

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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



October 23—Metal Workers on Strike in South Africa



New Comrades Organize in Lakhimpur, India: **SPREAD REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST IDEAS EVERYWHERE**

INDIA, October 24—All ICWP collectives here responded enthusiastically to a call to intensify our participation in the farmers' movement in order to mobilize the masses for communism.

A retired army officer joined our rally with his two sons. "I want everyone to know that this is a war against fascist capitalists," he declared. "I fought two wars against Pakistan, now I am organizing for a real war against the billionaire blood suckers".

Modi's fascist BJP government brazenly attacked farmers in Lakhimpur, Uttar Pradesh. The deputy Minister of Home Affairs, who oversees the police and internal security of the entire country, was directly involved in the killings. His son's SUV convoy mowed down several farmers and fired on the masses.

Farm workers and farmers reacted swiftly. Four BJP supporters who could not escape in the speeding SUV were instantly killed. The news of the massacre of farmers spread all across India. Mass evening rallies were organized in every town and village of north India.

In this unprecedented situation, ICWP comrades organized about sixty workers who came with our political line for the first time. One entire family of seven came with us.

A 23-year-old teacher liked our fight for communism and brought several youths with him. Several other young people joined us who have been trying to enlist in the army as there are no jobs.

A young YouTuber with social-media skills jumped to the idea of organizing the masses for communism. Yet another young person who speaks fourteen languages was thinking how we can make communism easily accessible in these languages. Many more stories emerged of people coming to us looking for our fight to end capital-

ism with communist revolution.

Elsewhere, three experienced comrades organized a large contingent to go to Lakhimpur, where four farmers were killed. They took a seven-hour train ride to get there. It turned into a class of communism. Workers read *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*.

There was very intense discussion about how socialism turned into deadly capitalism because it kept wage slavery. People related to this because in India almost half a billion people are involved in agriculture.

Half a billion people freed from wage slavery, money, banks, and mortgages can collectively produce what we need. No more banks hounding them, police brutality, religious ignorance, communalism [religious bigotry], or farms turning into deadly factories full of pesticides. Instead, a new communist society can create the foundation for fulfilling need and not profit.

Remarkably, everyone participated in this discussion about mobilizing directly for communism.

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VACCINATE FOR CLASS SOLIDARITY, NOT FOR BOSSES' MANDATES

USA, October 23— "As a teacher, I am frightened," wrote a comrade three weeks ago. "Unvaccinated students are attending school. But as a teacher I am mandated to teach in person, while school district officials hide in their offices. They don't give a damn about the education or the safety of those students."

Many private and public institutions (including schools) are now mandating Covid vaccination. Hundreds of healthcare and airline employees have been fired for refusing to submit proof of vaccination.

In capitalism, being fired puts a worker at risk of homelessness and starvation. That won't be true in communism, where all will be supplied according to need. If someone can't or won't comply with health and safety measures, they could be excluded from doing a particular kind of work. We would find other work for them, and meanwhile they would have food, health care and shelter just like everyone else.

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MOBILIZE TO DEVELOP A NEW GENERATION OF COMMUNIST LEADERS

October 17—Ten thousand engineers (members of the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa) plus others are on strike. What should party comrades do when we have no members among the strikers?

That's the question that opened today's meeting of the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) Steering Committee.

The leading comrade in South Africa described a plan worked out at a collective meeting the day before. He knows scores of people. Times like these offer opportunities to struggle for our communist goal among lots of people. He will struggle with scores but will focus on two he thinks can become ICWP leaders.

A comrade in Seattle (USA) remembered how, years ago, a few comrades and friends led hundreds to march through the Boeing factory, reaching out to tens of thousands of industrial workers. The collective built lifelong ties with one Black worker. She joined and spread the struggle to thousands more, recruiting family members. Just last month, her daughter brought her boyfriend to the party's summer BBQ. He left with a pile of

party literature.

Another comrade talked about a Black university student in the USA who was a leader in the anti-apartheid fight in the 1970s. He developed ties with many in South Africa and with the comrade. Now a professor, he wants to introduce our party and its communist politics to miners in South Africa and other workers he knows.

A maquila comrade in South Africa gave an exciting report about how recruiting ones and twos has recently led to the expansion of the industrial work there to more factories. They are planning a conference to consolidate even more members and leaders.

A pattern emerged. We must have a mass presence, while recruiting ones and twos (and threes and fours). These new recruits change the dynamics of our collectives. They begin to lay the basis for implementing our strategy: mobilizing the masses for communism. Expanding collectives will allow us to reach many more.

The party's communist line is a key advantage. The power of our communist vision is enriched with every recruit.

We must move fast to consolidate newer, younger members to guarantee the next generation of leaders. These new members help us see more clearly the world we live in as we fight to mobilize the masses for communism.

We must fight hard to develop international, multi-racial membership of all genders. The Steering Committee must make sure it can gather insights from collectives everywhere.

Some comrades already have communist relationships with many people; some less so. We can all improve. Each collective must decide on whom to concentrate and on specific activities and tactics.

None of this will happen overnight. Recruiting and consolidating new communist organizers requires a laser-like focus on the part of comrades and, even more importantly, our collectives everywhere. There is no magic bullet. All Party collectives should make and carry out concrete plans to advance this struggle. Then share the results in *Red Flag*.

The expanding international strike wave opens new opportunities for the Party to grow now!

Massive Global Strike Wave Shows Workers' Power

WE NEED COMMUNIST REVOLUTION: NOTHING TO LOSE BUT OUR CHAINS!

October 23—Mass shutdowns in India supporting farmers and farmworkers protesting fascist farm laws! Tens of thousands of metal workers in South Africa on strike, with other unions in solidarity! One-day general strike in South Korea! Almost 100,000 US industrial and health care workers on or ready to strike: Alabama coal miners, factory workers at John Deere, Kellogg, Nabisco, and more.

They are striking for their lives. Pushing back against the bosses' attempts to control the workplace ever more tightly – to squeeze ever more profits from our labor.

Since the pandemic started, corporations and the super-rich have gotten insanely richer while most workers are worse off than before. In Haiti, Mexico, Chad, and East Timor, many are starving or near starvation. Even in the US, 25% of workers' families have been food-insecure this year – and over 50% of Black workers' families.

Strikes show us – more importantly than showing the bosses – that we are not simply angry exploited individuals. We are members of the mighty international working class!

But if we use our power only to strike for reforms, we are doomed to remain wage slaves. Capitalism – whether democratic or openly fascist – gives dictatorial powers to those who own the means of production. Its inner logic forces them to turn the screws on us to maximize their profits. Competition among imperialists – like the US, Europe and China—lead from trade wars to shooting wars. Workers, including those in military uniforms, die for the capitalist rulers' profits.

We need to organize the power of the international working class for revolution to destroy this deadly system. Industrial workers and soldiers must mobilize masses for a communist society where we will be fully in charge.

Communism means no wages, no private ownership of production. Instead, collective work for the common good. No buying, selling or exchanging. Instead, sharing what we produce according to need. No nations or borders – one global family!

No cops, jails, police to suppress us, kill us, and force us to submit. Instead, communities organized to handle anti-social behavior and to prevent capitalists from using racist-fascist gangsters to restore their rule.

No division between “mental” and “manual” labor! Lifelong learning, especially in workplaces, will prepare all workers to innovate, make decisions, plan and carry out work collectively with the Party's leadership.

Communism will thrive on unity and eliminate competition among workers. Thus, it can end racism, sexism, xenophobia, and all the “isms” that capitalists use to divide us, dilute our power, and maximize profits.



South Korea, October, 2021: One Day General Strike

Unions can't win the world we need because they accept capitalism's limits and rules. They devolve into a branch of management and a feeding trough for corrupt officials. Unionism can, at best, give us only roomier cages and shinier chains.

The liberation of the working class and the world's broader masses requires a communist outlook and an **International Communist Workers' Party**.

Let's meet and talk! Contact us in person or on social media. Read, discuss and distribute *Red Flag* and other ICWP literature especially with friends and family. Send letters, articles and pictures. Join or organize an ICWP collective.

We have nothing to lose but our chains. We have a communist world to win.

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COMMUNIST PHILOSOPHY HELPS FACTORY WORKERS ORGANIZE ICWP

EL SALVADOR, October 25— “I gave the *Red Flag* newspaper to my sister and another co-worker, and they already have attended meetings. One of them also came to the May Day march.” The comrade added, “I have two friends who are co-workers in the factory, but I haven’t given them *Red Flag* yet.”

“Why not?” we asked.

She answered, “I want to strengthen the friendship a little more with them and then be able to organize them in ICWP.”

This discussion was in a study group of five women workers and four men workers from the maquila factories. We talked about communist philosophy as a powerful tool that allows us to see reality in a more critical way, to understand how change occurs and to do everything necessary to achieve it. We are seeking what we need as the working class: communism.

“Dialectical materialism tells us that the different parts of reality are connected in time and space,” said a Party leader. “For example, in the maquila the exploiting bosses are connected with the workers. Today they need each other: the bosses to get their profits and the workers to subsist. But this will change with the organized struggle for communism.”

Between workers and bosses, opposing interests exist. Workers must sharpen the contradiction, through class struggle, until we win communist revolution.

“Sometimes our internal contradictions keep us from making a greater effort with our friends,” a young worker pointed out. “We have to understand and be convinced ourselves to be able to bring others.”

In the communist system, the working class will form a society without bosses, money,

racism or sexism. When we affirm that things change, it means understanding every process that we have passed through to form part of this effort and to be part of the International Communist Workers’ Party, fighting for Communism.

The discussion highlighted some obstacles we encounter in recruiting for ICWP.

A worker from another factory who participated said, “Where I work it’s very hard to organize more workers. We are under extreme surveillance. There are not even unions there, and they prohibit us from interacting with workers from another factory. Especially where there are workers organized in the ICWP.”

“We have to make a plan, change the strategy there, and we will do that. We will have comrades from other areas bring leaflets outside the factory,” said a worker comrade.

Capitalism does everything it can to prevent us from organizing. It builds an individualistic society, but this can change. Precisely studying communist philosophy can help us overthrow this savage and oppressive system. We do not need to constantly be watched, much less exploited.

Communist philosophy opens our thinking and helps us produce better ideas about how to organize ourselves. That is what we are going to do to organize in that factory even under the bosses’ attack.

A worker said that some workers also believe that we are a union. “I invited a co-worker to an



extended meeting. She told me that she was not going because she thought we were a union. I tried to explain, but it was not enough. This is from her experience that most of the unions do the bosses’ bidding.”

“I think that the mistakes of the fmln affect this party,” another worker commented, “because they said that they were communists, and they didn’t even give us water when we went to marches with them.”

We in ICWP fight directly for communism. In the fmln they did not and then they joined the electoral game, nothing more. They dedicated themselves to administer the system. We must learn from these mistakes so that we don’t make them.

“I have very much liked being in this collective to study communist philosophy. I’m learning new things,” the worker concluded, while he savored a delicious chicken soup, prepared by worker comrades.

Winning New Comrades

I want to share with you, comrades, how gratifying it is for me to talk about the communist ideology of our International Communist Workers’ Party, convincing new comrades to join our struggle.

We were four friends getting together and talking about how hard it is to earn a living, with wages that are barely enough to survive. Most of the time, putting up with discrimination by the boss. Subjected to long working hours without any type of remuneration. Added to

this the impotence of living with the high cost of living where money is the motivation to survive.

Listening to them motivates me to show them that communism is the solution that can liberate us from this capitalist exploitation, from this oppressive hand that destroys us. That united we can fight for and build a communist society where there will be no discrimination, a society that will fight for the needs of all. That we will all work together for the common good.

They are very interested in hearing what can

be achieved all together. I have been discussing this with them for several months, having social gatherings, sharing the *Red Flag* newspaper and inviting them to be part of our ICWP collective.

I will continue in the fight to win new comrades, following up to make it happen, just as they motivated me. I am proud to be part of our collective and to mobilize the masses for communism.

The struggle continues.

-Comrade in El Salvador

INDIA, from page 1

We arrived in Lakhimpur in the evening. Thousands of police and military had laid a siege on the location where farmers were killed. We found a place in a local school which became our home for the next four days.

Everybody in and around was out in the street, organizing rallies from early morning to late at night. We went from door to door, in rallies, protest marches bringing our literature, talking to the masses about communism.

Four days of cooking, cleaning, and distributing of RF with so many new friends both in Lakhimpur and those who came with us on the train. We knew that we are in this fight for our life. Lakhimpur has opened the door to the possibility of communist ideas spreading all over the world.

Our party has learned very valuable lessons about the importance of consistent organizing and the key role *Red Flag* plays in creating a new generation of communists. We are heartened by the youth beaming with hope, confidence, and

determination to bring communist ideas to the masses.

This enthusiasm is leading us to create several new collectives. Until recently we had three collectives, but now we are in the process of building eight more. New comrades will

take charge of social media and translation. A Muslim youth took the lead in bringing farmworkers, and the retired army officer is very keen on organizing youth. These expanded collectives and new comrades will organize a party-wide



Jalandar, India October 4, 2021

meeting in January 2022.

Party collectives everywhere should make plans to use this exciting and impressive work to recruit new comrades and grow our work internationally.

VACCINE MANDATES FROM PAGE 1

Follow the Science – and Fight for Better, Communist Science

In communism, the masses will be able to trust science in a way we really can't today. Now, capitalists control, profit from, and sometimes distort scientific research. Politicians lie about it. In contrast, communist science will be done by and for the masses!

Meanwhile, though, we should try to follow the science. Vaccinations save lives. So do masks. Wearing a mask is a concrete and crucial act of social solidarity. We urge those around us to be vaccinated, except for a very few people with unusual medical conditions.

Health is a class question.

The worldwide death toll from Covid-19 surpassed five million on October 1. The highly contagious Delta variant has exposed wide disparities in vaccine availability worldwide and anti-scientific vaccine hesitancy in some places where vaccine is available.

Maps in the capitalist press show vaccinations and cumulative deaths as percentages of each nation's population. They don't show who in any country has access to vaccines, or to medical care, clean water, nutritious food or safe housing.

Capitalism is a worldwide system. The existence of racism, poverty, exploitation and war means that it is an unhealthy system. This deadly system will lead inevitably to more pandemics like Covid until we get rid of it.

The capitalists have a problem. They want to rein in the pandemic to stabilize their economies. But they can't do that, or create a healthy world, while managing a society based on exploitation, racism, climate disaster and war.

Some capitalists are expanding vaccination mandates. Others are refusing to allow any man-



dates at all. The result is mass confusion. This is classic divide and rule. Having failed to stop the virus, they now want to shift the blame for its spread to those yet unvaccinated. Still without providing the social supports many need to get the vaccine, such as childcare, sick pay, transportation, and time off work.

Vaccination is an act of solidarity and a socially responsible choice. But we as communists never call on capitalists to coerce the working class.

Communists call for communism. It is our responsibility, always, to struggle for class solidarity and to fight for a communist world. In that communist world, social relations, not profit, will govern our lives.

We will rely on collective struggle against all forms of anti-social behavior. That means collective organization to protect each other from criminals as well as collective struggle against less serious anti-social behavior. We won't rely on cops, or the external discipline of bosses, markets, pay checks and unemployment lines.

Acting on that commitment now means struggling with our co-workers, friends, neighbors and relatives to act in their class interest, in solidarity with other workers. That includes masking up. It means following the science and getting vaccinated where we can.

Some of our friends and comrades have been convinced, out of fear, to support capitalist vaccine mandates. But we don't call for the bosses to protect us, or to keep us safe. We don't call for more power in the hands of the capitalist state. And we don't side with the capitalists in calling for the disciplining of unvaccinated workers and children.

We call on workers to overthrow the capitalists and their murderous system. We will build a new society where we work together to build healthy social relations and a healthy society.

There are no short-term, reform solutions to this crisis. **The only solution is communist revolution.**

COMMUNIST ANALYSIS OF “VACCINE HESITATION” RESONATES WITH WORKERS AND YOUTH

NOTE: The comrades and friends quoted here had read a version of the article above that appeared several weeks ago on the ICWP website.

USA, October 23— “This article really resonated with me, especially the part about the government failing us and shifting the blame to the unvaccinated rather than addressing the root of why people aren't vaccinated,” said a friend. She does not identify as a communist, but she says she is “getting there” as she learns more. She compared the U.S. government to a “toxic parent who messes up a thousand times, yet has the audacity to say, ‘Well, why aren't you following my rules?’”

Vaccine hesitation is often rooted in the racist US health care system. Another friend, an unvaccinated Black woman, said the article also resonated with her because her distrust “comes from the gatekeeping of scientific and medical knowledge as well as those institutions being rooted in white supremacy like the rest of the American systems.”

She touched on the notion that the vaccine rollout caused mass confusion. “The ‘rulers’ don't keep us safe; they control us and what gets distributed and to whom... and I'm supposed to trust that?”

She mentioned that reading a communist point of view on vaccine hesitancy made her feel less apprehensive about getting the vaccine. She also appreciated reading that the politicians, in typical capitalist fashion, shift the blame of their failure to stop the virus to those who are unvaccinated.

A comrade's similar response highlighted the rulers' hypocrisy. “The elite are indifferent to death, and suffering amongst the working class

puts them at a profit loss, which is all they care about,” he said. “This is why the blame for Covid has now shifted to those who are not vaccinated. What they fail to address is even with the presence of a vaccine there is still a pandemic and still billions unvaccinated due to the hoarding of the vaccination by wealthy capitalist countries.”

A new ICWP member argued that “community care is why people should get vaccinated. To put an emphasis on mutual-aid community vaccine support. Because the bosses won't care for us, and medical reasoning is manipulative.” She thought the article needed “more emphasis on community needs.” This new comrade has joined an ICWP youth collective. She has agreed to show *Red Flag* to two close friends and invite them to the next meeting.

An airline worker, whose family immigrated to the US from the Philippines, commented: “That was VERY interesting. I like the vaccine in solidarity idea. I especially appreciate what is presented regarding how from a communist standpoint, the idea of the worker being penalized is to be rejected. As you can imagine, it's big talk at work right now. This perspective is the first one I've been able to appreciate that addresses the penalty by the bosses.”

“In general, what I struggle with the most as I've read *Red Flag*,” she continued, “and am still mulling and volleying in my mind, is ideals versus actually attainable goals in the face of the privileged. Example: I don't believe in nationalism on any scale. It's a root cause for so many issues. Yet it's not realistically change-

able. So we must work within its constraints. Literal boundaries.”

We need to discuss, with these friends and others, how communist society will address these issues. The strength of our fight against racism, sexism, nationalism, xenophobia and more will depend on winning millions and then billions of people to struggle with themselves and each other.

Communism will lay the material basis that will make this possible. Workers will no longer be money-producing factories for the bosses. No bosses! All genders will play key roles in fighting for this society. Nationalism and xenophobia will become archaic as borders are smashed and workers' unity grows.

We are not willing to merely lengthen our chains (reform). We are fighting for a real communist world. The sooner our friends, families, co-workers, soldiers, sailors, and others join ICWP, the closer revolution will become and the sooner this can happen. Break the chains of wage slavery!



COMMUNISM FIGHTS TO CREATE “HEAVEN ON EARTH”

NOTE: This article is the first in a series intended to help with discussions about communism and religion. Future articles will address other religions besides Christianity. We welcome responses and contributions.

Communists are materialists. In part, this means that everything that exists is part of nature. Through practical experience and scientific study, people can learn about the laws of nature and social development that have brought us into existence and allow us to work and change the world.

In communist philosophy, “idealism” does not mean having ideals or values. Instead, it is quite the opposite of Materialism. It means believing that supernatural beings or forces directly or indirectly influence the material world. Some argue that idealism (in this sense) should dominate the world, rather than reflecting on material relationships as materialists say.

Human actions have never been guided by spiritual beings or forces because such things do not exist. As a comrade says, “If you believe that god is real, you might as well believe that wrestling is real.”

Human actions are guided by thinking, whether good or bad. But thinking alone cannot change the world. Therefore, materialism means that when people are guided by an idea, only then can we change the world by some kind of work. The biggest changes require that the masses

should work together. As Marx put it, “theory becomes a material force as soon as it is gripped by the masses.”

Lastly, idealism does not just mean not knowing or having false beliefs.

Religion, Marx said, “is the sigh of the oppressed creature, the heart of a heartless world. It is the opium of the people.” We cannot avoid this duality when we talk about religion. It is both a political organization and a deep community feeling.

For many Christians, religion is about “correct belief” not right behavior. For them, their bible’s overriding appeal is the authority it proclaims, not the empathy it inspires. It is about meeting the believer’s quest for certainty, not an oppressed person’s need for compassion and justice. Its primary goal is personal salvation, not interpersonal solidarity, unless solidarity is only with those of like-minded belief.

Such religion is about obtaining immortality for one’s own soul, far more than demanding an end to exploitation and for morality in human relations. Many Christians use incorrect biblical belief to rationalise, justify, and accommodate immoral behavior towards those their bible has condemned as enslavable or “unredeemable” and thus exploitable. Even Paul the apostle promoted this.

ICWP must refute this destructive ideology be-

cause it holds the working class back. We need, as communists, to create heaven on earth by ending exploitation, racism, sexism and poverty in our lifetime. We must fight this Christian belief that it is okay for workers to suffer in this life because in the “next” there won’t be any suffering.



This photograph, from South Africa, April 2017, shows a comrade posting the ICWP May Day poster in his home, covering a framed prayer.

Nord Stream 2 Fight:

SHARPENING INTER-IMPERIALIST RIVALRY

The Nord Stream 2 natural gas pipeline is complete, after a five-year battle. It will deliver Russian gas to Germany. US sanctions against Russian, German and other European construction companies could not stop it.

Russian and US imperialists are fighting over Europe. Nord Stream 2 will increase the dependence of the European Union (EU) on Russian gas from 40% to over 60%. US imperialism fears losing Europe’s support in an eventual war with Russia.

German capitalists’ support for the pipeline shows the shattering of the 73-year-old Trans-Atlantic Alliance. Cooperation between imperialists is temporary. Their struggle for power and profits is absolute. This makes global war inevitable.

European workers face soaring gas prices and the deadly prospect of unaffordable heat. The poorest and immigrant workers will suffer the most, but the profit system is deadly for the whole working class.

Capitalist rulers worldwide depend on workers and soldiers to produce their profits and fight their wars. Workers have risen against this exploitation and soldiers have turned their guns around and helped overthrow their mutual masters.

We’ll do it again! This time for communist workers’ power. To replace capitalism-imperialism’s reign of terror with communism, where our needs are met without money, profits, or compe-

tion.

Geopolitics and Nord Stream 2

Nord Stream 2 shows a divided EU. Ten Eastern European countries, some receiving gas directly from Russia, opposed it as US allies. Italy opposed it because its gas will now transit through Germany. France and Germany support it.

The pipeline by-passes Ukraine, which currently pipes Russian gas to Europe. Ukraine fears losing both cheap gas and transit fees (\$3 billion a year, its annual military budget). The pipeline also bypasses Poland which, like Ukraine, acts as a US proxy against Russia.

Russia did not create Europe’s crisis of high gas prices and low supplies. Putin used it, however, to speed up Germany’s pipeline approval before a European law goes into effect which would break Russia’s monopoly in transporting and distributing gas in Europe.

Germany’s Imperialist Ambitions

Amidst this US-Russia pipeline battle, German imperialists, with Europe’s biggest economy, are striving to become the undisputed leaders of Europe.

They do not want to be junior partners to a weakened US imperialism. With Nord Stream 1 and 2, Germany is positioned to be the main distributor of Russian gas in Europe. Europe’s energy security will now depend on both Russia and Germany.

military alliance AUKUS (with Australia and the United Kingdom) which halted France’s lucrative submarine deal with Australia.

Germany previously supported US initiatives expanding NATO eastward, which furthered its own geopolitical interests.

German rulers don’t want to play a secondary role to Russia either. They want to chart an independent course for Europe.

German capitalists don’t want a US-backed Polish-Ukrainian war against Russia on their borders. Nor do they want Poland and Ukraine to divide the EU. They are therefore leaning on Russia to provide cheap gas and other concessions to both countries to neutralize them.

A New EU Army

“The need for more European defence has never been as much evident as today,” said the EU foreign affairs representative about the US recent Afghanistan debacle.

This means building a modern European army on the backs of the European working class. It will intensify the class war between European workers and their capitalist masters.

US imperialism’s decline and the rise of Chinese, Russian, German and other imperialists bring war closer. Our choice is ever clearer: crushing poverty, fascism and war—or communist revolution.

The world’s masses are in motion against this genocidal capitalist future. Let’s seize this opportunity to mobilize the masses for communism. Workers, soldiers, and youth of all “races” everywhere have the same interests in ending capitalism’s deadly wage slavery, racism, and wars for profits.

In a communist world, we will develop plentiful, safe forms of energy to share with masses everywhere to meet our needs in harmony with nature, without nations or borders. And without any price tag.

We invite *Red Flag* readers to join and build ICWP collectives, write for *Red Flag* and help distribute it!



US opposition to Nord Stream 2 exposes that NATO and the transatlantic alliance are no longer a viable security bulwark against Russia. So does US’ recent

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

Communist Philosophy Matters

A letter in the last *Red Flag* criticized a previous two-part article on materialism and revolution. The comrade author of the letter had two main criticisms: (1) The articles are long and difficult to read; (2) He disagrees with their attempt to differentiate between old and new materialism. The following two letters respond.

Spread the New Materialism

The critic ends up sliding towards idealism.

The letter particularly identifies the sentence “ideas are not material.” The author of that letter calls this blatant idealism. This is narrow reading of the article, as the previous sentence clearly indicates that “Ideas are products of material systems: that is, of human brains and social structures”. This seems to be consistent with the comrade’s statement that “Ideas are forms of motion of human brains.” The question, then, is motion itself matter?

The letter also says that the series makes little to no distinction between the old and new materialism. I think this is mistaken. In the first article a distinction is made: the old materialism limited itself in only defining the natural world as being made of matter, whereas new materialism by Marx and Engels added the social and historical dimension to it. This implies that the new materialism is the old materialism (natural world made of tiny invisible matter) with added dimension of social and historical relations.

The critic then says “the spread of ideas is a material change in the real world as with emergence of communist consciousness.” This is correct for the same reason that it is correct to spread “new materialism” which incorporates ideas, history and social relationships as fundamental to real change in the world.

The length of the articles is a dilemma faced when writing on materialism. Generally, it is accepted that the subject is complex which makes it difficult explain in simple and few words. However, I agree that long articles can at times be counterproductive. For this reason, a collective effort must be made in order for dialectical materialism to be more accessible.

-A comrade

Dialectics: Revolutionary Only When United with Materialism

Marx and Engels spent decades working out the new materialism (dialectical materialism). It is impossible to understand the role of ideas in communist political work without it.

The key difference between the new materialism and the old is that new materialism focuses on the material structures of society, while the old one confined itself to the natural world. Since thinking does not affect the laws of nature, old materialism could afford to ignore thinking.

Once some social structures are recognized as material, however, thinking cannot be ignored. Thinking is essential to all social relationships, so the new materialism must explain the relation between thinking and material reality. Engels called this the “great basic question” of philosophy.

To explain it, Marx developed the concept of “the ideal.” The ideal consists of concepts, theories, and ideas—including scientific, political, artistic, and religious thinking—that represent material reality.

The idealist view is that the ideal is independent of material reality, that it is supernatural and evolves on its own. Marx rejected this.

He wrote that “the ideal is nothing else than the transfer and translation of what is material into the human head.” The production of the ideal is a social process, depending on human language and communication.

Marx used the concept of the ideal in his economic works. He wrote that the values of commodities are material, the amounts of workers’ labor needed to make them. Values are the key factors in production and exchange. Prices are ideal but make a difference, varying above or below values.

Political theories also make a difference but are not material. So far, communism is a political idea, only partially realized materially in early human societies. Our party’s goal is to make the communist ideal into a material reality. Doing this involves winning the masses to agree with communism and work to create it.

When a person joins our party, they adopt communism as their goal. That influences their behavior. The fact that ideas and theories can influence how people change reality shows that the ideal is something real. But that does not mean that the ideal is material.

The letter writer claims that “Ideas are forms of motion of human brains. No brains, no ideas.” They are certainly right that there cannot be ideas without brains, at least unless artificial thinking machines are invented. But their definition of ideas is not helpful. An idea is not a process in anyone’s brain. Instead, it is the content that can be present in different brains, or in books, pictures, databases, etc.

For example: In Spanish “El cielo es azul” means the same as “The sky is blue” in English. These two statements express the same idea, but they are different statements. They are processed in different ways in people’s brains. Someone could express the same idea painting a picture. People share ideas even when they express and process them differently.

The ideal depends on the material. Brains (and hands) are essential in creating, spreading, and maintaining the ideal. But what is ideal is part of social reality, not dependent on any particular material representation.

We cannot understand the relation between the ideal and the material if we think the ideal is material. Much political struggle is about the ideal, but material communist revolution is the

only way to escape from capitalist hell. Even the best ideas will not defeat capitalism by themselves.

The letter writer says they have never heard of the distinction between the old and the new materialism. That implies an important criticism of our party’s philosophical study. We have directed our study mainly to dialectics, and not to materialism. But dialectics is revolutionary only when it is united with materialism. Self-critically, previous philosophy articles I have written myself have seriously neglected materialism.

-Another comrade

Ready for the Revolution

I am a new ICWP *Red Flag* reader who recently discovered “Communist Education for Classless Society” (March 2014). I have worked in California (USA) education for 17 years at both private and public institutes. Lately I have considered leaving education entirely. This pamphlet has given me hope by allowing me to see what is possible.

Capitalism in US education upholds a hierarchy of “experts”. This environment is difficult to contribute to and automatically excludes and devalues workers who have more to share. “Instead of relying on full-time expert teachers, everyone will share their experience and knowledge.” This is what I crave the most, sharing and learning from our experiences.

“Communism is the only answer to the horrors inflicted by capitalism on the masses of people and on the planet.” I’m tired of being a part of a system that sells both predatory loans and degrees by promising higher earning potential. There is zero potential for anyone other than the ruling class under capitalism. It’s been a frustrating and exhausting system to work in.

So now I keep reading ICWP *Red Flag*, and I try to bring this new knowledge into all aspects of my life. I’m looking for ways to liberate myself from both the propaganda and conformity of capitalism.

From the “Future for Workers and Youth: Communism, Not Schooling” in this same pamphlet, “Working class parents, teachers, students and soldiers should shed their illusions about education and careers.” I’m already there, now I’m ready for the revolution.

Friend in California (USA)



Read our pamphlet

“Communist
Education for
Classless
Society”

available at
icwpredflag.org/epe.pdf

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

From Coaching Soccer to Learning Communism

Society today makes things blurry and sometimes disorienting from reality. Participating in our MTA communist collective and other conversations with comrades makes things clear.

It is overwhelming that so many tolerate the life we live today. From global corporations that prefer profits over humanity's well-being, to being told that money determines one's success and not being judged by our character. People support a destructive, ruthless Capitalist system that benefits less than 1% percent of the world's population. Our land, air, and water are contaminated every single day without any real regulation or remorse.

I understand feeling hopeless and that no other type of society can really exist. Social media and news stations worldwide force-feed the masses' minds with garbage like "for our economy to thrive, the general population must suffer." If you are reading this, you are suffering alongside myself and 99% of the world's population.

Struggling towards a Communist society is an easy choice but not an easy task. Capitalist society contradicts everything about Commu-

nism. Exploitation of our people, our lands, our air, and our water is mandatory for Capitalism to function. Governments tell us that it is just not feasible (not profitable) to take care of humanity. Now that I know the nasty truths of Capitalism and I know Communism will abolish all the atrocities of its cancerous growth, I choose to fight alongside my other ICWP comrades for a Communist world.

A Capitalist system makes our struggle towards a Communist world very difficult. At times, it will take a lot of energy to make some small advancements. At other times, I'm sure, we will be able to make tremendous advancements due to our discipline and perseverance in our collectives and as ICWP as a whole.

I have been fortunate to be able to play and manage football (soccer in the USA) and develop youth and adult athletes for almost 30 years. I understand the energy required to help develop an active comrade of the ICWP and for collectives to grow.

I worked with youth athletes who never wore soccer shoes before. As they put on their first pair, their faces showed both excitement and confusion. Many soccer shoes came with long

shoelaces, and players had to wrap them around their foot or ankle before they could tie their shoes. I had to teach players how to wear a uniform: tucking in their shirts, properly putting on shin pads, even how to fold their knee-high socks.

A decade later, I was organizing private leagues with up to 80 teams and complete public-school soccer programs (ages 9-18 years) while coaching college students. I miss the beautiful sport and always imagine myself going back to that line of work that never felt like work.

I can strongly relate my first experiences with the ICWP to being that kid who wore soccer shoes for the first time and did not even know how to tie them, who always wanted the whole team to improve so we could win, who always challenged himself to become a better person. I know a Communist society is very attainable in our lifetime with discipline, perseverance, and the willingness to learn.

-Comrade transit worker in Los Angeles (USA)

Need Working-Class Unity to Make the Revolution that Will Save the Life on Planet Earth

"My daughter is so confused," said comrade Ethel in our zoom club meeting. "Last week the school had 'Culture Days,' where students were all supposed to celebrate the country that their family or ancestors came from. My daughter was assigned to carry the flag of South Africa. I don't know what part of Africa our ancestors were stolen from, but it probably wasn't South Africa. Even if I had the money for some genetics test to see where they came from, what good would it do?"

"No good at all," responded Birhan. "I grew up in Africa. It's a class society. I learned to salute the rulers' flag. But that's not our flag. The only flag for us is the red flag."

"Exactly," responded Ethel. "All this about 'our culture' is just to divide us and make us feel separated."

"All that fairy dust," added Cindy, a retired teacher, "is to cover up the fact that capitalism is a horrible system that chews you up and spits you out to make a profit. When I taught 2nd and 3rd grade, I always concentrated on the working-class leaders who organized workers to fight back."

"That's what's missing in the article about climate change from the last *Red Flag*," continued Ethel. "The united fight of the working class. It has a good analysis of how capitalism is ruining the planet. And some inspiring ideas

about how we can grow food in a communist society. But it literally jumps from capitalism to communism. It's going to take war—armed struggle—an actual revolution. The capitalists will never give up without a fight to the death."

"And when we talk about 'decolonizing,'" added Will, "we must make it clearer that capitalism exploits all workers. Historically first the workers in the home country and then those in the colonies as well. Colonialism is a vicious outgrowth of capitalism. Getting rid of colonialism still leaves its capitalist roots in place. To get rid of exploitation once and for all we have to uproot capitalism. Like Ethel said—with communist revolution."

"And that's why working-class unity in class struggle is so important," concluded Leroy, a worker and scholar in his 20s. "When I was in high school, all I could see was the anti-colonial struggle of people like Malcolm X and Che Guevara. ICWP has taught me that we have to overthrow the whole capitalist system. That's going to take a united working class, led by the party, taking on and defeating the capitalists in a communist revolution. Articles we write for *Red Flag* can't leave that part out."

-US West Coast Schools Comrades

"Then we need the world to be communist now"

"Does this mean that you are a communist?" another university student asked me in a WhatsApp group chat. This question arose from a comment I had made in a Human Rights class.

"Yes, and I am in an internationalist commu-

nist party," I answered. Another student in the group commented, "My mother has always been a very firm supporter of the FMLN."

That's how we started a conversation on WhatsApp when classes were virtual. A few months ago, the contact became more personal. The classes became face-to-face. That allowed me to first strengthen a friendly relationship with them and later share *Red Flag* with them. I was very excited since they received it with great interest. One read the entire newspaper and the other read certain articles.

One question they asked me was: "In communism, are we all going to work but they won't pay us?"

I told them that in the system in which we live, most workers work long hours, under daily exploitation. And at the end of the month the money they get is not enough even to cover basic expenses. If they have children, the situation is even harder.

On the other hand, in communism we will work enough to meet the needs of the community. No one will die for not being able to have quality medical care, no one will go hungry. I ended by saying, "So if we have everything we need, what do we need money for?"

Their response was, "Then we need the world to be communist now."

The struggle that I am carrying out with these friends has made me think that we should talk openly with all the people in our circle about communism. That's how we'll bring our ideas to more people who can eventually become active members of our party.

A Comrade



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Racist, Nationalist Divisions Built into Capitalist Supply Chains: **COMMUNIST COLLECTIVE PRODUCTION REQUIRES INTERNATIONAL, MULTI-RACIAL UNITY**

LOS ANGELES (USA), October 22— “The longshoremen are the problem, not the truckers,” says a trucker on Tik Tok. He describes how the port virtually shuts down during meal breaks. The truckers are forced to wait in long lines. “How is that efficient?” he complains.

The Los Angeles–Long Beach ports are the largest in the US. Over 100 container ships presently must anchor off these harbors. This is just one bottleneck among thousands that have caused the capitalists’ global supply chains to collapse.

Revealingly, this Tik-Toker uses McDonalds as a model of efficiency. “What if you pay for your food and everyone goes on break, and you have to wait for an hour to get your meal?” he asks. McDonalds is synonymous with super-exploited workers. Capitalist efficiency rests on efficiently exploiting the working class.

US President Biden made a deal with West Coast port bosses that he claims (falsely) will remove bottlenecks in the supply chain. Since then, social media have been flooded with videos like this.

Most truckers are Latinx, non-union and make around \$50,000/year. Most dockworkers are in the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) and make an average of \$66,000/year. The highest-paid LA longshore workers (mostly white) operate the huge cranes that unload containers. They can make over \$100,000/year with overtime.

The ILWU endorsed Biden’s deal for even more overtime, but that is not their biggest betrayal. Despite the “International” in their name, the union focuses on pay and benefits only for its members. It reinforces racist and nationalist divisions between Latinx truckers and white crane operators.

Don’t Be Fooled by the Bosses’ Lies!

When truckers blame longshore workers and longshore workers blame truckers, only the bosses benefit. Racism and nationalism are

bosses’ ideologies that stop the working class from realizing its power.

Manufacturing and retail supply chains are crucial to every capitalist industry. The capitalists created these networks to maximize their profits.

For example, an internal Boeing report asserted that its aerospace dominance rests on its vast global network of suppliers. The company forced suppliers to cut their prices drastically. This slashed the wages of subcontract workers who are overwhelmingly Black and Latinx or work in other countries.

As with the ports, racist and nationalist divisions undermine Boeing workers’ ability to place the blame where it belongs: on the capitalist system. Once again, the union is a co-conspirator.

Boeing’s union also has “International” in its name. The “international” officials have repeatedly said that their only concern is the jobs of their members (and dues payers). The result: more racist and nationalist divisions between the workers in Boeing factories and subcontract workers.

Today, capitalists organize the workforce. Trade unionism does not question their right to do so. Racism and nationalism lead us to blame other workers when the bosses’ manufacturing and retail networks collapse.

Only communist revolution can end the capitalists’ ownership and control of the means of production. We must defeat these divisions to be successful in making that revolution. Only a united working class led by a mass International Communist Workers’ Party can win.

Principled Communist Struggle Paves the Way

The ICWP fights for a much more resilient way of organizing the workforce: a system where communist relationships will define the connections among workers. Workers will not only move and make everything, but also collectively decide how best to do this. Mobilized masses are a powerful force leading to the best

“You Can’t Fool Us, Ricky!”

I worked on a line in the cutting room of Ratner’s Men’s Suits and Slacks in 1968. About twenty women split cut cloth into bundles ready for the women on the machines to sew these expensive men’s slacks together.

The factory was halfway between San Diego and Tijuana, and the women on my line were about half and half Anglo and Mexican. Only the supervisors and one young woman (Magdalena) were bilingual.

One day the supervisor, Ricky, came over to the bench where all the white women were eating lunch and began to praise us. “It’s so embarrassing to say it, but the Mexican girls [sic] here are so lazy. I’m glad I have you American girls. You really help me to get the work out.”

Immediately, Magdalena spoke up. “You liar! You go over to where the Mexican women eat and say, ‘I’m so proud to be a Mexican. You girls work so hard for me and the gringas are so lazy.’ We’re all over here killing ourselves for \$1.80 an hour, no matter how hard we work. You’re the one who gets the bonus when we go beyond our quota. You can’t fool us, Ricky!”

—a veteran comrade

decisions.

Communism mobilizes workers to produce and deliver for our collective needs. The party will deal with emergencies and changing conditions by mobilizing the masses. Without the constraints of the profit motive, the working class can plan for future pandemics. Based on experience and science, the masses can build and create what we know we’ll need even before the next pandemic hits.

Capitalist supply chains will cease to exist. Instead, communist collectives of workers with the latest data will collaborate to make what we need and get it to where we need it. In this climate of cooperation, the ICWP will finally end racism and nationalism.

The battle to mobilize masses for communist revolution begins now! A comrade has been discussing the racist and nationalist divisions with a trucker friend. The friend now accepts that the bottleneck is not the fault of longshore workers. He sees that both truckers and longshore workers are trapped in the capitalist system. He worries that too many truckers and longshore workers have fallen for the bosses’ racist lies.

This friend, Boeing workers and subcontractors, and comrades must develop plans to promote international communist solidarity among the work force. Party collectives in LA and Seattle should help build campaigns like these. They are essential preparation for armed communist revolutionary struggle to destroy racist capitalism.



**Abolish Borders
and Wage Slavery
with Communist Revolution**
International Communist Workers'
Party

Occupy the Port, Long Beach, CA (USA), December 2011