

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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



INDIA: MASS ANTI-FASCIST STRUGGLE OVERCOMES RELIGIOUS AND GENDER PREJUDICES



International Communist Conference:

OVERCOMING OBSTACLES, BREAKING BORDERS, DEVELOPING NEW COMMUNIST LEADERS

EL SALVADOR, December 5—“Now I can go to the *Red Flag* study groups,” a worker said. “Before, I didn’t have someone to take care of my children on the weekend, and it is also the only time to share with them.”

Workers, women and men, must make the time needed to attend political study groups and Party meetings. That’s why we decided to include the family group in activities: so that more workers whose obstacle was taking care of their children could participate.

The factory workers have faced multiple obstacles. These include leaving their family under the care of others, traveling in inappropriate conditions especially today in pandemic times, economic pressures, exploitation by the bosses, insecurity, and violence.

A worker leader whose family is also part of the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP) pointed out: “I have problems continuing to be active in the Party collective, but I will continue attending the meetings, because I believe in communist ideas.”

For years she has carried out enormous organizational work. We are waging a political struggle with her, so that she continues to give leadership to other workers. The upcoming conference will help to clarify her communist ideas and those of many other workers.

The International Communist Workers Party has a historic challenge: to mobilize the masses for communism, to organize the working class worldwide. As part of this plan, this international conference will respond to the need for the growth of new collectives, the development of a new generation of communist leaders, and the

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“BEGINNING OUR MARCH FOR COMMUNISM”

INDIA, December 5—“When over half a million people camp out for a year in the outskirts of Delhi, 1.3 billion people in India and many around the world notice that something fundamental is changing.”

A comrade was reflecting on the three farm laws that were withdrawn by India’s fascist leader Modi. The fascist government was obviously desperate to consolidate its power in the coming state elections by offering a token compromise. “Our comrades are showing renewed commitment to recruit new farmworkers. This is the beginning of our march for communism,” said a comrade who had brought three more to our nightly meeting.

“I never imagined in my life that thousands of men, young and old, would cook in the kitchen and clean toilets day after day in our makeshift camps in Delhi,” commented a comrade.

Another comrade who participated in these camps added, “In our villages, cooking was women’s work. Now we have a new way of life: large collectives are formed, people help each

other. It has brought down the barriers of gender.

“The traditional Langars bring Sikh, Hindu and Muslim to participate in chores that affect us all. Back in our villages, we were segregated by religion. If you look here, the religious hostilities and hatred have not only disappeared, people are gladly helping each other regardless of their religion. Above all, this new way of life is giving us opportunity to talk about communism.”

In one camp in Delhi, a comrade is struggling with a group of farmworkers about why we need communism. “During the farmers’ agitation, 600 farmers died due to various ‘natural’ causes. But 540 of these were poor or landless farmers with less than two acres of land. They could not afford to buy tractors. They worked very hard, lived in a hostile environment. They constantly struggled to pay their debts, so they had less food and no healthcare. That is why they died. What is ‘natural’ is really capitalism sucking every drop of your blood.”

These poor and landless farmers are among 300 million rural workers in India. They and

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DEFEAT CAPITALISM'S GANGSTERISM MOBILISE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

On the morning of the 25th of November, we lost a friend of the party and a comrade who were together. They were shot as a result of gang violence that has taken many of our family members and friends.

Last year around the same time we lost one of the party leaders, comrade Ziphoo. This year we lost two. This has been hard. We realise that we can no longer take this as it comes. Things have to change: we also have to find ways to

combat this gangsterism.

We know this is a result of a decaying fascist, exploitative capitalist system that has no other response to the misery it has caused to the working class. Often gangsterism serves as a first line of defense for the capitalists who have no solutions for problems they have created.

Therefore, we have to mobilise party members, friends and the community to fight this ugly phenomenon head on. We can no longer

tolerate it and just let it happen. We must do this work simultaneously with mobilising masses for communism as we realise that ultimately we cannot win the fight without defeating capitalism.

Although we are burying our comrades today, many more will rise and we will win. Our efforts are not deterred. We will soldier on.

-Comrades in South Africa

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many millions more in cities form the foundation of the capitalist system of exploitation and profit. Modi and his fascist party want to intensify religious hatred and subjugate women to the constant fear of male domination. These differences based on religion and gender keep some workers super-exploited and all workers in an endless cycle of wage slavery.

Women Workers Becoming Communist Leaders

"When I speak now, everybody in my village listens to every word," said a new comrade. "People used to think that I work in the kitchen, and that I belong there. But our new comrades gave me a lot of confidence. They said, you worked in the kitchen, now you can organize for communist revolution.

"I did not even know what communism was," she continued, "but I knew how horrible conditions were. Sexist violence, bigotry, police raids. We had to walk a mile to get water and beg the money lender who would show up at the door with armed goons. But when I came to Delhi, I met comrades from ICWP. They explained to me that we are living in a capitalist society which is based on money. And communism is its opposite, society based on helping each other, not money and profit."

This new comrade has emerged as our key leader. She talks about communism in words that masses without schooling can understand. "I have

read about the communist conference of ICWP in El Salvador," she said. "Many people like me, don't know where it is. But the comrades told me it is a country very far from India. For me, there is no country. I see people coming from Bangladesh, Pakistan. They are just like us, they come hungry, and they work very hard. The main thing is the comrades want to organize for our party and communism in El Salvador. I want to

learn from them."

She and comrades like her are leading ICWP and the masses now, and more will in the future. Modi's fascism is creating conditions for us to expand the base for communism in India and around the world. Our new comrade and her collective are preparing a message of solidarity to our comrades in El Salvador. Their message will reverberate around the world, signaling communist potential and a bright future.



Muslims arrange langar for Sikh farmers

Masses Need Communism, Not Capitalist Bribes

In Uttar Pradesh (India), a 340 km multilane freeway was inaugurated by Modi last month. It was to showcase the achievement of the fascist state government where murderous attacks on Dalits and Muslims are escalating. There are state elections early next year. Because of the farmers' agitation, the forces of the ruling party BJP are facing challenges from the opposition. The main purpose of the freeway was also to demonstrate that India can counterattack China in case of war. The freeway has a dual purpose: the entire 340 km can be converted into an emergency landing and launching facility for supersonic fighter airplanes

BJP mobilized over 2000 buses from the

nearby towns and villages on the day of the inauguration of the project. I spoke to some farmworkers who were part of the event. They told me that they were bribed to attend Modi's inauguration. Each participant got a cash award to sustain a family for a week.

Rural India is in a serious crisis. The government has weakened or in many cases eliminated the 'food security' entitlement subsidy. It used to give hundreds of millions of people minimum wages when no work was available. Now, these workers are unemployed and the big cities have been unable to absorb them. The people I spoke to said that they had no cooking gas, no toilet facilities, and almost no food. These are the masses of people that Modi was going to show to the world.

In contrast, when Modi officially opened the

freeway, several supersonic airplanes landed and took off as if to send a signal to China. Each air force pilot is highly trained in Europe and the US. They are given the best housing, hospitals, and recreational facilities. While the masses who are cheering for them on the freeway will go home worrying about what to eat next week.

I have spoken to my friends and comrades about the plight of the workers. I am new to ICWP. But when I read *Red Flag*, it gives me the direction that it is capitalism that is a disaster to the working class. People who came to Modi's reception needed communism. A capitalist bribe is not going to solve our problems. Communist organizing now is our urgent need.

-New comrade in India

This is a 4 week issue:

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Imperialism creates borders and refugees

WORKERS, UNITE FOR COMMUNISM WHEREVER WE ARE AND WHEREVER WE CAME FROM

LONDON (UK), December 4—Twenty-seven more migrants died last week desperately trying to cross the English Channel. Both French and British Coast Guards ignored their calls for rescue.

This is by capitalist design. British Home Secretary Priti Patel has declared war at sea against refugees, using everything at Britain's disposal including the Royal Navy. The British rulers are pushing for NATO to fortify Europe's borders in the Mediterranean – the same NATO which destroyed Libya and displaced millions!

Migrants are regarded as stateless and nobody's responsibility. However, the British state deems those who manage to arrive by 'safe and legal' means as legal and those who cross the Channel in desperation as 'illegal' and criminals.

The British ruling class pushes the narrative that 'human traffickers' cause the refugee crisis. It portrays them as wicked gangsters out to extort and exploit willing economic migrants. Of course, many illegal capitalist businesses profit from smuggling people through the borders. And desperate people contract with them to get family or friends through. Like any capitalist enterprise, some are more unscrupulous than others. But it's the bosses who intentionally make the crossing dangerous, forcing migrants to use mafioso smugglers.

This narrative disguises the real reason for the crisis: the wars unleashed in recent decades by the biggest gangsters: the imperialists. Inter-imperialist rivalries have rained destruction on Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Syria, Yemen and Ethiopia. Their welter of murder and mayhem has led masses to flee. After bombing these countries to bits, the capitalists view those fleeing the carnage as an inconvenience. They refuse to pick up the pieces and instead blame our fellow workers who are suffering.

Imperialism has currently displaced over 82 million people in the last year through its wars and economic terror. Desperate people risk their lives to find somewhere they might eke out an existence under capitalist exploitation. The British and French imperialist capitalists are now at loggerheads as to what to do with the refugees.

National borders imprison us.

The rise of capitalism brought the nation state, which local capitalist classes used to build their industry and commerce. Nations were supposedly based on a common language, culture, tra-



May 2021 Glasgow, Scotland: Hundreds prevent immigration authorities from taking two migrants

dition and territory but everywhere included minoritized groups.

With the nation came artificial borders that have never been static or fixed and frequently change. Just look at France, Germany or Poland to see how their borders have shifted in the last century.

These borders protected each capitalist class from external competitors and allowed them to lower the value of labour of workers outside their borders as a potential source for super-exploitation.

Workers desperately fleeing poverty, unemployment and persecution at home would (and do) risk great dangers to overcome these fortified borders such as the Mexico/US border. They would then accept work as undocumented workers for lower wages and with little protection from the bosses. In the 20th century, Turkish workers played an enormous role in Germany's prosperity. This meant more profits for the boss class.

This, however, is not the case in Europe today. The ruling classes are not keen on receiving the large concentration of people displaced by their wars because they don't see how to profit from their labour. While capitalism has few restrictions and borders for its trade, goods and commerce it is restricting ever more the refugees of its wars.

Britain only takes 1% of the refugees headed to Europe. Those who choose Britain do so mainly for family connections or because they speak English. The ruling class media churns out

stories of Britain being a 'soft touch' or dishing out generous benefits to refugees who dodge work.

In reality, refugees and asylum seekers are banned from employment and are kept in prison-like detention centres (concentration camps). Those lucky enough to be deemed 'legal' are held in dilapidated hotels lacking basic amenities while awaiting a decision of residency.

Britain's ruling class wants to send those making the dangerous journey across the Channel border to France. The French ruling class, in turn, wants to send them to Britain. Under the European Union 'Dublin III' agreement, any state has the right to send migrants back to the member state where they originally arrived. Now that Britain's ruling class has left the EU, they can't do this and have got their knickers in a twist.

Overthrow All Capitalists and Their Borders

There is only one way to prevent the displacement, super-exploitation, death and misery that result from imperialist war. It is to unite with all workers in whatever borders they were born within or are trapped behind and organise to overthrow the capitalist class with Communist revolution. Fight for a world with common ownership, equality and equity, and for an end to artificial borders and fortifications!

The capitalists have no borders for themselves, they use them against us, to prevent unity. Workers don't need their borders or nations! Workers of the world unite!

MIGRANT WORKERS: FIGHTERS FOR THE WHOLE WORKING CLASS

December 6—“If they arrest me and the others can continue, I don't care,” said one of the hundreds of migrants who confronted members of the National Guard and immigration agents who were trying to stop a migrant caravan in the state of Veracruz, Mexico.

With sticks and fists, the migrants managed to break the fence and continued their journey towards the US border.

The massive exodus of Haitian, Cuban, South American and Central American migrants show the collapse of bourgeois institutions and the cruelty of the capitalist system. Meanwhile, we see how a “progressive” capitalist government in Mexico has no qualms about creating and deploying the new National Guard against migrants throughout the whole country and its southern border.

The situation of migrants who manage to reach Tapachula, Chiapas, Mexico is serious and ex-

tremely cruel. The Mexican government has created a city-jail in Tapachula. The National Institute of Migration does not allow the transit of migrants. It has failed in every attempt to regularize their migratory situation. New caravans that emerge from Tapachula are quickly attacked and disbanded. Few make it through.

In the Tapachula prison-city, Mexican authorities have tried to stop and deport Haitian and other migrants to other countries. Thousands of women, children and men who lack basic services are suffering a health and housing crisis.

Migration has promised to move migrants to other Mexican states to regularize their situation. However, the gravity of the situation should warn us that an escape valve is not enough in the face of a collapse of life produced by the entire system.

The capitalists can no longer offer anything but pain and exploitation to the working class. Mi-

grants are not mere victims. They are fighters looking for a future. That audacity and commitment to survival can and should be channeled to the destruction of the capitalist system.

Communists must fight hard to build the necessary power to create that society where no human being is called illegal or foreigner.

The working class, of which we migrants are an integral part, has the power and potential to make this world a communist world without borders.

-Immigrant Comrade in the US



STRIKERS WELCOME COMMUNIST CONVERSATIONS ON PICKET LINE

LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA (USA), December 5—A few comrades recently visited striking unionized workers at Rich Products, mostly immigrants, 90% women. They have been on strike for a month, picketing 24 hours a day. They warmly welcomed us into a small sheltering tent, where the workers offered us delicious warm punch. They were glad to get *Red Flag*, and were very interested in our work, especially when we began asking about their struggle.

Their employer is an international corporation that makes \$4 billion a year worldwide. They supply frozen desserts to major retailers in the US and other countries. They work in cold temperatures. They are forced to produce more cakes per minute through speed up. The assembly line never stops 24/7.

A cruel point system hangs over the workers. They have three sick days a year. After that, they are given points for time off for illness, childcare, or other urgent reasons. After reaching a set number of points, they are fired. They also get the most minimal bathroom breaks, or none.

“To our demand of a wage increase because of

rising inflation, the boss answered: ‘Not my problem. Nothing I can do about it,’” said a worker.

They agreed that when workers fight for a wage increase, even if they get it, the bosses take it back by raising prices.

We said that the wage system (money) enslaves us to the capitalists and that to end this wage slavery we need a communist revolution. Communism will produce to meet the workers’ needs. For this all we need is workers’ labor (mental and physical), not money. In communism, work will be safe and enjoyable with plenty of breaks and many more people sharing the work.

We said that the bosses pay workers just enough to survive to work the next day and to produce the next generation of wage slaves. “Oh, yeah,” a worker responded. “I guess that’s why they call the room where babies are born ‘Labor and Delivery.’” Everyone laughed.

We said the purpose of capitalist schools is to train our children to be disciplined wage slaves. The same worker said, “I see. To get them used to being on time with bells, like we have to be on time for work.”

Our new friends knew about exploitation worldwide, and about the unequal pay in different locations and countries where the company exists. Workers in another US state get paid more an hour than they do. This led to discussing how wages, racism and sexism are used to divide workers—and how communism will abolish wages, the reason for racism, sexism, and xenophobia.

The conversation touched on the US-China inter-imperialist rivalry. “That’s the reason Evo Morales was deposed and invited to Mexico,” said a worker. “He was about to give the Bolivian lithium mines to China. The US didn’t like that.”

“Yes, but we have no dog in that fight. Evo will go to the highest bidder. US and China are fighting for world domination,” said a comrade.

“Yes, and China is eating the US lunch. They will trample us under their feet,” she added.

“If we let them. That’s why we need a revolution,” we concluded.

Workers thanked us for coming and asked us to come back soon. We said we will and that next time we will bring food, too.

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Women in the Struggle for Communism

In El Salvador, we live in a constant struggle against an oppressive capitalist system with gender attacks that increase daily, where opportunities do not exist, where we are discriminated against. Thousands of women are harassed and subjected to this capitalist system, which encourages discord and conflict among workers so that unity doesn’t exist. This creates instability.

We must not stop. On the contrary, we need to unite and mobilize the masses of working-class women to let them know that the answer lies in communism, which will end sexism.

In communism, there is a voice and no more silence for thousands of women who, due to the need to survive, are oppressed. Not fighting for reforms or changes of laws, but the fight for a new system: an equitable communist society where we all fight for a common good in unity and harmony among men and women.

I feel very proud to be a member of our party ICWP. I share the communist ideology of our party with friends and family to mobilize the masses and fight for a communist society free from subjugating capitalism. As well as sharing our *Red Flag* newspaper so that they know that we are not alone, that we are an International Party in the constant struggle for communism, which is the solution. And in turn they will share our ideology and our *Red Flag* newspaper.

The struggle continues.

-Comrade in El Salvador



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leadership of working women, among others, to intensify the struggle for communism.

Male and female workers, students, former farmworker combatants, teachers, health workers and comrades from other countries will all participate enthusiastically in the international conference, breaking the borders for communism. There will also be a Forum on the strike wave and the role of the ICWP in organizing class struggle worldwide.

Social Relations Among Communist Comrades

In a meeting with two women leaders to expand on the party line and refine some details of the activity, one of them said “I want to interact with the factory workers. We are fighting for a society without discrimination, we are one class. I think the conference will be a great opportunity to do that.”

The conference will develop an agenda that allows a qualitative change in the way those in the

Party, inside and outside the factory, interact. The comrade’s request shows the need to see how communist relations should be in the party and how women can give leadership.

The development of women’s leadership needs more commitment on the part of the whole Party, considering that women have been key in the growth of the Party and historically in revolutionary struggles throughout the world.

Collective Leadership of ICWP

The formation of new collectives and study groups, even with time limitations, has gradually strengthened the participation of new comrades. The workers have felt more confidence in these groups that allow them to raise their ideas and questions about ICWP’s line.

For example, one worker asked, “Who are the leaders of this Party? Is there someone else who gives the orders?”

A worker comrade replied, “We don’t receive orders. In collectives we discuss everything, and

we make decisions collectively. The ICWP is a mass party. Every worker who shares the conviction to fight for communism can be here and be part of discussing all aspects of the fight and help make the best decisions.”

“All workers should be part of a collective like this, to discuss the party line and make plans for the political struggle, until it is considered to be at a point that can be carried out,” said a comrade.

The fight for communism is today! Attend the international conference! Log in to participate in the Forum! One working class, one International Communist Workers’ Party! Long live communism!

This
is a 4 week
issue

US January 6 Investigation:**ONLY COMMUNIST REVOLUTION WILL DEFEAT FASCIST CAPITALISM**

USA, December 8—Twentieth-century US imperialism orchestrated fascist coups in Guatemala, Iran, Chile, Congo, and more. Now its bigshots pretend to be shocked that such a thing could have happened in Washington, D.C. on January 6, 2021.

We shouldn't be surprised. And neither should we trust liberal politicians who say they are "restoring democracy." Democracy has never been anything but a mask hiding the bloody fangs of the capitalist beast. Only communist revolution can defeat fascism.

Fascism and the Decline of US Imperialism

US imperialism is struggling to restore its once-unchallenged global supremacy. But the rot goes deep into its core. It can't prevent the rise of Chinese imperialism or the regional ascendancy of Russian and other capitalists.

But empires don't die peacefully. So strategic conflicts among the US rulers have sharpened, leading to the openly fascist Trump faction's attempted coup to keep him in power.

Fascism, not democracy, is capitalism's true political form. The US rulers' fight over how to save their empire includes a struggle over the face of this fascism.

The Jan. 6 coup failed but the Trumpians still reap the fruits of decades of support from the Bradley and Heritage foundations (and hidden sources). They control most of the Republican Party. They continue to mobilize in political back rooms and in the streets.

They have rallied too many disaffected workers and others against Covid vaccines and precautions. Around restricting abortion, voting

rights, and gun regulations. Around idolizing murderer Kyle Rittenhouse. Around attacking Black people, immigrants, and Jews. And, of course, around Trump's Big Lie that he "won in a landslide."

Last winter it appeared that the rival, larger ruling-class faction – the Democratic Party and Wall Street – wouldn't confront the coup plotters. Now over 500 January 6 rioters have been arrested. Most are "small fry." But the judges sentencing them have threatened consequences for the real organizers.

The House of Representatives January 6th committee has interviewed hundreds, including some close to Trump. They plan public hearings and publication of their detailed report. The Justice Department locked up arch-racist Steve Bannon for refusing to appear. That is: this faction is wielding its state power against its political enemies.

But these capitalist rulers are more afraid of rebellious Black, immigrant, and other workers than they are of Trump's faction. They know that their profit system cannot meet the masses' needs even for food, shelter, safety, and health. It certainly cannot meet our need to control our own lives and work.

These "defenders of democracy" need the same kind of violent racists who stormed the Capital to form the backbone of the police forces that repress and kill us.

Communist military work is critical

Fascist ideology infests US military "basic training," though many young soldiers resist and defy it. The Jan. 6 coup plotters and their enemies are fighting for the loyalty of the armed forces.

We must fight even harder for the leadership of the working-class youth among the rank and file. They are key to the success of armed communist revolution.

Since the Rittenhouse verdict, liberals repeatedly cry that protesting racism is not "safe" from free-lance fascists. This is

a veiled threat: don't fight back! They tell the angry masses that we can rely on capitalist courts and elections instead of mobilizing to smash the racist system. And that reforms like inclusive curricula and Biden's multi-racial cabinet are blows against racism. That the conviction of Ahmaud Arbery's lynchers should give us hope.

They openly debate how much economic inequality we'll tolerate before rising in revolution, because that's what we need, and they know it.

Communism: It's Worth the Struggle!

Our friends know that revolution would mean many injuries and deaths. They wonder would it be worth it? What would a communist world look like? Those really are the big questions!

Masses worldwide, including the US, already suffer untold misery and preventable deaths, including over 100,000 annually directly from war. Climate casualties are mounting. Regional wars are close to exploding into world war. Things are worsening fast.

We must win masses to communism, or the capitalist rulers will win them to some form of fascism. That's why our immediate tasks are to spread, read and discuss the communist ideas and work reported in *Red Flag*.

To build the party composed of communist collectives that will eventually create a world where the masses control the means of production and guarantee everyone's well-being. Where we produce and share what we need, without money or markets, without police or nations or borders.

Communism will end the capitalist competition for survival that undergirds war, racism, sexism, communalism, and all other divisions among us.

Comrades in India and South Africa are already showing how the Party can function even under brutal fascism. Like them, we must not despair. We must establish unbreakable communist social relations with family, friends, and coworkers, especially in industry and the military. We must guarantee the hand-to-hand distribution of *Red Flag*.

Yes, it's worth it! Communism – not democracy – is our response to fascism and our only hope for the future.



YANGON (Myanmar)— Thousands defy military police, fighting to end the military dictatorship installed by the February 2021 coup.

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Capitalist Climate Summit: Fake Radicalism Won't Save Us

The October 31st meeting in Glasgow, with anti-climate change protesters, reminds us of the "anti-nuclear" campaign in the late 20th century that was financed by oil consortia after the nuclear power plant accidents at Chernobyl and elsewhere.

Today the "anti-fossil fuels" movement says that this is "the last chance" for the rulers to take measures to curb climate change. They cry out for "radical change." Pope Francis and the German rulers also come out for clean energy.

The supposedly "radical" has already been anticipated. Britain's Boris Johnson "demanded commitments" from China's Xi Jinping, and he is announcing them: reaching the ceiling in 2030 and zero CO2 in 2050. Israel says zero CO2 in 2030.

European slave-masters have few sources of fossil fuels. They import a large part of their

consumption, which is why in general they promote "clean energy."

Can clean-energy millionaires present themselves as the world's saviors from climate change? The defenders of the other band of slave-masters ask us this. These support the continuing use of fossil fuels. They are happy for the recovery of oil prices, accepted in the recent OPEC meeting.

Within each exploiting side, they also have their differences. The Germans choose to dismantle their nuclear plants, the French to maintain them, the Spanish distance themselves from them.

Such is their "radicalism."

There is a similar dispute in Mexico. The rulers have chosen to continue exploiting fossil fuels as a priority and to subordinate the development of "clean energy." They have been explicit: it is false that world oil consumption is going to end soon, the great powers are still building refineries.

Their adversaries condemn them with the announcements of the electrification of cars, the rise in lithium consumption, the need to use solar, wind and other energy. Behind them are Iberdrola, a Spanish multinational electric utility based in Bilbao, and others. There are still defenders of the Laguna Verde Nuclear Power Plant in Veracruz, Mexico but they have been set back.

All of this is within the framework of the production of commodities for sale and profit.

For the working class, on the other hand, the only option is to end all commodity production and wage slavery. The abolition of these will be the real basis to end the irrational use of nature.

This requires joining and building the international association of workers, the International Communist Workers' Party.

-Comrade in Mexico

Revolutionary History: Agriculture and Social Organization

COMMUNIST SOLIDARITY, WORK AND IDEOLOGY MUST BE PRIMARY

EL SALVADOR — During the 1980s, we farmworkers and urban workers, organized into guerrilla groups. Initially we had ideological training on how to produce and distribute what was needed collectively. From each one according to their efforts and to each one according to their need.

At the beginning of the civil war, there were liberated areas controlled by the FMLN guerrillas. Production collectives there produced corn, beans, panela candy, clothing, footwear, ammunition, and health care. There was no money exchanged in this production.

There was also a team in charge of doing ideological work. During the mornings, they invited groups of farmworkers (women and men) to join in the production. They worked in the fields, cultivating plots of land. In the afternoon, they held evaluation meetings and reported on how their work had gone. Everyone contributed and said whether everything had gone well, or if there were criticisms or self-criticisms.

The collectives that produced corn began the work, cleaned it, cultivated it, and when they harvested, they kept it secure among the population. They distributed it and when there was a need, they would bring it. Because often when they hid the corn, the government army found it, threw it away or burned it. It was better to leave it in peoples' homes. So, these collectives guaranteed that food.

There was a group that produced panela cane sugar as a portable food resource. When there was a battle or when some guerrilla fighters de-

parted, they gave this to them as the basic source of energy.

There was a healthcare collective in charge of medicine and caring for the wounded. They already had connections to get medicine from the cities or from other countries.

Another collective was the mission group. It made sure that the comrades who went into combat had everything they needed, such as shoes, clothes, caps, socks.

All this was at the beginning of the war. Everything was with the goal of a change in the system. All these collectives were responsible for recruiting the masses. But when the war got more intense from 1983 onwards, these groups changed their logistics and health strategies.

The Collectivization of Agriculture: 1983 and After

Starting in 1983, the war was already more acute militarily. Some groups of elderly men and women who helped us in production went to refugee centers in Honduras and Nicaragua. Children who worked full-time in the camps in the agricultural production area mobilized to prepare militarily.

A collective formed to take charge of food logistics, solving problems together with the population of other towns. Some areas received



shared it with the civilian population of the area.

A collective had also formed for weapons preparation. They took charge of getting the materials. They looked for carpenters who could make us the material needed for grenades.

At the end of each day, all these collectives evaluated and commented on the problems that they had had. They discussed the problems to solve them. If someone had a problem they were criticized, but constructively, not destructively.

When the FMLN leaders demobilized us in 1992, we wanted to continue working under these collectives. Vegetables were produced for the Peace Accords, and when they were harvested, they were distributed among all. You always worked and shared collectively. The vegetables were sent to the warehouse, and someone was in charge of distributing them.

Later the leadership of the FMLN put aside that ideology of communist solidarity. They prioritized elections and not political training. When we saw this, many combatants were disappointed and stopped believing in the FMLN election project. Today many of us are part of the International Communist Workers' Party, because here we have found the communist roots of our original training.



fertilizers to plant beans and corn. The guerrillas were already more numerous. They came from other places and concentrated in one place. You had to have everything they needed. Then you bought it or

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What Does It Mean to Lead?

Leading/following is a contradiction. They are opposites and neither can exist without the other. No one is a leader unless others "follow" them. In capitalism, the two sides interfere with each other: nobody likes to be bossed around. Especially when "following the leader" means acting against their own best interests.

A recent article said, "In the factories today, the workers' collectives give leadership to the comrades who demonstrate their willingness to fight for a new world." That is, other comrade workers follow their lead.

Sometimes "leadership" is confused with "responsibility." Comrades and friends take (or share) responsibility for aspects of Party work. They agree to be accountable to a collective, practicing criticism and self-criticism to improve that work.

Such positions, however important, are not always "leadership." For example, a comrade is responsible for formatting pictures in *Red Flag*. Other comrades sometimes help, but the task can be done without anyone "following."

In contrast, several comrades have been responsible for layout. They have built long-term

relationships with others who are now following their lead. Layout is a task, but helping others to take responsibility for it is leading.

Becoming a leader is a process. For example: a comrade sets up meetings and invites friends - important tasks! But nobody comes. Or someone comes once and doesn't return. The comrade organizer is not yet a leader because nobody is following.

But, encouraged by their collective, they keep trying. They deepen personal-political relationships. Often, that work adds up, little by little. Another meeting... but this time three people come and enjoy a productive discussion. They want to return. There are qualitative changes: a new collective exists and the comrade organizer is now a leader.

In capitalism, "leaders" are those appointed or elected to a "leadership position" - or they inherit it or forcibly seize it. Capitalist leaders are members or accomplices of the ruling class. The masses are "followers." We're supposed to cast a vote occasionally (if we're allowed) and do what the "leaders" tell us. As the article said, "In communism there will be no elections of this type."

But the article continued, "The leadership will be given to those who demonstrate the greatest commitment to the fulfillment of the human being." This is, at best, confusing. Positions of responsibility may be assigned ("given") to people who accept them, but becoming a leader is not something that can be "given."

This sentence also implies that leadership involves being exceptional. I think that's wrong. In ICWP today, and in communism after world revolution, we want everyone to lead in some areas and follow in others, as we are willing and able. Our different strengths will complement each other as we all learn and develop new strengths.

Communism resolves the leading/following contradiction by "leaders" helping "followers" develop as leaders. And leaders being open to learning from ("following") their followers. We make and carry out decisions collectively in our common interest. We all have responsibilities. Nobody is a boss. Nobody just follows orders. Starting now, in our party!

-Comrade in California (USA)

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Rittenhouse Verdict: Racism, Rebellion and Communist Revolution

The news that Kyle Rittenhouse had gotten away with murder flashed around the school. People had been following the trial.

In the summer of 2020, after cops in Kenosha, Wisconsin, had shot yet another young Black man, Jacob Blake, in the back, a fierce rebellion broke out. Rittenhouse, a 17-year-old kid with an AR 15 had helped contain the rebellion by joining up with a militia group. He killed two and wounded a third anti-racist on the second day.

On November 19, Rittenhouse was acquitted of all charges.

I struggled with what to say to my coworkers. I needed to know more than the media was feeding me. Suddenly a quote in a leftist article jumped out at me: "I'm never going to see my PO (Probation Officer) ever again," a protester had shouted as he watched the Kenosha Department of Corrections burning to the ground.

Unfortunately, he's probably wrong. But the sense of liberation that's unleashed the moment the masses take control away from the forces of government lights up our revolutionary imaginations.

Calls for "Justice" were no longer enough: the system itself would have to go! Although it was not a fully developed political slogan, the action clearly said "Destroy," not "Defund" the Department of Corrections.

As much as that idea inspired some, it sent shock waves through the elites. It led them to call in the militia as back up and to support them with the authority of the courts.

The Rittenhouse verdict showed we need to build a communist revolution. It also pointed to something more immediate: I need to distribute more RED FLAGS.

The Kenosha rebellion shows that the anger at the system runs deep and wide. The police shooting of Jacob Blake was one more insult in a chain of cutbacks and attacks against the working class.

Sixty years ago, 16,000 auto workers were employed in Kenosha. Today there are none, and a new jail has been built. The industrial vandalism of capitalist production might not leave smoldering ashes, but it has given Kenosha an epidemic of "deaths of despair."

Opioid overdoses run around 34 per hundred thousand people, about 70% higher than the overall US rate.

The anger that exploded after the shooting of Jacob Blake had been building for years. It can be revolutionary, but it needs to be organized. It is ready to tear down the (In)Justice System but it has yet to work out what to replace it with. We need RED FLAG ideas to influence and lead those discussions. The more organizers and RED FLAG distributors we can get, the faster we can build the communist revolution we need.

-Comrade teacher in the USA

Need to Move Beyond Trade-Unionism and Reform

Really good issue (vol. 12 #15). I particularly liked the conversation around trade unionism. It reminded me of an article I just reviewed with my students. It was about efforts to develop an international labor solidarity movement that emphasizes greater worker control over production and the reduction of class as well as gender and racial inequality and the need for social unionism. That requires a restructuring of the labor movement and reevaluating of its goals. Trade unionism too narrowly focuses on wages and working conditions but fails to confront power.

I also enjoyed the article on environmentalism. I heard Naomi Klein say that the right wing's criticism about the environmental justice movement as a socialist movement is correct. She stated that a move towards socialism (we would argue communism) is necessary to address environmental issues in any meaningful way. Capitalism just can't and won't do it.

Great reads, thank you.

-Teacher friend in the US

Communism on Kaiser Picket Lines

In November I distributed *Red Flag* to picketing Kaiser workers in Oakland (USA). They



Kenosha, Wisconsin, Department of Corrections

were out on a sympathy strike to support the Kaiser engineers, who had been on strike for 60 days.

Kaiser made \$6.4 billion last year in profits during the pandemic but has refused a cost-of-living increase in engineers' salaries. Nurses and other unionized health care workers approved a tentative contract agreement on the eve of their scheduled strike, defeating Kaiser's divisive two-tier salary proposal. So what a pleasure to see workers striking in solidarity with another union!

Workers have been shoved up against the wall in the US for decades. We've suffered the flight of industrial jobs, mechanization of jobs, behemoth corporate wage gouging, growing massive personal debt, government union busting legislation like the Taft Hartley act, Reagan's war on unions, and neoliberal tax cuts for the rich.

When workers organize and resist the greedy 1% that sucks their massive profits from our lifetime of work, we begin to realize our power. The corporate ownership class has always feared and tried to destroy the labor movement.

Unionized nurses and other health care workers cannot heal the chaotic, dysfunctional health system in the US, where one tenth of us are uninsured, and with little access to basic healthcare in low-income communities. Our privatized health care and unregulated, pernicious pharmaceutical companies create mistrust even of good medicine.

With the Covid Omicron variant emerging, the world needs access to vaccinations. But the profit-driven health care machine cannot relinquish the reason that it exists: to make more money.

Every human being deserves health care. The capitalist system functions by playing us against each other. Together, united, we can fight for a communist system that provides quality healthcare and sustenance for all. Under Communism, we will have collective control and ownership of our working life.

-Retired worker



CADIZ (Spain) — Twenty thousand striking metalworkers shut down the port area of this industrial hub, fighting police and disrupting operations also at an Airbus subsidiary and the ship-builder Navantia. Faced with Spain's highest employment rate and skyrocketing inflation, workers need more than the pay raise they won. They need to fight to end capitalist wage-slavery.



ETHIOPIA: TURN IMPERIALIST PROXY WAR INTO COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

SOUTH AFRICA, Dec. 4—The year-long conflict in Ethiopia started as a minor electoral dispute. It has become an open civil war and also an ethnic war.

It is fueled by rivalry between US and Chinese rulers. It is an example of the increasing conflict between these two major imperialist powers.

The Horn of Africa is strategically key. It controls the entrance to the Red Sea, a vital shipping lane ending in the Suez Canal. This route connects the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean. Ethiopia also controls the headwaters of the Nile River.

Our working-class family in Ethiopia is feeling the brunt of this war. One example is the owner of a neighborhood Ethiopian shop in South Africa. His family is in a Tigray village called Afra that the government is besieging. They are trying to find a way out.

The working class on both sides of the conflict is suffering. This untold suffering must be condemned in the strongest terms. But we can't be cynical. Communist industrial workers, soldiers and sailors of all nationalities and ethnicities have the historical task of mobilizing the broader masses.

We must mobilize some of these shop owners and other migrants living among us who are fleeing this conflict, giving them our material. They need the communist outlook that we have, the un-

derstanding that to end this conflict we need to eradicate capitalism as a whole. We can't do it just in South Africa and expect no push-back from the bosses. The fight has to be international.

The origins of the conflict

Before the pandemic, elections were planned in Ethiopia for summer 2000. The government faced opposition, especially in the Oromo and Tigray regions. It cancelled the elections using the excuse of Covid.

The Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) regional government in Tigray held elections anyway. The federal government responded with economic reprisals. The Tigray regional army attacked a federal army compound in Tigray. The war was on.

Ethiopia is ethnically diverse. The previous government, headed by the TPLF, came to power in 1991 with support from the US CIA. They abolished the old provincial boundaries, divided the country into ethnic regions, and built ethnic nationalism within the working-class masses. This divide-and-rule strategy angered the bosses of major ethnicities, especially the Oromo and Amhara.

In 2018, the TPLF was defeated by Abiy Ahmed's new Prosperity Party. While the TPLF leaders retreated to Tigray province, the central government has increasingly come into the Chinese orbit.

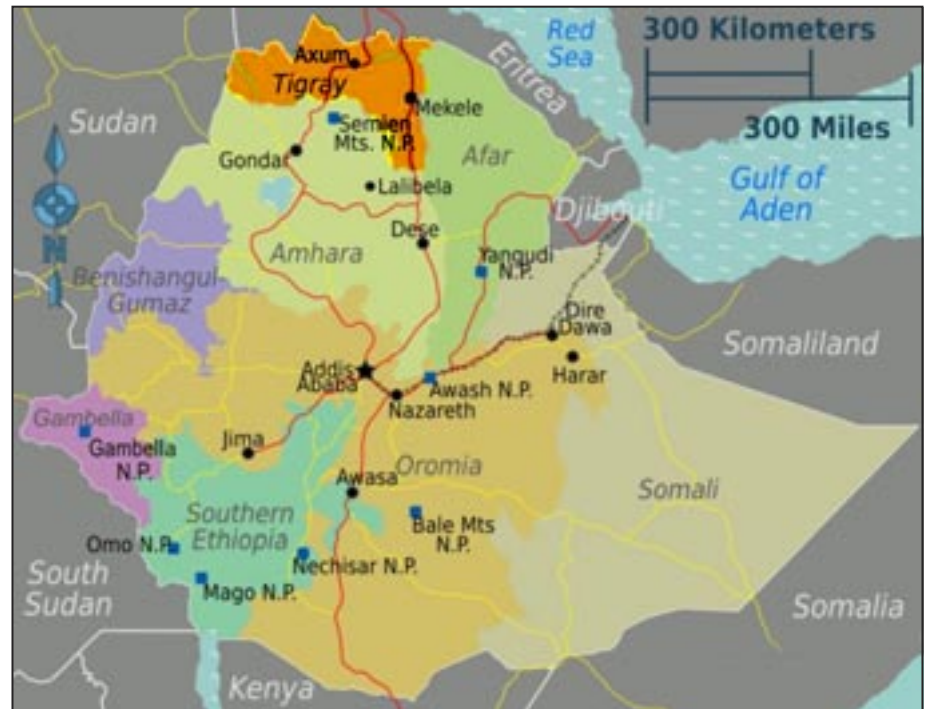
The genocidal civil war raging for the past year is a proxy war between the Chinese and US imperialists for control of Ethiopia.

Water Wars: Damming the Nile

Ethiopia has been locked in a dispute with Sudan and Egypt since 2011 over the construction of a dam on the Ethiopian headwaters of the Nile. Egypt and Sudan, downstream, depend on the Nile for their water and their very survival.

Any disruption of the Nile can disastrously unbalance Egyptian ecosystems and their food source. Egypt has been secretly lobbying the US to intervene in this conflict because the hydroelectric dam in Ethiopia is largely financed by the Chinese.

Nothing happens in isolation. Ethnic rivalries within Ethiopian society had already been ex-



ploited to serve strategic aims. The inter-imperialist rivalry between China and the US has gone on for decades. But since the conflict in Tigray began, the Nile dam project has ground to a halt. Each day lost means millions in profit lost by local bosses and their imperialist masters.

The US has always tried to appease the Egyptian capitalists because of their discord with Israel and Egypt's participation in the blockade of Gaza. The US is also happy to cause problems for China, because the Nile dam will generate a huge amount of power for Ethiopia, which is increasingly a site of Chinese investment.

The US, the UK and the EU have not intervened openly. But they have participated in private meetings with their clients in Tigray. Rallies in the US in November called for "Hands off Ethiopia!" They recognized the danger that the US and its allies could intervene in this conflict.

Are the US and European Rulers the Only Imperialists?

Many activists globally think that the US and European rulers are the only imperialists. In reality, the main imperialist power in Africa today is China. The conflict in Ethiopia is between two imperialists, but it is the masses in the Horn of Africa who are dying.

The working class has no stake in this conflict. To end it, we need communism. Without communism, our working-class family will continue to suffer under the yoke of capitalism.

We need to mobilize worldwide with a mass outlook. We start with the ones and twos. And they will also recruit their ones and twos. That's how you build a mass communist party.



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MASSES FOR
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