

# RED FLAG



## MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

**CHENNAI, INDIA  
2019**

**ORGANIZE FOR  
COMMUNIST  
REVOLUTION IN  
THE FACE OF  
FASCISM AND  
WAR**

**SEE PAGE 2**



**Workers, Unite Against  
Divisive Capitalist Lies!**

### **MOBILIZE A NEW “ARMY OF HUNGRY MASSES”**

INDIA, January 22— “My name is Amit Kumar. I am 38 years old. I have been a contract worker at the Ford factory for the last 12 years. My wife and four children live in a small village about 1600 km from here. Eight workers like me occupy my small room. Our work is very irregular. Next month if we don’t pay rent, we will be out in the street. I saw a copy of *Red Flag*. I am here to talk to you.”

Comrades from our ICWP auto workers collective visited Amit. He lives about 10 km from us. As in other working-class colonies, we had to negotiate small lanes full of rotting garbage, dirty puddles full of mosquitos, raw sewage. There are five toilets for hundreds of residents.

Altogether, this colony has 28,000 workers, all related to the auto industry. Even the smallest car cannot drive here. This colony is one of several organized by the kind of work people perform daily.

“Since covid, our work has become highly irregular. And now, we are just one step from being homeless,” Amit told us. “If I get paid, I make Rs 14000 (\$190) a month. My rent is Rs 2000 and the remaining money goes for my children’s school. As you can see, there is very little food. When we don’t get paid, we eat every other day some chapati (tortilla) with chili and salt. The hot chili makes us drink water, so we don’t feel hungry.”

The party comrades had brought homemade food. Another worker who lives with Amit was there. He has been reading *Red Flag* that Amit shares in his room. Perhaps the other six guys are also familiar with *Red Flag*. Our mood changed as we talked about *Red Flag*.

“When people are desperate, looking for something to eat next day and the only way they get it

See INDIA AUTOWORKER, page 4

## **CELEBRATE THE FIRST ARMED COMMUNIST UPRISING IN AMERICA**

EL SALVADOR— On January 22 we celebrate one of the most important revolutionary historical events in Latin America, the 1932 peasant uprising in western El Salvador. It was led by the Salvadoran Communist Party (SCP), founded on March 30, 1930, by Abel Cuenca, Miguel Mármol, Farabundo Martí and Modesto Ramírez. Another outstanding leader was the indigenous communist Feliciano Ama.

The SCP recruited many members, including industrial workers, farmworkers, shoemakers. They mobilized large concentrations of workers: 80,000 workers on May Day, 1930. They brought the needs of indigenous workers into the political struggle. Communist Party members from Mexico and Ecuador came to orient the Salvadoran comrades to Marxism-Leninism.

In the 1880s, the nascent oligarchy had dispossessed the peasants of the ejido lands (use for all) through government decrees. They concentrated the land in a few hands.

This gave rise to a new form of production called haciendas. Indigenous people were forced to work as exploited farmworkers, growing in-

digo in the lowlands and coffee in the highlands. Coffee was the most important crop, and the area was the center of coffee economies.

**Fighting against anti-indigenous racism,  
organizing for communism**

The 1920s saw increasing dispossession and racism. The state was taking away indigenous lands. It repressed indigenous people and kept them from speaking their Nahuatl language. Many left behind everything that identified them as farmworkers, although this process was not immediate.

The communists organized and structured the revolutionary effort. They formed the largest worker-farmworker alliance of the time to fight against the oligarchy. Some women resisted abandoning traditional dress, leading them to fight against repression and exploitation.

By 1930-31 the western zone was in a state of great agitation. Strikes broke out in the coffee areas because of massive firings and wage cuts caused by the 1929 worldwide Great Depression.

The farmworkers took control of military  
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## Bosses Build Racial and Religious Factions:

# **BOEING WORKERS DISCUSS OPPORTUNITIES TO BUILD THE ICWP IN AN ERA OF CIVIL STRIFE**

SEATTLE (US), January 22—“When the U.S. descends into civil war, it will happen fast,” said C, a Boeing retiree and long-time comrade.

What makes him think this might happen? What kind of civil war? And most importantly, how will this—if it really is likely—affect our present efforts to build the ICWP and communist revolution?

The U.S. has been in big trouble for decades and won't go back to 'normal.' Civil strife, including fighting between racists and anti-racists, has been escalating especially since 2017. Those who are direct victims of attacks based on “race” or religion might be more attuned to the increasing prospects for fascism, but most workers can see the writing on the wall. We should not be surprised. But we should be better prepared.

Racism and religion define most of the emerging factional groups in the US, India and elsewhere. But this is not a “battle between extremism and democracy” as liberal media portray it.

Since 2010, massive protests have surged around the world. CIA advisor Barbara F. Walter calculates that there have been more protests in the last ten years than at any time since researchers began to collect data in 1900. In 2019 alone, political protests erupted in 114 countries, on every continent.

These protests have increasingly failed even to achieve reforms, leaving masses angry. Influential advisors on the Council of Foreign Affairs warn of more and deadlier civil wars. They are concerned about whether their imperialist empire can survive.

### **The Key to Party Growth Is Right Before Our Eyes**

Predicting the future is not the main point. This is the present reality.

We must be keenly aware of what is driving mass struggles. The main point is for comrades to learn how to recruit new members to the party during the escalating battles. What happens in the streets can help us advance communist understanding in the factories and everywhere.

The millions who have protested and rebelled against the evils of capitalism will not spontaneously join ICWP and develop into seasoned communist organizers. Our party must bring our communist line not only to the demonstrations, but also to key industries, the military and youth. We must develop the communist relationships and collectives necessary to help new friends who hate capitalism become new members who organize for communism.

We have powerful examples from the work of Party comrades in India. Comrades in Bengaluru reported last fall about an ICWP meeting of garment workers who were attracted by the struggle of farmworkers 2000 km (1200 mi) away. Many ICWP comrades participated in that mass movement and wrote about it in *Red Flag*. Now the Bengaluru comrades are building ties with more garment workers and developing new communist leaders.

In Seattle, Boeing workers have more on their minds than an immediate threat to their livelihoods. Boeing might rupture, with the company spinning off its defense and space sections, leaving the commercial airlines division \$42 billion in debt. This menaces the jobs of active workers and the pensions of retirees.

But when a comrade told Boeing workers closest to the party about a recent Martin Luther King Day rally, it generated as much discussion as anything else. While the official speakers bragged about their six-figure salaries, the rank-and-file joyfully engaged comrades in serious and lengthy discussions about communism.

“Racism is not about Black and white. It's about ideology,” C noted. “Capitalism teaches us to focus on me getting to the top. Communism teaches us to think about the collective good.”

### **Workers need Communist Revolution, Not Democracy**

C criticized Biden and the Democratic Party sharply for pushing democracy and elections. They support capitalism and hence can't be relied on to defeat far-right fascists. “We have to fight fire with fire,” he concluded. The fire next time must be communist revolution.

The communist fight against racism, sexism and xenophobia is more important than ever amidst civil strife and civil war. Our ability to provide communist answers has expanded wherever we have recruited from mass struggles. From India to South Africa to the US, when we take communist ideas to mass demonstrations, we see how open so many people are.

The capitalists realize the danger these potential communists present to their system. Even in the U.S., over a third of people under forty tell pollsters that they prefer communism. Capitalism's promise to reform has become a bad joke as poverty and inequality skyrocket.

As the capitalist crisis intensifies, different ruling-class factions vie for the allegiance of the working class. In the U.S., the main imperialists want a multi-racial armed force. Yet the Pentagon just reported that they have failed to quash racist divisions.

Similar fractures have emerged in the South African army. Governmental institutions worldwide face these internal conflicts caused by the crisis of capitalism.

Capitalism's civil strife—like its imperialist wars—pits worker against worker, race against race. Communist revolution is the way out of this deadly chaos. When we pick up arms, let's do it for the collective good of our class.

### **ICWP in Women's March, January 2017**

## **FASCISTS MOBILIZE AROUND SEXISM AS WELL AS RACISM.**

USA, January 25—The annual anti-abortion march in Washington, D.C. this year brought out thousands (including buses of students organized by churches) despite icy weather, Covid, and their opposition to the capital's anti-Covid regulations. They look forward to the US Supreme Court soon overturning “Roe v. Wade,” the decision that made abortion legal (but often still inaccessible) nationwide. The USA, Poland, and El Salvador are the only countries currently rolling back women's access to reproductive health care.

The German Nazi Party's slogan was “children, church, kitchen.” Today's fascists aren't much different. Their “replacement theory” builds racism around the declining birth rate among whites and the increasing share of BIPOC people in the US and Europe. Making it harder for white people to get abortions is part of their solution. Denying health care to BIPOC people is another.

As we have said before, anti-abortion laws will make abortions more dangerous but won't reduce them. The “anti-abortion” forces oppose the best ways to reduce abortions: freely available birth-control and material support for new mothers and babies.

Communism will do these things and much more: Collective responsibility for childcare. Shelter, food, health care according to need. Collective decision-making about how we each can best contribute to our common good. That includes helping women make choices about childbearing.

It's a big mistake to respond to anti-abortion Christian theocrats with Democratic Party reformism. Fascist initiatives reflect the deeper reality of US imperialism in decline and world capitalism in crisis. That's why a mass communist fight against sexism and racism is so important now.



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## Capitalism, Covid-19 and the Schools:

### MASS PROTESTS SHOW POTENTIAL TO MOBILIZE FOR COMMUNISM

“It seems that much that has happened related to the pandemic has to do with money,” said Latricia, a high school student, in a meeting organized by a comrade. We had just read a report correlating the rise of Covid cases and the rise of the stock-market, both to record levels.

In just two years of the pandemic more than 800,000 Americans have died. In those same two years the US billionaires got \$2.1 trillion wealthier. Latricia has got it right.

And WHO are the dead? Low paid essential workers (which in the US means a high concentration of Black and Latinx workers) and the old (75% of the dead are over 65). It’s the working class that are dying. The bulk of the deaths are among that population that cost the capitalist state money in Social Services. Oh yes! Latricia’s observation was spot on.

Of course, this is a global pandemic. More than five and a half million people have died of Covid worldwide—always mainly impacting older and poorer workers.

Money might be in control, but it isn’t all powerful. From Oakland (USA) to Paris (France) students and teachers have been striking and

rebellious against the billionaires’ thrust to keep schools open throughout the Omicron surge. “They don’t want to close the schools and businesses because it cuts down their profits,” pointed out Henry, another student.

“If they open up our schools, social distancing will not be possible,” said Luisa.

“True,” Alex responded, “but they don’t care about our health and well-being.” These billionaires are willing and deliberate mass murderers.

The ICWP member raised an important question: “The virus and its variants exist, but it was capitalism and its money system that created the pandemic. If capitalism is a society based on money, can we live in a society without money? Why wouldn’t communism work now?”

A lively discussion followed. What to do with people who were not billionaires but who were greedy and selfish like them? What about people who were lazy and didn’t want to contribute? We speculated about a communist future and talked about pre-capitalist societies. Someone said people are too individualistic, but another countered that there were strikes all over the place and that strikes, where you all must stand together, are the opposite of individualism.

And that’s true. There were a record number of official strikes and wildcats (unofficial strikes) in the US and many other places last year. There is a lot of anger about the way the system



Paris (France) January 2022: Teachers march against the “Blanquer virus” (Blanquer is the French Minister of Education) demanding respect and support as part of a one-day national strike.

reacted to the virus. Now those industrial strikes are spilling over into schools. In places like Oakland the students have taken the lead and teachers have followed (with wildcats in support of student demands). The teachers have taken tremendous care to reach out for support from the parents. And they have gotten it.

Times are changing. These are class actions rather than separate union and community struggles and they present the possibility of a stronger class consciousness emerging. In other words, a shift in the way we think of each other. Rather than harboring doubts of greed or individualism, a sense of our commonality, strength and unity will emerge. And this development of class consciousness – born out of all sorts of struggles – is a key mass element we’ll need to build a communist share-and-share alike revolution and society.

Discussions like the one with Latricia, Alex and the other students are a start. We need to invite them to read and discuss *Red Flag* (including our articles on the pandemic) and to join ICWP. They can be future leaders of communist class struggle, like walkouts in their own school, and in building the revolutionary movement we need.



Seattle (USA) January 2022: High School Students walk out demanding Covid protections

## EL SALVADOR UPRISING OF 1932 from page 1

installations and towns such as Izalco, Juayua, Nahuizalco and Tacuba. This was the uprising of 1932.

The charge d’affaires of the United States in El Salvador reported that telephone and telegraphic communication was cut off and the English railway, near Sonsonate departmental capital in the west, was destroyed. The uprising was widespread among many populations. The US official assured his superiors that authorities were taking energetic measures to suppress the disturbances.

The US State Department, coordinating with the diplomatic delegations of Italy, the United Kingdom and Canada, sent warships from Panama to the Salvadoran coast. They were led by the cruiser Rochester, flagship of the special services division in the Canal Zone.

*The Daily Worker*, newspaper of the US Communist Party, declared that “every US worker must come to the aid of their fellow workers in El Salvador. Fighting there against US imperialism is part of the struggle of the American masses against wholesale hunger and wage cuts.”

It continued, “Support the Salvadoran workers and farmworkers. Fight against the terror of Wall Street and that of the rich exploiters: Let us demand the withdrawal of all troops from El Salvador.”

“The workers and farmworkers there are fighting against hunger, imposed by US imperialism,” it concluded. “Let us demand the withdrawal of



the gunboats and marines! Stop the murder of workers and peasants! All the revolutionary support to the workers and peasants of El Salvador!”

The uprising of the masses was a very important battle against capitalism. It didn’t achieve all its objectives, and thousands were massacred. But the uprising lit the path for the communist revolutionary struggle ahead. It is an example for the working class to continue the struggle against racism by organizing for communism.

Ninety years after that heroic struggle, rebelliousness is emerging again with ICWP.

The International Communist Workers’ Party commemorates those who gave their lives to liberate the farmworkers, among them Feliciano

Ama, Farabundo Martí (member of the International Relief and the Communist International), Zapata and Luna. All were shot as leaders of the uprising.

Our party is inspired by these struggles to continue organizing farmworkers and industrial workers to mobilize masses directly for communism. Communist society will abolish personal wealth. No one will exploit anyone. The communist world will have no nations, classes, racism, sexism, or exploitation.

We call on all workers of the world to organize in the International Communist Workers’ Party. It is time to end this rotten capitalist system and fight for the communist system we need.

## STRENGTHEN SOUTH AFRICA PARTY COLLECTIVE BY INCREASING EVERYONE'S COMMITMENT

On the 1st of January we hosted an end-of-the-year dinner with ten comrades from two collectives. The dinner focused on the review of our year. Since 2020 we had a lot of challenges as a collective. Part of that was having to acclimatise to the covid-19 restrictions imposed by the government.

The issue that mostly affected us was the physical separation, not being able to meet. However, in 2021 that was different. We had mostly adapted to the situation. We performed better and met a number of our targets. These targets included writing for the *Red Flag* regularly, which we fairly did, and having online meetings which we didn't do as well. But we had a few. The easing of restrictions allowed physical meetings to take place.

Going into 2022, we are learning from the experience that we had in 2021 and trying to improve our work. Primarily, focusing on sustaining and expanding our article writing. That is, developing and encouraging more comrades to write for the *Red Flag*—not just a few.

We have set a target of developing a comrade (comrade N) to take more of a leadership role. This comrade has the potential and time since he currently is not working nor studying. He has written articles in the *Red Flag* before

but on an inconsistent basis. We are struggling with him trying to find out what is holding him back. If we can manage to win the full commitment of the comrade, that would be great for the party as he will act as a coordinator between different collectives. This will ensure smooth progress in our work.

We have identified as a weakness that over the years the collective has increasingly relied on a few comrades. This is a collective mistake we wish to rectify since the collective must function as a whole, not just rely on a few individuals. We understand that some are more committed than others. However, we also know that it is the collective that is central to the work of our party.

So, for 2022 we are more focused on strengthening the collective by increasing and strengthening the commitment of every individual in the collective. This will ensure that the collective relies less on a few individuals, and instead on more comrades.

We also have plans for recruitment and the consolidation of the Rustenburg mine workers who are friends of the party. We have the May Day celebrations to look forward to. We will further discuss these plans in the coming weeks to move the party forward.

—Comrades in South Africa



**WORKERS OF THE  
WORLD UNITE  
FOR  
COMMUNIST  
REVOLUTION**

### NEW COMRADE AUTOWORKER IN INDIA from page 1

is by working, they feel demoralized," said Amit. "But I am not alone. There are 28,000 workers like me. All over India, there are hundreds of millions. We are facing unemployment, young people have no jobs, petrol and gas prices are rising every day and cannot catch up with the inflation.

"After reading *Red Flag*," Amit continued, "I realized that the capitalist bosses have created tremendous ways to keep us disunited. They have created hatred between Hindu and Muslim workers. All these TV channels spread this lie 24 hours a day. There is talk of getting rid of the Muslims by ethnic cleansing. While people are thinking of genocide, they are not going to think about poverty and unemployment."

We had a very long conversation about how capitalist bosses maximize profit by dividing the workers based on caste, religion, and gender. The maximization of profit is at the root of capitalism. We can only end it by eliminating the bosses: this is communism. Communism will also end money because the working class will get what it needs, not based on the profit motive of our class enemy.

Amit and his coworkers are interested in attending our next meeting. But they are still not convinced about how their hunger and their urgent need to meet the rent money connects to our communist cause. This led to another very long conversation about the role of the old communist party in India in the 1940s.

As world war raged, Indian workers were forced to serve British imperialism. Imperialism created an artificial famine in Bengal when the

rice that used to feed the local population disappeared to be sold for more profit abroad.

The Bengal famine of 1943 killed 3 million out of 60 million people there. The Communist Party organized a hugely popular 'army of hungry masses' that brought tens of thousands to the streets of Kolkata. However, their demands were reformist. They asked for land reforms to give more land to landless workers. In the city, the industrial workers demanded higher salaries.

And today 25 lakh (2.5 million) Indians starve to death every year. Landless rural workers are the largest part of the population.

Our party has a clear vision: communist rev-

olution to end this capitalist system that survives by offering reforms to bribe one group against another by caste and gender. Last week we saw 8000 Foxconn women workers striking against the bosses. Some of our workers were there to show support by spreading *Red Flag*.

We can make bigger strides by creating communist leaders among Dalits, Muslims, women, and other industrial workers. What Amit and his friend told us is the story of millions of workers. When we listen to their stories, their aspirations, their obstacles, the working class is giving us the clue to fighting for communism. It is our job to recruit them to ICWP.



**Autoworkers on strike in Chennai, India, 2018**



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## Movie Review: "Don't Look Up!"

### WE SAY "LOOK TO THE WORKING CLASS!"

This film "Don't Look Up!" is quite good at criticizing the lies and deceit of the ruling class, its short-termism, its self-indulgence. It is a parody of climate disaster denialism, free-market attempts to solve it, and conspiracy theories surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. However, it is ultimately a pessimistic and sinful surrender to the system it is attacking.

"Don't Look Up" is a clear example of the immediate present where the same mistakes are made over and over again. You can see the same corrupt politicians abusing power, personified by far-right demagogues. There are capitalist entrepreneurs who are a parody of our modern technological billionaires. They take advantage of situations for their own well-being and always exploit reality and appropriate it to their advantage. There is a ruling class unable to mobilize society and science to overcome the imminent calamity of the collision with a giant comet.

Scientists played by Leonardo DiCaprio and Jennifer Lawrence try to overcome political, bureaucratic and media obstacles to warn the world of impending doom. They organize on the social networks, and many people respond. Some viewers will be inspired by this response and see it as a call to organize better and sooner.

But the fact that all the organizing is done by a couple of scientists hides the key role of organized workers and a communist party. Viewers sure won't learn that from this movie and may very well conclude that the workers are helpless victims.

In a scene at the end of the film, there's a "Last Supper" moment, where there is harmony, forgiveness, love and union for the working class. This includes those who fought to the end, standing up and fighting for their ideas and convictions, but did not defeat the system.

The end is a desperate but worse scenario as

the ruling-class billionaires and presidential courtiers, unlike the subjugated masses, escape the doomed planet, ultimately to meet their own doom.

The contradiction that this film presents is that it shows the horror of the system and criticizes its worst contemporary features but offers no hope of change. Those of us who are communists know that social transformation and revolution is the only way to overcome this system that is parodied in this film. And some viewers will be inspired to fight harder by seeing the urgency of the disaster we face.

But the majority of those who see this movie will say, "This system is terrible and cruel, but there is nothing we can do." And that's a lie. As communists, we know that when the masses mobilize and engage in struggle, communist revolution can end this system forever.

## We Learn from the Russian Revolution

### FIGHTING DIRECTLY FOR COMMUNISM IS THE ONLY WAY TO TRIUMPH

Some comrades and friends want us to talk more about the strengths and weaknesses of the Russian Revolution.

Our pamphlet *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* talks about the weaknesses of the Bolshevik party. It explains that Soviet socialism could not "become" communism. Its main point, however, is what ICWP will do differently: what we have learned from the mistakes of the Soviets and others.

We recognize the Russian Revolution as one of the greatest working-class victories. The Russian communist party grew from 24,000 members in February 1917 to over 200,000 seven months later. Many were in the Russian army in the trenches of the first world war. These members, mostly new Bolsheviks, mobilized millions to overthrow the liberal capitalist Kerensky government and establish the Soviet republic.

The Bolsheviks declared communism as their goal. Fourteen imperialist powers sent troops to attack the Soviets, but the Bolsheviks organized more than five million workers and peasants into the Red Army to smash them. They also organized among the soldiers of the invading armies. Every invader witnessed big revolts among rank-and-file soldiers, forcing them to withdraw.

In 1918, the Bolsheviks organized society as "war communism." As an emergency measure, they eliminated money, but they didn't think that the masses (or the system of production) were ready for this long term.

After the war, Russia was in chaos. There were rebellions of workers, peasants, and soldiers. In 1921 the Bolsheviks retreated to the New Economic Policy (NEP), which meant openly capitalist relationships.

The first socialist Five-Year Plan replaced NEP in 1928. Bolshevik leaders advocated struggle toward more collective ways of life but undermined that by maintaining a wage system that pushed the masses to seek personal gain. Workers were urged to earn bonuses by producing more; students to get higher grades and white-collar jobs; soldiers to get medals and promotions; and women were rewarded for producing more babies.

This contradiction sharpened as factory and farm workers, including party members, fought for a more collective approach. While few workers or Party cadres questioned the wage system itself, many struggled against its divisively competitive policies.

Socialism was actually state capitalism. Although the means of production were no longer in the hands of private capitalists, the economic system still rested on money, banks, wages, and production for sale. Having rejected that people can be won directly to communism, Party leaders had no choice left but to accommodate capitalist relations.

Defeating the Nazis in World War II was a great achievement of millions mobilized most significantly by communists. Many – including about 20 million in the Soviet Union – died fighting for a world in which the working class, led by the Party, would become the human race.

Many counterrevolutionaries also died. This was war, and traitors had to be dealt with swiftly and summarily. Unlike many other countries, Russia had no fascist "Fifth Column" because they were dealt with before they could do further harm to the revolution.

But the Soviet leadership lacked confidence in the working class. They had decided in 1934 that defeating fascism would require allying with "lesser-evil" capitalists such as the USA and Great Britain. This meant organizing

around nationalism and a vague classless "anti-fascism" rather than for communism.

The defeat of the Nazis in 1945 thus laid the basis, not for world communism, but for a new Soviet empire that renounced and suppressed world revolution. The failure of the Bolshevik revolution to achieve communism became obvious in 1989, but Russian communism was already defeated once its leaders determined to mobilize the masses for socialism, not communism.

We have learned from both their victories and their mistakes. We fight directly for communism and know the working class will be won to this. This is the only way the Party and our class can triumph.

We invite newer and younger comrades to send in your questions about the former Soviet Union and other aspects of communist history. Future articles will try to answer them.

Read our manifesto:  
*Mobilize the Masses for Communism*  
available at [icwpredflag.org/mmce.pdf](http://icwpredflag.org/mmce.pdf)



Defeat Soviet Revisionism! 1967

PLEASE SEND YOUR LETTERS, RESPONSES AND SUGGESTIONS TO  
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### “A New History of Humanity” and a New Communist Future

Many of our friends are eager to read a new book, *The Dawn of Everything: A New History of Humanity*. The authors are an archaeologist and an anarchist anthropologist. They analyze research results in their fields from the last thirty years. They call into question much of what we think we know about how people lived before the so-called “Neolithic Revolution” about 12,000 years ago.

We have been asking the wrong questions, they argue. We have been misled by influential European writers of the 18th century “Enlightenment.” As capitalism rose to dominate politics and culture, its intellectuals (like Hobbes and Rousseau) created myths that continue to reinforce capitalist ideas today.

When Engels wrote *The Origin of Private Property, the Family, and the State* in 1884, he relied on the best scientific evidence then available. “[Lewis Henry] MORGAN is the first man who, with expert knowledge, has attempted to introduce a definite order into the history of primitive man,” Engels wrote. “So long as no important additional material makes changes necessary, his classification will undoubtedly remain in force.”

Morgan thought that all humans, everywhere, evolved through the same stages: Savagery (hunting, fishing, gathering), Barbarism (agriculture), and Civilization (industry). His language smacks of racism and reflects imperialism. But there’s much more wrong with it than that.

Dawn of Everything contains over 500 pages of important additional material that render Morgan’s entire classification system obsolete. Evidence comes from archaeological sites like the early city of Taljanky in today’s Ukraine. The northern California coast. Tenochtitlan (Mexico), pre-agricultural Japan, Madagascar and more.

Also, new discoveries in Egypt and the “Fertile Crescent.” And 17th-century first-hand reports on conversations between Jesuit missionaries and indigenous philosophers in the northeastern American woodlands.

Why does this matter to us? Because it extends and deepens our critique of technological determinism. It offers new insights into how humans have made our own history (though not just as we please or under circumstances we choose). It helps us understand the possibility of creating a new communist society.

And it reframes issues in ways that can help us resolve debates like whether communism will ever have a “state.” Or whether communism would have to organize people into small self-sufficient villages instead of cities.

It helps explain why it is so central to our political line that in communism everyone will be welcome everywhere. It gives powerful reasons to reject the very idea of “property” handed down from Roman law.

This book does not ask all the questions we do. It certainly does not answer even those it asks. There are serious problems with its analytic framework. No Spanish translation exists yet. And it is not an easy read.

That’s why comrades and friends are starting a book club to read and discuss *The Dawn of Everything* together. Our focus will be on the “big questions” it raises. We look forward to reporting on our discussions in *Red Flag*.

—Comrades in Los Angeles (USA)



Scholars claim that large cities require a ruling class. But over 100,000 people lived in Teotihuacan (Mexico) around 300 CE. Their city seems to have been intentionally egalitarian. Small households lived in comfortable apartments in larger compounds (ruins seen here). They had common areas and extensive murals that depicted people all the same size. There is no sign of kings, priests, or top-down administrators. This social organization lasted about 250 years before internal contradictions led it to disintegrate.

### ICWP Conference: We Are All Communists, No Divisions

EL SALVADOR, January 21—This week a group of comrades, men and women workers from the maquila and comrades from another area, met as the leadership of the International Communist Workers’ Party here. We discussed the international conference that took place in December.

We have collected comments from participants in the conference. Among them are that they were delighted to know that there are more countries where workers are joining ICWP. Workers who participated for the first time had their doubts about whether the Party was really international. With the conference they have no doubt left. Also, it was very inspiring when comrades explained to us the process of producing our *Red Flag* newspaper.

We also set dates for the February extended meeting, as well as discussing how we will invite more women and men workers in the maquila where we work. We discussed the need to plan the march on May 1, 2022. We are committing ourselves to put great effort into organizing for it.

#### Conversations in the workshops

What will life be like in communism? There were many answers. Some said that work will be carried out based on the needs of humanity. Others said people will do different work. For example, those who work the land can teach us how to do that, just like we who work in the factory can teach them to make clothes.

The most important thing we discussed was that there will be no need for money. That has had a big impact on many new comrades and *Red Flag* readers.

When I got home, I started to remember what happened at the conference. I thought about what we talked about in the different workshops where we were maquila workers, farm workers, teachers, students, the internationalist comrades who were present and those who were present though zoom.

I think that in communism it will be different, as we are all going to do diverse work and there will no longer be borders. We are all going to be communists. There will be no division. I imagine the conferences where we will all call ourselves communists. We will be just one world.

—Comrade Maquila Worker

### Good Experience at ICWP Conference

I attended the international conference of the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP), although I was not in the best of health. I have been incapacitated for 5 months because of a traffic accident. I made the effort, and I still use crutches to walk, but this did not stop me from being present with the comrades who make Red Flag.

The vision and objectives of the ICWP that fights directly for the communist system is clear to me. I am a worker who likes justice for the working class because I am against all the bosses’ exploitation and the poverty in which we live as workers.

I think it was a good decision to attend. It is the second international conference that I have attended, together with my spouse. She always invites me, and we are both part of the Party. She is a maquiladora worker.

I encourage more workers to join ICWP. Since unity is strength, this is the way we will be more voices that shout more about our struggle.

Soon we will meet again.

—Comrade reader in El Salvador

### Dialectical Materialism: Philosophy for the Masses

For years in meetings of the International Communist Workers’ Party we have said that capitalism does not want philosophy to be available to everyone. And how right we have been! A few days ago, I was in a university class in which the teacher “explained” dialectical materialism to us.

He did it in a very complex and abstract way that confused us a lot. But since we have studied it for years in the Party, that helped me to be able to contribute my point of view.

The teacher told us that, according to the dialectic, processes are cyclical and returned to the same place. When he finished the class, he said that if we had questions or comments, we should write them in the chat, and he would read them.

I wrote and said that I did not agree that processes are cyclical, that such a statement was anti-dialectical. Instead, they were processes, negating past processes as the law of the negation of the negation says. And they could not be cyclical because we would speak of them being the same. He read it but did not comment on anything, even though he responded to the contributions of the others.

This opinion that I posted made a friend write to me, and we had an interesting conversation. I had given him our newspaper:

Friend: “Hey, I saw your message in the chat, I didn’t understand anything, no matter how much attention I paid.”

Me: “Well, if they had explained it to me for the first time like he did, I wouldn’t understand it either, I know a little about the subject because in the party we have studied about Dialectical Materialism and we have always said that capitalism makes these issues complex so that the masses do not understand them and don’t question the system”.

Friend: “The Party that you are in surprises me more and more and interests me.”

I shared different articles from past editions, and we will have a Zoom meeting to talk more about it.

—A Comrade

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

### US and Russian Imperialists on Collision Course in Ukraine

"The situation in Ukraine looks like it will be a confrontation. Europe will lose more than Russia," said a friend.

US propaganda blames Russia (mainly Putin). Russian propaganda blames US imperialism and its allies, mainly Biden and the Ukrainian president.

But this confrontation is not about personalities. It results directly from the laws of development of the worldwide capitalist profit system. Capitalists can only produce profits by exploiting the working class. Profits can only be realized by selling the worker-produced goods on the market.

Capitalists who can corner the market by underselling their competitors will maximize their profits. They eventually drive their competitors out of business. No capitalists accept their demise peacefully. They therefore compete fiercely for the cheapest labor, natural resources, and markets. Internationally, this competition inevitably leads to local, regional, and world wars.

The US-Russia struggle over Ukraine is

about world domination. The capitalists-imperialists who dominate the world maximize their profits at the expense of other capitalists-imperialists.

Both sides are mobilizing naval and air forces. Russia is refusing to allow further NATO expansion in Eastern Europe or the placement of US nuclear missiles on its doorstep. Neither the US nor NATO will agree to Russia's demands.

Right now (Jan. 26) it appears that Russia will move into Ukraine. Neither the US nor NATO are prepared to send troops to defend Ukraine. Any temporary negotiation to avoid a showdown would just postpone the storms to come as a rising China and resurgent Russia intensify their challenges to US world domination.

The outcome will be decided on the battlefields of World War III. Or – better! – by the international working class making communist revolution before or during this global conflagration.

This sharpening US-Russia confrontation has exposed divisions between the European and US capitalists. France and Germany rely

on Russia for gas and oil. They do not want to go to war against Russia in the interests of US imperialism and have refused to commit troops to Ukraine. They send troops elsewhere with their own European Union military presence and goals in mind.

The UK, like the US, is arming Ukraine. But the German government refused to allow the UK to use its air space for arms shipments to Ukraine.

Capitalism's nature makes wars and world wars inevitable. But capitalists rely on workers to fight their wars and produce their profits. The working class can and will fight for our own interests. Workers and soldiers have no reason to side with any capitalist-imperialist in their deadly wars for profit and empire. We must fight for our class. We need a communist world without nations, profits, exploitation, competition, or war.

As imperialist contradictions intensify, ICWP organizes workers, youth, and soldiers to join us to end capitalist competition and wars and to build the collective communist world we need.

—Comrades in Los Angeles (USA)

### Teacher Walk-Out Sparks Communist Conversations

January 25— This last week the teachers at the school where I work participated in a one-day strike supporting the students who are striking over safety demands regarding the spread of Covid -19.

The core activist teachers are an impressive bunch who spent much care and energy reaching out to the parents of their students. The crisis, however, opens up wider and wider circles of people to deeper political discussions about capitalism and the need for communism to replace it.

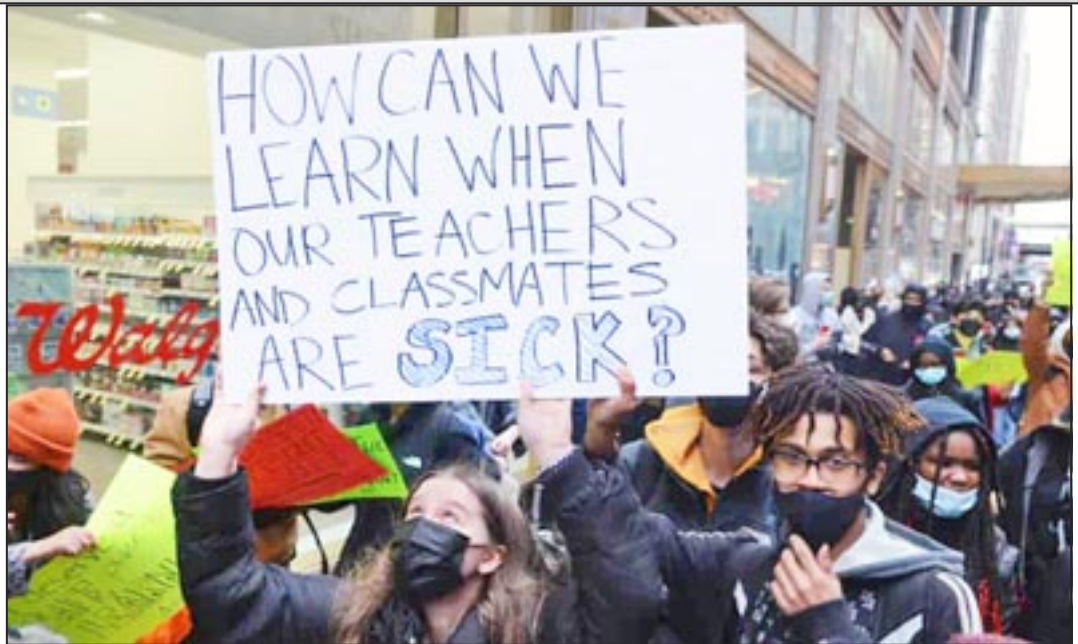
A fellow teacher (a father of young children) was going to support the strike for "opportunistic reasons" (he said he could use the day off). Talking to him, we quickly concluded that, sooner or later, we were all going to get the virus. They want us to live with Covid. Even these student demands, we agreed, were really demands about how safely we could live with Covid. The State was acting as if life (our lives) was cheap. The strike and support action were making a definite statement that it wasn't!

But why do we have to live with Covid? we asked. As long as it is around it will mutate. Then we began to look at where it mutates. The Delta variant first surfaced in India, we thought. Then the Omicron version was first identified in South Africa. As we were talking a new variant had possibly shown up in Cyprus (this has since turned out not to be so). There are whole areas of the world where billions of people live without any hope of being vaccinated any time soon!

Why? Capitalism can sell 477 million cell phones in sub-Saharan Africa but in two years it can't vaccinate even a quarter of the population against a killer virus. Why? Patent laws! Big Pharma wants to make a profit.

As the conversation ended, my fellow teacher was furious at putting profits ahead of people but not convinced of communism as the solution. I knew I had opened the door to discussions of communism in the months to come and plan to show him *Red Flag*.

—Teacher comrade



**Student Walkout, Oakland (USA) January 2022**

### Great Results, Red Flag

"Thank you for sharing *Red Flag* with us, we already read it," two friends told me with whom I shared our *Red Flag* newspaper through a message.

"It is admirable to see the struggle and commitment that we can read in the articles, to learn about the maquilas in our country, as well as to read the personal stories that moved me," commented one new reader.

"I found it very interesting to know that in many parts of the world the workers' struggle is reflected, that we are not the only ones facing these situations, even seeing news from India, which I liked a lot," said another.

He added, "We feel very encouraged to continue reading *Red Flag* and to be able to participate in a future Conference like the one you

attended."

In the articles and letters published after our International Conference held by our International Communist Workers' Party there were great results that inspire us.

These are a clear example that we can see when we get comments from our readers where they feel admiration and the need to continue learning about the ideology of our ICWP through our *Red Flag* newspaper.

I will continue to follow up with our new readers by sending them our newspaper. It is a constant struggle and a commitment that we must continue winning comrades who know that we are an international party without borders.

The communist struggle continues.

—Young Comrade in El Salvador

Read our pamphlet:

## Communist Education for a Classless Society

Available at [icwpredflag.org/epe.pdf](http://icwpredflag.org/epe.pdf)



# ONE MIGRANT'S STORY IS THE STORY OF WORKERS WORLDWIDE

"After several days of enduring hunger, they took me through the desert, walking only eight hours, something that takes two or three days for others. At night we hid in bushes, so as not to be discovered by the Border Patrol's drones. We heard the howls of coyotes and smelled the foul odors of decomposing bodies. I got cactus thorns in my arms and feet." A young worker told me this story of his trip to the United States just seven months ago.

He borrowed 121,000 quetzales, equivalent to \$16,000 dollars, and still owes \$6,000. He is working day and night to pay off his debt.

"I am sorry to be away from the people who have been with me all my life. I have a job, but not all of them are doing well, because they don't have a job or a place to sleep," added my friend.

As a member of ICWP and another member of the working class, I told him: "All of us workers in the world are migrants. Nationality is a concept that the bosses try to put into our heads from the time we are small.

"In a communist world, no worker and their families will have to move from their place of origin just because they cannot find a job that pays them a wage. Work will not be a commodity that is bought or sold by a boss, because money will not exist.

"We workers will eliminate it as soon as we take power and establish a communist society and begin to think about what else will be eliminated that is against the interests of the workers."

Until then, millions of workers will continue to suffer the capitalists' torture as they enforce their borders with their police and army, as is happening on the borders of the United States, Mexico, and Guatemala. They are making children, women and men suffer regardless of age

and physical condition or gender. These workers, like us, just want to have a life without so many worries.

This situation of desperately wanting to improve their family or individual situation has been created by the capitalist-imperialist fight among the great powers such as Russia, China, the USA, Germany, England, and others who are fighting for control of the world economy.

This migrant worker's story is repeated on the coasts of Spain, England, Africa, and Latin America. But the most enraging cases are when people must flee their places of origin to escape a bullet, whether due to war, organized police, or gang crime, but encounter death on the way.

Only organizing to destroy this system and building a communist world of workers' solidarity will guarantee us a new world without so much social insecurity, either physically or with our health.

My friend seems to agree, and he liked what we wrote in *Red Flag*. The struggle with him will continue so that he becomes more interested in the Party's ideas and becomes a future candidate to join and participate with us.

—Immigrant Comrade in the US

## COMMUNISM WILL END DEADLY CAPITALISM AND ITS BORDERS

Last year more than 650 migrants died along the US-Mexico border. 4,404 lives were lost in the waters trying to reach Spain, most of them over the world's most deadly route.

January began with still more deaths. In just the second week of 2022, a 38-year-old man died in San Diego Border Patrol custody. A 7-year-old Venezuelan girl was swept up and drowned in the Rio Grande River. Two adults, a teenager and a baby from India froze to death trying to cross the US-Canada border. And a 16-year-old boy died in Arizona trying to cross the border.

As we go to press, the US Coast Guard is reporting that 39 people have died in the waters between The Bahamas and the US.

Knowing about our dead on the southern border of the US and the rest of the world should

encourage us to see the urgency of organizing for communist revolution. It is literally a matter of life or death.

These tragic stories will continue until we workers are well organized in ICWP. Finally we will destroy this exploitative and murderous system and build a communist society where capitalism's deadly borders will be a thing of the past.



### Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Rally:

## ORGANIZERS PROMOTE CAPITALIST REFORM, MASSES WANT REAL CHANGE

SEATTLE (US), January 17— "How is communism different from socialism?" Many asked this as we distributed *Red Flag* and the ICWP anti-racism pamphlet at the MLK Day rally here. The crowd was smaller than in pre-pandemic years, but hundreds attended, mainly young people of color.

People responded well to our ideas of not having borders or money or profits and of sharing the work and the joy. A comrade asked them to send us their comments about the paper.

While we talked about communist revolution, speakers were trying to win young people to capitalist "reform." That's why the US rulers celebrate MLK's "dream" and never mention his condemnation of capitalism and the US war on

Vietnam.

In previous years these rallies featured local anti-racist fighters. This year's speakers were mainly clergy and Black capitalists. Young "entrepreneurs" talked about how they had made their money and how other young Black people can do the same.

This is a vicious attack on young workers, trying to convince them that they can enjoy the fruits of capitalism. A deadly ideology.

The people there weren't buying this deception. Many were angered by a large electronic sign reading SPD (Seattle Police Department) Stands by You. They know the SPD history of racist murder, especially of young Black men.

A retired Boeing worker commented that of course the ruling class will pick Black bosses to speak. The system produces these people from all races, people who are selfish and don't think of the working class. Get mine and move to the top, while the rest get pushed to a lower and lower bottom.

But the many people who took *Red Flag* were not interested in discussing capitalism. They wanted to talk about what we mean by communism and what communist life would look like.

They were interested in how, unlike socialism, communism will have no money, no banks, no wages and no markets. We would live by communist principles: "From each according to their ability and commitment, to each according to their need."

One woman, there with her partner, had lots of questions. She asked, "What about people who want to do drugs?" She said that drug use is rampant in her family. She liked the idea that in communism there would be no way to profit from anything, including drugs, so there would be no incentive for anyone to push drugs.

"But what if somebody wanted something special, a fancier car or jewelry?" she asked. She nodded in agreement when a comrade said, "We would produce for our needs. When everybody has housing and clothing and health care and good food, then we can decide what we want to do with other resources."

She recently found out that she has indigenous roots and agreed with the comrade who said that many first nations had had a certain kind of communism: everyone was taken care of and there was no production for wealth.

She and the comrade exchanged phone numbers and have spoken since. Our new friend said, "Our conversation made my day!" They agreed to talk more about communism soon.

