worker comrades. Next week we will meet with our friends in Chennai to talk about work in the

auto factories. We will write soon about how communist society will produce food without money. Our struggle is intensifying and gathering new communists.

Red Flag comments: *Thank you, comrades, for this inspiring report of your powerful work! We will use this article to advance the work of the Party everywhere.*

Moving Forward While Learning from the Past:

COMMUNISM, COLLECTIVITY, AND COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE

CALIFORNIA (USA), Sept. 26— “To combat climate change, we really need to listen to the original stewards of this land: indigenous peoples,” commented a young activist. During a local climate summit organized by a member of the ICWP, local organizers and community members gathered to process their anxieties caused by the climate crisis, and to formulate some action plans for the near future.

The group consisted of young organizers from across the county. All have been frustrated at the legislators’ lack of response to the climate crisis and specifically to the state of California’s lack of response to the historically devastating water crisis we are currently in.

This meeting occurred on Patwin and Yuki land. The organizers made it a priority to acknowledge the space they occupy as settlers on stolen land.

“It’s not enough to acknowledge that we are on stolen land,” a comrade said during one of the many discussions at the event. “We must also learn to decolonize our mindsets. In doing so we must learn to live in community with the land. Every piece of nature around us is alive, living and breathing and experiencing the world just like we are.”

This meeting took place in Northern California, right outside of a tremendous agricultural zone where a majority of California’s almonds are grown. Almonds are the state’s biggest and most important economic export. Eighty percent of the world’s almonds are grown in California.

“Almonds use one of the highest amounts of water of any crop but of course politicians don’t care about the environmental effects of mass almond production because all they care about is money” said another comrade present, who runs a community garden out of a neighborhood in the Bay Area.

The discussion jumped to what communism will do to put an end to the climate crisis. Many of the comrades present agreed that with communism, the equal allocation of resources will put an end to the culture of overproduction we have



so normalized. Likewise, the collectivization of the land will more than likely mean that communities are responsible for gardening and raising their own food when they can. We will get to figure that out.

Communist agriculture will add to soil health and curb the emissions that come from animal agriculture, which is the number one contributor to climate change. All of this as well as the implementation of more public transportation, the decrease in toxic waste, and more will curb the effects of climate change tremendously. Only with communism can we achieve this!

Indigenous nations lived in harmony with the land for thousands of years. The respect they had for Mother Earth extended to their means of production. They made their ways of life sustainable and accessible to everyone by mindfully interacting with the Earth.

When they picked their crops or hunted animals, they made use of every piece of their harvest, knowing that a life was given to sustain them and that all lives are worthy of honor and dignity.

They shared everything amongst their communities because they knew that the only way to live

justly was in a way that promoted collectivity. All of these traits are consistent with communist ideals. It is unjust and unfair to destroy the Earth for the gain of a small group of people who economically thrive off of exploitation of all kinds.

As communists, we commit to resisting exploitation by the bourgeois class, and as working-class communists we have a responsibility to commit to the intersectionality of that fight. When we fight for communism, we must recognize that we are fighting for a way of life that has existed before but underwent an attempted erasure, especially when the forces of capitalism became too powerful for indigenous communities to bear.

The communities that lived in accordance with communism, of course without naming it, managed to live in accordance with the earth while doing so. While moving forward in our praxis and fight for communism we must remember that we have knowledge to gain from looking to the past, and even some current, ways of life led by indigenous communities.

The Earth is begging for communism, collectivity, and an end to the exploitation!

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Disagreements about Dialectical Materialism

The recent series on dialectical materialism made some good points but has serious problems that should be taken care of.

The first problem is the length. The two installments add up to almost 1400 words. That’s a lot of reading, and at a fairly high reading level (grade 9). We should never forget that many of our readers have been poorly trained by the bosses’ educational system and have a lot of trouble reading long and complex texts.

This is especially important for articles on dialectical materialism, which has a reputation for being difficult. Publishing 1400 words on a basic introduction just reinforces this stereotype.

The second problem is with the content. The articles claim there are actually two kinds of materialism, the “old” and the “new”. I have studied materialism for a long time but this distinction is new to me.

And nowhere, in one place, is there a concise definition of either one or the difference between them.

At one point we are told that “The old materialism simply said that everything that is real is made of matter.” Sounds fine to me!

Yet it seems to follow that the “new” materialism says that some things that are real are not made of matter. Like what?

We have at least one answer: it says, without qualification, that “ideas are not material”. Not material? If they aren’t material, what are they?

This is blatant idealism. Everything that is real is matter (in motion). Ideas are forms of motion of human brains. No brains, no ideas.

The spread of ideas is a material change in the real world. The emergence of consciousness (hundreds of thousands of years ago) was one such change. More recently the emergence of communist consciousness is also a significant change in the real world. Eventually it will lead to the emergence of communism itself.

We need a truly materialist dialectical materialism to help us spread communist consciousness and change the material world. The “new” materialism is not what’s needed.

-Comrade in Canada



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Shifting Imperialist Alliances Lead to Crisis and War

YOUNG COMMUNIST WORKERS AND SOLDIERS WILL END DEADLY CAPITALIST SYSTEM

October 2—Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States (AUKUS) announced a new military alliance on September 15. It directly challenges China in the Indo-Pacific region, which has 60% of global maritime trade. It also intensifies rifts with Europe. The new deal cancelled an Australian contract to buy submarines from France in order to build US-designed nuclear-powered subs instead.

But the future is in the hands of the international working class, not of the US, Chinese and other imperialists.

“The right-wing government in Australia has exposed fault lines as the trade with China diminishes, mountains of wines and minerals are piling up unsold, and the workers’ jobs are no longer secure,” writes a *Red Flag* reader in Melbourne, Australia. “Millions of workers are looking for a better alternative. Communism is rising from the ashes. Please send us *Red Flag* for some of my friends.”

AUKUS is the latest stage in the Obama-Biden administration’s 2011 “Pivot to Asia.” Now, ten years later, the global positions of the US and the UK are weaker and that of China has become stronger.

Brexit and the UK’s current trucking crisis have exposed the UK’s desperate struggle to maintain remnants of its dying empire. Once the dominant global naval power, it can no longer even finance a credible naval force. The humili-

ating US exit from Afghanistan dramatized its own limitations.

AUKUS means to provide a military umbrella for the Quad (Australia, India, US and Japan). The Quad is attempting to create a competing supply chain to challenge China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Begun in 2013, BRI now links over 135 countries in Asia-Pacific, Africa, Europe and Latin America. The Quad has a big fight ahead.

As the Melbourne comrade suggests, China (formerly Australia’s largest trading partner) is finding new markets and sources of raw materials. This is creating a crisis of overproduction of critical commodities like iron ore. China once sourced 80% of its iron ore from Australia but is now developing a supply chain from Guinea (in western Africa).

This global realignment has military dimensions. For example, US Green Berets in Guinea were taken by surprise in September when their military trainees mounted a coup to install a new regime that now supports French imperialism.

But rising Chinese imperialism has its own internal contradictions.

Food delivery workers in China organized several strikes in September. They are among 110 million workers in the Chinese gig economy who face long hours, reduced wages, and who lack basic housing and health care.

The glittering neon signs of shopping malls

can’t hide thousands of unoccupied high-rise buildings. This economic uncertainty translates directly to a Chinese military filled with young people who are only there for the paycheck—much like the US Army.

Chinese imperialism is pushing up against the limits imposed by US-dominated post-World War II institutions (World Bank, International Monetary Fund, World Trade Organization). This makes a third world war increasingly likely.

Masses everywhere want an alternative to openly fascist butchers like Modi, Trump, Bolsonaro, the UK’s Boris Johnson and Australia’s Scott Morrison. Some mistakenly think that alternative is liberal politicians like the US Biden-Harris administration. But images of racist attacks on Haitian refugees and of Harris coying up to Modi should help to dispel that illusion.

The only alternative for the working class is to end the system of wage slavery that is the root of imperialism and its wars. Our youth everywhere have a great potential to defend and advance our class by fighting for communism, rather than sacrificing their lives to defend our class enemies.

This poses an urgent task for our International Communist Workers’ Party. We need consistent work and a long-term outlook of building communist collectives, especially in factories and armed forces today. This will create a new generation of revolutionaries who will lead the masses to win and build our communist future!

SOLDIERS, SAILORS AND COMMUNISM: PAST AND PRESENT

A young veteran reported to a recent ICWP International Meeting about the importance of communist military work. The report began with some history of the role soldiers and sailors played in the Paris Commune of 1871 and the events that occurred on the Russian battleship *Potemkin* in 1905.

The Paris Commune was a workers’ revolution that took place in the aftermath of the Franco-Prussian War. National guardsmen stood up to the French government and took power in Paris by taking up arms against the French army. When the people of Paris took power, they established their own government in which a committee of leaders was elected. Many of these leaders were national guardsmen.

In 1905, the sailors of the *Potemkin* mutinied and eventually took control of the ship in protest

of the conditions the officers of the ship were enforcing on the enlisted men.

Unfortunately, in both cases, a lack of communist organization and leadership made the successes of both those movements short-lived. The Parisians would eventually lose power due to internal flaws within their newly established government which allowed the French government to regain control of Paris. The sailors of the battleship *Potemkin* would eventually forfeit the ship and go into hiding due to a lack of long-term vision.

The takeaway for the party is to recognize the importance that soldiers and sailors play in the process of any movement. Soldiers and sailors not only have specialized training, but they also have access to weapons that any serious movement will need. Therefore, the party must

see the necessity of recruiting active and prior military members.

In the meeting, another comrade then spoke about his time in the US military during the Vietnam era. He focused on issues he used to build a communist collective of soldiers. A younger comrade talked about his experience organizing in the US army within the last decade.

Despite having been in the military decades apart, the two com-

rades experienced many of the same things during their enlistments. Both saw racism, as well as sexism and classism: all the readily handy tools used by capitalism to further its imperialistic pursuits. That both the comrades experienced similar events gives us insight into the topics we can use to win over past and present military members.

For example, racism is still rampant in the armed forces. Last summer, a friend reported that his training brigade was split between right-wing boogaloes and a larger group of young multi-racial soldiers. Immediately, soldiers organized study groups on the role of systemic racism.

They made the mistake of appealing to officers and the staff sergeant. The higher ups swore but did nothing about the racists.

Our friend emphasized that these racists could not be ignored. He used US history to bolster his argument. Many soldiers gave our friend their contact information in preparation for the battles within the army that they all knew lay ahead. Experiences like this are not limited to this one training brigade.

Soldiers’ future will include not only racism, but extreme sexist abuse and vicious attacks on workers in the US and elsewhere, as well as imperialist invasions. We must struggle for a clear understanding how only communism can end these attacks in and out of the army. The communist fight against racism and sexism are once again gateways to joining the ICWP.

The report ended with a call to all party members and friends. The military work cannot be done solely by the military committee members. Every collective of the ICWP needs to work on helping communist military work grow, because we all stand to gain from more service member participation.



Comrades in South Africa distributing *Red Flag* to soldiers

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In Defence of May Day banner

In the last issue of *Red Flag*, some comrades sent a letter criticising the banner "Building the Worldwide Proletarian Revolution" used on May Day by comrades in El Salvador and its use in the newspaper. I think this criticism is mistaken.

The letter stated that we are fighting for communist revolution and not a proletarian revolution. But the proletarian revolution is for communism.

We cannot stop being proletarians when we make revolution, which is by its nature a protracted process and struggle.

As we know from previous experiences of proletarian revolutions, it will occur in different places at different times due to the uneven nature of capitalist imperialism. There will be liberated areas, which will have to abolish the wage and commodity system and implement communist relations. We know now the mistakes of "building socialism" by the old communist movement which led to capitalism.

The comrades say in the letter that the goal of the revolution is not a proletarian state. Of course, that isn't our end goal. But this does not mean a liberated area creating communist relations can dispose of the dictatorship of the proletariat.

When there are still capitalist countries and classes existing in the world, the communist areas will still require a state led by the communist party, that is the ICWP.

There will still be many people and those from the former capitalist class, big and small, who will still desire and plot to restore capitalism, despite the abolition of the wage system, money and commodity production.

There will still therefore be a distinction between proletarian outlook and a capitalist one. Hence the need for a dictatorship of the proletariat until the whole world is liberated from capitalism.

The difference will be that, this time around, we will be able to avoid some of the major er-

rors of the old communist movement, where in Russia and China the dictatorship of the proletariat created state capitalism and a new bourgeoisie.

-Comrade in London

"We Are the Proletarian Class, Who Build the Communist Revolution"

The preparations for an activity such as May Day require a lot of organization. They include several tasks, and one of them of great importance is the material that is going to be used. It must reflect a clear message to the working class of the goals of the struggle of ICWP.

We believe that we have achieved this every time we have marched, through slogans and the distribution of the Party's manifesto and newspaper.

The content of the banner that was carried in this year's May Day march has been the subject of criticism from some comrades. They say that "it does not express what our objective is."

I think the criticism is useful and we can say that it leads us to discuss this more fully. The proletariat is considered to be the social class that can acquire the means to subsist only by selling its labor power. That is, we are part of the wage-earning class.

Who are we, the members of the International Communist Workers' Party? We are the proletarian class, the class that sells its labor power, but we are also the ones who build the communist revolution.

We are making the revolution for communism, but we are proletarians. It is in this sense that the slogan was written.

The criticism letter also mentioned that "the photo has been used in several editions" of *Red Flag*. So its content is criticized, but also its use in *Red Flag*.

Practice shows us some aspects that we must take into account in this process.

We are learning to function collectively. This also requires that the comrades dedicate more

time to reviewing the content of the material that we are going to show to the working class. We can only achieve this through discipline and understanding of the line of ICWP.

These are important lessons for more comrades to get involved in this activity.

We appreciate the comrades' criticism because it has led us to review the origins of the proletariat. Historically, it is there where the struggles have been born, and they are pointing the way and correcting errors of the old communist movement.

-Comrade in El Salvador

Capitalist Governments Create Health Disaster for the Masses

In El Salvador right now we have two problems. The first is that the management of the Covid-19 pandemic by the government is subordinated to the publicity of the government. In other words, there's no real information about the magnitude of the new wave of infection. Neither is there official information from the ministry. So, there's poor management of the Covid pandemic on the part of the ministry to protect the image and marketing of the government of El Salvador.

There is a surge in cases among teachers and students. The Ministry of Education issued orders not to close the schools in spite of the fact that approximately 55 teachers and 8 students have died from the virus, according to reports in the local press.

Second, it's been sixty years and governments everywhere along the political spectrum still haven't renovated the only hospital at the third level of public hospitals. This is the only one that takes in patients in extremely delicate condition, and the only one that has doctors with this sub-specialty. This in spite of the fact that private hospitals are building luxurious and sophisticated structures.

Health Care comrade in El Salvador



LOS ANGELES (USA), October 2— "Revolution is in the house!" called out a friend, spotting a communist poster on a car lining up in an otherwise reformist "Women's March" caravan in Pasadena. Participants had already taken 65 copies of the ICWP pamphlet "The Communist Fight against Sexism" and dozens of copies of *Red Flag*. At the same time, thousands were marching in downtown Los Angeles, where eight comrades distributed 300 copies of *Red Flag* and 200 of the pamphlet. These events were among 600 nationwide responding to the fascist Texas anti-abortion law.

THE COMMUNIST FIGHT AGAINST SEXISM

AN INTERNATIONAL PAMPHLET

AVAILABLE AT
ICWPREDFLAG.ORG/SXSE.PDF



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

Workers: Fight the Whole Capitalist System!

“Will there be some activity for the September 15 [Independence Day] march in the capital?” asks a student.

“The struggle is not only against the government of New Ideas in El Salvador. It is against the entire system. We can’t march with the business groups or bosses’ unions,” responds an ICWP comrade.

The September 15 protests in San Salvador against the dictatorial policies of the government show that, once again, a bourgeois and capitalist government has not, cannot, and will not solve the problems of the working class, like crime, economic crisis, environmental disaster and gender inequalities.

Days earlier, ICWP collectives discussed whether it was strategic and safe to participate in this march. Some thought that it was not, due to the convergence of business groups and ideological institutions of businessmen opposed to the current government. Other comrades spoke about the importance of the protest, the presence of workers who sympathize with revolutionary ideas and the opportunity to get to know them.

Due to the patriotism and opportunism of the electoral left in El Salvador, it was decided not to attend. Instead, a small group of comrades from the International Communist Workers’ Party would accompany the march from outside. At strategic points they would watch the protest and observe its development.

These anti-government protests are a plan of capitalist strategists to divert the workers’ attention from the real causes and solutions to the structural problems here, which are also shared by workers in other capitalist nations.

It is a false sense of doing the right thing, charting a path that will lead again to another government under a state and economic system controlled by the bourgeoisie. The International Communist Workers’ Party is building the political-ideological communist line of the workers’ international movement day by day. Today, September 15, was no exception.

ICWP collectives took advantage of this free day to discuss online articles, proposals for letters, and to strengthen social relations between cells and among their members. As this letter is being written, discussions continue about the line of the ICWP. This is a sign of the commit-

ment of each of the members of the communist cells that make up this movement.

The ICWP calls on the working class to organize and march against the economic policies and measures of the bourgeoisie. The enemy is not just one person or one government. It is the entire state and ideological apparatus of the bourgeoisie.

The option and the voice of the workers is written in the lines of the *Red Flag* newspaper. Let’s fight to build an organized, militant, supportive international communist movement.

Comrade in El Salvador

Workers March Against Repression – Communists Show the Way Forward

The Salvadoran working class, united for a single cause, united all with one voice, against the system. No more repression, no more injustice and tired of all our gains being attacked, we have gone out to march this memorable date of 15th of September 2021, which commemorates El Salvador’s independence from Spain.

The workers have the power to end the capitalist system. It is a priority to analyze strategies that favor us in the face of this situation so that we can participate in more marches, in organizing ourselves to continue in the struggle for our cause, so that our International Communist Workers Party continues to inspire us to always struggle and give support, as the voice of the workers.

During the march we were able to have discussions with workers. They agree that they no longer want any more repression, no more to be under the yoke of power. They proclaim that this is the first march of many in which we are all united against the violation of our rights. NO MORE SILENCE, no more repression and social injustice, they proclaim the freedom of the masses in continuing to fight for the cause.

Today we continue to make history; 200 years of resistance; of constant struggle against the repression of the capitalist system. All the past governments and the current government have administered the bosses’ system.

The rulers use the word freedom at

their convenience, a product of the capitalist electoral system to which we have been subjected for many years. They call it freedom--no matter how much our rights of free expression are violated, no matter how much they want to silence us, using and attacking workers by forcing them to confront and block the same workers who wanted to express their dissatisfaction and anger with what we are experiencing in our country.

We stand up because of so much injustice. We make our voice and the voice of the voiceless cry out. We all march together because on this day it was seen that justice has an ideology, because social well-being is a citizen’s right. Well-being for a full life is a right of all, not only of the rich who subjugate and subdue the masses.

We in the ICWP must take the initiative to mobilize the masses to destroy this oppressive capitalist system. We must distribute our Red Flag so that more comrades will join us in our cause.

The struggle continues.

Another Comrade in El Salvador

Red Flag note: *The two letters above represent different points of view among comrades in El Salvador. We look forward to responses from other readers and collectives.*



HAITI: CENTURIES OF STRUGGLE from page 8

In 1994, Biden chaired the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He declared that “If Haiti just quietly sunk into the Caribbean or rose up 300 feet, it wouldn’t matter a whole lot to our interests.” But it wasn’t true. US imperialism profited from Haitian workers’ misery.

After the devastating 2010 earthquake, the Obama-Biden administration imposed more neoliberal anti-working-class policies, at gunpoint. They promised a new port and industrial development but ended up building only a few fancy hotels. The US military took over Haiti’s airspace and crowded out much of the relief aid. The US ambassador said, “We’re not really planning in terms of weeks or months or years. We’re planning basically to see this job through to the end.”

Out of about 10 million Haitians, 316,000 died and 1.6 million were displaced. Many migrated to Brazil and then Chile. Now the Covid-related economic crisis is forcing them to the US southern border.

The Haitian masses are the poorest in the Western hemisphere. More than half live on less than \$1 a day, and more than 80% on less than \$2 a day.

And they are potentially among the most revolutionary. It is time to kick out the racist imperialists and fight for communism to end all racism, imperialism, and exploitation.



“You know Boeing would do the same to us, if they could!”

US SOUTHERN BORDER ATROCITIES & MIGRANT CRISIS: OPPORTUNITY TO MOBILIZE BROADLY FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

SEATTLE (USA)— “Yes, I saw the video of the fascists on horseback whipping Haitian migrants with their reins,” said a retired Boeing comrade, C. “But what bothers me the most is how we [the masses] got into this situation in the first place.”

His reaction raises the further question: “How do we get out of this situation?”

The short answers are: Capitalism got us into this situation. And communism will get us out.

“That’s a good way of looking at it!” said C.

Masses around the world are passionately debating these questions. Even as the news broke about the atrocities at the southern US border, nearly 60 African migrants drowned while trying to reach Spain’s Canary Islands. Spain and Morocco did nothing to avert the tragedy even though they were notified of the impending calamity. Tens of thousands of migrants are homeless on the streets of Colombia and Venezuela.

Just like Trump, the Biden administration has deported thousands, now Haitians, denying them even a chance to apply for asylum. Thousands more have been pushed back into Mexico.

Wherever these migrants are forced to settle—be it the US, Mexico, or Haiti—they are not mere victims. They are potential revolutionary communist leaders.

These escalating attacks call on our party and *Red Flag* readers to struggle with everyone we know for the necessity of communist revolution.

A New Jersey teenager, whose family is close to the party, discussed this issue in her class when her teacher showed a video clip of the Texas Border Patrol fascists in action. This gave her grandmother an opportunity to help her delve deeper into the subject. Comrades and friends in the schools should be on the alert for opportunities like this or find ways to create them.

This is clearly a teaching moment to show the need for communist revolution.

Spread the Discussion from Classrooms to the Factories and Beyond

Education doesn’t happen only (or mainly) in classrooms. Boeing comrades and friends are making a special effort to spread this discussion among industrial workers. To better prepare our comrades and friends, C. suggested a short “cheat

sheet” of Haitian history highlights. “Good job! That will help,” he said after reviewing the notes.

One Boeing worker focused on the pictures of the Haitian migrants clutching bags of food as the fascists on horseback tried to drive them back into Mexico.

“This is outrageous!” he said. “Do you know how much food is thrown away under capitalism? Just feed them! They need to eat!”

In communism, the party will organize masses to feed the masses: to each according to need. Collective production based on voluntary labor will use food, not waste it.

Another Boeing friend, who is being forced to work at a dangerous job, took the time to discuss the southern border with comrades. The images of the Border Patrol whipping Haitian refugees prompted her to declare, “You know the company would do the same to us [Boeing workers] if they could!”

Biden may succeed in temporarily banishing this issue from the front pages of the capitalist media. But he and his ruling class buddies will never extinguish the anger and fight of the global masses.

We will “get out of this situation” by building the ICWP and expanding its influence. Immigrants will take the lead. Communist masses will build a new future, free of racism, xenophobia and deadly forced migrations. There will be no nations and no borders to divide our global family. Everyone will be welcome everywhere.



SEATTLE (USA), October 2—Protesters at the Women’s March thanked comrades for raising the issue of the atrocious treatment of Haitians at the Texas border. Our sign and *Red Flag* put communism on the agenda, making the elimination of sexism, racism and national borders hot topics of discussion. We distributed more than 100 copies of *Red Flag*.



MEXICO/GUATEMALA, BORDER August 28—Haitians confront Mexican police and National Guard stopping the immigrant caravan.

Haiti:

CENTURIES OF STRUGGLE AGAINST RACIST IMPERIALISM

The Haitian masses have long inspired many with their fight against capitalist exploitation.

French colonialism, starting in the seventeenth century, largely destroyed the indigenous Taino people who lived collectively on the island before Columbus landed in 1492. French capitalism therefore relied on enslaved Africans to produce the raw goods that made Haiti its richest colony.

The enslaved Black workers rebelled in 1791. Their sustained struggle routed the French military and won independence in 1804.

This fight against the most profitable, most fully-developed example of European imperial sugar plantation system had global impacts.

France had to sell the huge “Louisiana Territory” to the US. This led to genocidal “westward expansion” that guaranteed the spread of slavery in North America.

US enslavers were terrified that the Haitian example would encourage slave revolts on the

mainland. At their behest, the US refused to recognize Haiti for 60 years.

In 1825, French warships forced Haiti to agree to pay a huge “indemnity” to compensate French capitalism for its lost “property” – including enslaved people. French imperialism eventually extorted the equivalent of about US\$21 billion.

US imperialists then bought up Haiti’s bank so that National City Bank of New York (now Citibank) could collect related interest payments.

That’s how a rich island became desperately poor. Haiti’s loan debt to the US ate up about 20% of its annual revenue, and it’s only gotten worse.

The notoriously racist US President Woodrow Wilson ordered a US invasion of Haiti in 1915. Major General Smedley Butler led it. He later wrote, “I helped make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City Bank boys to collect revenues in.... I was a gangster for capital-

ism.”

The US military imposed racist segregation, press censorship, and forced labor. But in 1934, workers’ revolts, strikes and uprisings ended the direct US occupation.

US imperialism was far from done. In 1937 it orchestrated a massacre of 15,000 people on the border of Haiti and the Dominican Republic. This was to enforce a racist division between “white” Dominicans and “black” Haitians.

Later, US imperialism imposed neoliberal agricultural policies on Haiti. During the 1990s, it forced Haiti to cut tariffs on imported crops. It then shipped surplus American crops into Haiti’s ports under the guise of “Food for Peace.” Haitian subsistence farmers could not compete, and many thousands lost their land.

The idea was to create a cheap labor force for factories, but the factories never materialized.

See HAITI: CENTURIES OF STRUGGLE, page 7