

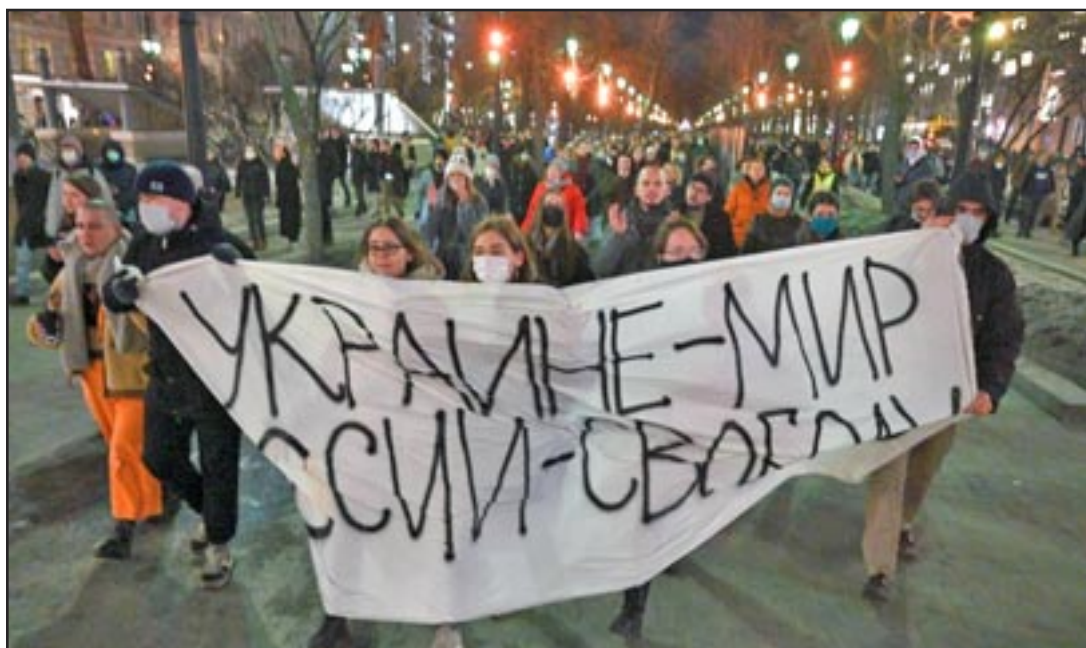
# RED FLAG



## MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

Moscow, Russia, February 24:-Protestors risk arrest to carry a banner calling for peace in Ukraine and freedom in Russia



## UKRAINE: TURN IMPERIALIST WAR AMONG BOSSES INTO REVOLUTIONARY FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM

March 7—The deadly Russian imperialist assault on Ukraine demands that workers and soldiers around the world fight for communism. Communism will end the profit system that is at the root of this war and the world war it could become.

Articles and letters in these pages show how the International Communist Workers' Party is explaining to the masses that only communism can guarantee humanity's full potential. Until then, capitalism/imperialism will continue its relentless assaults on the working class that result in unprecedented death and destruction.

Imperialism inescapably drives the rulers into conflicts to redivide the world to control labor, resources, and markets. Capturing new markets for fossil fuels drives global devastation. Workers and students must flee to get out of harm's way while Russian and Ukrainian soldiers as well as civilians die.

US imperialism and its European allies knew they were provoking this war when they expanded NATO to Russia's doorstep.

The bosses' profit wars intensify racism and embolden fascist forces. In Ukraine, as other articles show, African, Middle Eastern, and Indian students are held hostage or singled out for police attacks at checkpoints. In Russia, thousands have been jailed for joining anti-war protests.

Workers, soldiers, and youth never have anything to gain from supporting the capitalists who rule them. We must fight their pro-war nationalist propaganda everywhere with anti-racist communist internationalism.

In this desperate situation we must seize every opportunity to prepare for communist revolution.

As the Franco-Prussian War ravaged Europe in March 1871, communist-led workers in Paris

See [UKRAINE WAR](#), page 4

### One Week Can Change Your Life Outlook

#### INDIAN MEDICAL STUDENTS LEAVING UKRAINE DESCRIBE ORDEAL

INDIA, March 1— “Just a week ago I was dreaming of working as a doctor, paying off my loans and living a comfortable life,” an Indian student said. She had just deplaned as a refugee from Ukraine. “When the border guards were kicking and punching us, I felt tremendous solidarity with my fellow students. It did not matter if they came from India, Pakistan, or Nigeria.

“I am in my fourth year of medical study,” she continued. “I wanted to help the poor Ukrainians that were suffering when I left Kiev. They are just like us. I see poor people from everywhere. And I can see with my eyes the rich people who are able to escape these atrocities of war.”

She comes from a poor family in Punjab with many Dalit farmworkers. She took out a loan to go to Ukraine because it would cost her Rs. 1.5 million (\$20,000) for five years, whereas in India it would cost Rs 1.5 million each year. When

ICWP comrades told her about our struggle during the Punjab farmers' agitation, she was happy to get Red Flag. We exchanged phone numbers and she assured us she would be delighted to talk with us.

Two ICWP comrades from New Delhi were distributing RF when we heard that medical students from India had arrived at the airport. We immediately went there to meet them. The students described their ordeal.

“We paid exorbitant amounts of money to take a bus from Kiev to the Polish border. Several buses full of passengers were stopped about a kilometer from the border. There was another lane for cars and SUVs that were transporting relatively wealthy Ukrainians to safety.

“At the border checkpoint, very aggressive police lined up all non-Ukrainians. In our line there were Indians, Nigerians and I believe some peo-

See [INDIAN MEDICAL STUDENTS](#), page 3

Volume 13, Number 3, March 9 to 30, 2022

### INSIDE:

**MORE ON UKRAINE, PAGES 2, 3, 6, 7**

**COMMUNIST STRUGGLE IN THE FACTORIES, PAGE 4**

**WORKERS NEED REVOLUTION NOT DRUGS, PAGE 5**

**ANNIVERSARY OF SHARPEVILLE ANTI-APARTHEID STRUGGLE, PAGE 8**



## COMRADES WORLDWIDE CALL FOR COMMUNIST RESPONSE TO UKRAINE WAR

**From Pakistan:** “The masses here are angry, many feel World War III is coming. We are suffering. We are crushed by Chinese debt and US imperialists want to turn Pakistan into another Yemen. We need a united front of the international working class. Let us rise together for the only thing we have – unity to bring communism. Give me more Red Flags.”

**From Egypt:** “The racist abuse of foreigners trying to leave Ukraine is just the tip of the iceberg. That racism is going to carry all the way to North Africa, Bangladesh, and South Africa. The poorest of the poor will starve and die when grain prices skyrocket and cooking oil becomes a luxury. Ukraine and Russia supply 30% of the grain to these markets. Now, more than ever, let us overthrow these bloody imperialists. The poor

masses are rising, give them communist medicine.”

**From Bangladesh:** “This reminds us of 1971. In a short war to liberate Bangladesh, 3 million people were brutally murdered and over 20 million were displaced. Horrific crimes were committed, including a million women who were raped and killed. The United States actively supported the butchers and sent a nuclear weapon to the shores of Bengal. Today, all the imperialists were fighting each other. Let the international working class gather its energy because every attack will be counter-attacked by the masses from Russia to Ukraine to Bangladesh. Communism alone can satisfy hungry masses starving for power to destroy the warmakers.”

**From Malaysia:** “I am a ‘Legal’ UN refugee

from Kashmir. They provide us bare minimum to survive, we are not allowed to work. So, we work as illegal refugees to make ends meet. This war in Ukraine has made our life as if we are in the battlefield there. The bosses are abusing us, high petrol prices are snatching food from our mouths. Damn capitalism!”

**From India:** “Greetings from the communist collective of autoworkers in Chennai. Many autoworker comrades have become casualties of the Ukraine war. High oil prices have shut down several more plants. A storm is coming, a storm of mass unemployment, starvation, and utter misery. We are determined to advance under these horrors because organizing our party and eventually leading to communist revolution is the answer. The working class is waking up.”

## NATURAL GAS FUELS UKRAINE CONFLAGRATION

The current war has roots in 2019, when the pro-Western media star Zelenskyy took over the Ukrainian government. Aided and abetted by the CIA, he replaced the equally capitalist pro-Russian government. The US and Russia have been on a collision course in Ukraine ever since, from Crimea to the breakaway republics in eastern Ukraine. Zelenskyy’s so-called “democracy” built a strong pro-US fascist force and military presence.

Ukraine, the largest country in Europe, is strategically located for the vast distribution of Siberian gas for sale in Europe. The Russian bosses decided to reduce their reliance on Ukrainian pipelines. German and Russian capitalists funded the multibillion-dollar Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline connecting their two countries. The project would double their capacity, provide 30% of Europe’s gas, and drive a wedge between the US and Europe. As the pipeline neared completion, US imperialists looked for excuses to block it.

Nord Stream 2 is crucial for the Russian rulers’

plans to expand their world empire. German capitalists were torn. The US was trying to restrict Germany’s gas supply to make it dependent on US liquified petroleum gas, which would be four times more expensive. But Germany was still under US military domination from World War II. It reluctantly followed the US imperialists and decertified Nord Stream 2.

That’s what triggered the full-scale war between Russia and Ukraine. While US imperialists seemingly pushed Russian bosses into a corner, they also exposed more contradictions in Europe. Germany has since announced an unprecedented \$130 billion war budget boost to break out of the US orbit and take a leading role in Europe.

The Ukrainian capitalists rely on military and financial support from the US and its Western allies. Zelenskyy’s plea for a no-fly zone in Ukraine was initially rejected because the Russian S-500 anti-aircraft system can devastate NATO air defenses. However, NATO is being drawn into a direct confrontation. Putin called

the financial sanctions on Russia a “declaration of war.” The threat of nuclear war is real.

This conflict could spread. The Chinese imperialists are watching Taiwan carefully. They have increased their war budget to \$240 billion. They have indicated their intentions to unify “Greater China.” In response, Japanese rulers approved their biggest increase in military spending in decades. They, too, no longer want to rely on the US.

Middle Eastern countries, including Israel, are reluctant to be seen as US proxies. India, Brazil, and South Africa have mainly been sitting on the sidelines.

Since the Vietnam war, the US imperialists have lost wars in Iraq and Afghanistan mainly because they fear the consequences of using massive ground troops. They might not be able to avoid this much longer. They, as well as the Russian imperialists, have reason to fear. When working-class soldiers refuse to be their cannonfodder, the imperialists’ days are numbered.

### Classroom Conversations about Ukraine

The situation in Ukraine has been dominating the news. Not many people in my class realized that what happens in Ukraine or anywhere else a war breaks out affects us, even though we are far away from Europe. It has a significant impact on our lives, starting from the food we eat. In the stores, things are more expensive. If the price of oil goes up per barrel, it also means the price of bread, rice and the other foods will go up.

It was a good conversation that dispelled some misconceptions that some people held that we are not affected by the suffering of our class brothers and sisters in Ukraine. This can’t be overstated.

The point was how this also affects us. When you order parts from Ukraine you won’t be able to get them or will get them late. The sanctions imposed on Russia will also have a negative impact.

We also talked about the response of some of the other groups here, like the EFF and the SACP. They are cheering Putin as if this is the right thing. But this is a direct assault on the working class. People are suffering on a daily basis. Women and children, old people are really suffering because of the conflict that has been initiated by Putin.

To suggest he is a champion of the working class is something that probably I would expect from the Economic Freedom Fighters but the South African Communist Party is also simply ignoring the suffering of our class, the soldiers from our class who are dying on a daily basis. It’s a problem that we need to struggle against when we talk about what is happening in Europe and the ramifications that it has on the entire world.

I think it is important to expose these revisionists. This war is anti-working class and has no benefit to us.

But at the same time, this is something that we can use because even people who were not interested in politics now are asking questions and want to know what we think. This is an opportunity to struggle with people around our ideas and show them that the only way to end wars for profit is to put an end to the profit system with communist revolution.

A Comrade in South Africa



Volume 13, Number 3, March 9 to 30, 2022



Join the International Communist Workers' Party  
www.icwpredflag.org — Twitter @RedFlagBandera  
NEW E-mail: icwp@nym.hush.com  
Instagram: @icwprf Facebook: icwpredflag  
Write to: P.M.B. 362  
3006 S. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90007, USA



## WAR FUELS RACISM; RACISM FUELS WAR: COMRADES BUILD COMMUNIST BASE TO END BOTH

SEATTLE (USA), March 6—From the U.S. to El Salvador, from South Africa to India—in hospitals, factories, public transit, the streets, and the schools—our comrades of the International Communist Workers' Party are fighting to end the bosses' wars by building the ICWP to prepare for communist revolution.

The Ukrainian war has shown again that racism, fascism, and inter-imperialist war are interconnected. We need to expand communist struggle with co-workers, students, and friends.

"I'd like to support a side, but I just can't do that in this case," a Boeing worker said, "especially after we've discussed how the Ukrainian government treats the tens of thousands of African, Indian and Middle Eastern people who are trying to flee."

For communists, no worker is a "foreigner." But Ukrainian officials are singling out African, Indian, and Middle Eastern students and other refugees of color. They claim that "those foreigners" can't get out because its priority is to evacuate women, children, and the elderly. However, the news outlets show women from other countries with kids who are not being allowed to leave, either. Ukrainian border patrols have been forcibly removing them from trains and buses.

Many Afro-Ukrainians and their families have lived in the country for decades. The fascist border military treats these Ukrainian citizens just as viciously.

Racism and xenophobia have reached deadly levels. Far-right, racist, fascist, ultra-nationalist paramilitary organizations have become commonplace in Ukraine over the last decade.

Russia has its own share of fascists. Western Europe and the U.S. pose as supporters of Ukrainian democracy, but they also harbor expanding xenophobic, racist movements.

The Western media's racism is out in the open. A BBC correspondent got emotional while on air and said, "I apologize, but what is happening is emotion-provoking, because I am seeing Euro-

pean people with blue eyes and blond hair killed."

The so-called democratic leaders are no better. Bulgarian Prime Minister Kiril Petkov declared: "These are people are Europeans, so all EU countries are ready to welcome them. These are intelligent people." Apparently, Petkov believes that the millions who have fled poverty and war in the Middle East and Africa are not.

This racism and fascism are not a secondary issue. The ones and twos we win to the communist fight against racism now will prepare the way to end capitalist wars forever—and the racism that goes with them—with communist revolution.

### Comrades Born Everywhere Reach Out to Workers from Everywhere

A US comrade hospital worker discussed this with a co-worker, J, who was born in Bulgaria. J didn't react like the Bulgarian Prime Minister. She rejected the US media's anti-communism.

J answered another worker who was spouting how terrible communism is by saying, "What you're describing sounds more like capitalism than communism." J got her first copy of Red Flag the same week.

Soon, J and her husband M took the initiative to distribute information to their friends about the Ukrainian government's racist attacks on refugees. M helped produce this article. He has followed up with his friend C, a worker born in Nigeria.

"We have to be careful how we talk about this racism," C warned. He meant that the vicious racism is centered in the Ukrainian government and the Ukrainian and Polish border patrols. He knew that some Ukrainians are trying to help the African, Indian, and Middle Eastern students and workers. M and C discussed parallels between the fascist infiltration of European and U.S. border patrols and what's happening at the Ukrainian/Polish border.

C had no illusions about the so-called Euro-

### Deepening The Struggle for Communism

Some debates about war and racism developed into conversations about the nature of communism. It was easy enough to agree that the capitalists' wage system pits worker against worker, company against company, and country against country. One Boeing worker concluded that he won't support either side in the Ukrainian/Russia war, and that our class never benefits from any imperialist war.

To maintain their wage system, the capitalists must create and spread divisive ideologies like racism and nationalism. Capitalism goes to great lengths to indoctrinate the working class with these poisons. Without it, capitalist armies fall apart.

In contrast, communism is based on collective production for our collective needs. Our survival will no longer depend on a paycheck and competition with other workers.

For communist collective production to work, a new loyalty to the international working class must replace the bosses' deadly ideologies. Our fight will be for revolution to end the capitalist system, not to back this or that imperialist in a war for profit.

pean democracies. He wants to organize a showing of "The Battle of Algiers," a 1966 movie about the fight against French imperialism. The discussion afterwards will expose the fascism behind democratic humanitarianism.

### Widen the Struggle for Communism

While preparing this article, dozens debated whether communism could end imperialist wars and the racism that bolsters and accompanies them. ICWP comrades elsewhere have had many similar discussions, bringing more people around and planting the seeds for a mass party. The more of us make this struggle a priority, the more prepared the working class will be to end capitalism's reign of terror.

## INDIAN MEDICAL STUDENTS from page 1

ple from Pakistan and other African countries. The Ukrainians riding in the bus with us were allowed to enter immediately. Others in cars were greeted with fanfare, toys, and hot food. A reception center was set up on the Polish side for people needing medical attention. Their transport was arranged immediately.

"The border police said they would allow one of us for every 50 Ukrainians who crossed the

border. It turned out that our lines were not processed at all. More students were arriving, and the lines turned into a temporary camp. After three days of bitter cold with no food, many were hungry and trying to figure out how much it would cost in Poland to fly to India."

Another student continued the story. "Our border camp became restless. The police were pushing and kicking us. Women were screaming

for help. I fell and several other students tried to shield me. I heard very racist, abusive language from the police while they beat us with batons and threw tear gas. Several students fainted; many had broken arms. Imagine, we were all medical students. We could help everybody, but now they were looking at us with racist hatred."

It was hard to approach the arriving students with Red Flag, among the many reporters, news media and relatives. But we were overjoyed by our unplanned meeting with the returning students. We urgently called our collective. They were also excited with the ammunition this war presents us to destroy the foundation of the money system.

Every blow, every attack is an attack on the working class all over the world that calls on us to end capitalism with communist revolution.

The war in Ukraine is just the beginning of very sharp struggle ahead. The bosses from the US, Russia, Europe, Ukraine, India, and China will use everything they have to expand their brutal system, including nuclear war. All at the expense of the international working class.

But they are also sowing the seeds of their own destruction. The working class has resilience, patience, and the necessity to end capitalism. We must urgently organize workers, students, and soldiers everywhere who are crying out for direction. We must lead them to communist victory.



New Delhi (India), Feb. 25 - outside Russian Embassy



## UKRAINE WAR MOTIVATES FACTORY WORKER TO JOIN ICWP

With the leaflet I got this week from the Red Flag, I have seen and read that the capitalist uses us to make profits that favor only them. As long as we can produce, they use us and when our labor power runs out, they put us aside. As factory workers we have confirmed this.

One of the comrades who led the meeting, where there were many workers from different factories, talked about involving the workers and soldiers. Also, we have to organize our

children for an armed revolution.

I am motivated by how the Party was born and because a big war, like the one that is taking place between Russia and Ukraine, can help us to organize more workers inside and outside the factories. From this comes my need to fight. I have started to think that we have to do a lot of work together, for a single objective to progress quickly in our organizational work.

My family is participating for the second time

in these meetings, where we are learning to see things as they will have to be.

That is why today I join the ICWP collective and am ready to join the fight against capitalism. This is my way of thinking as an organized worker.

Long Live the International Working Class!

Long Live the International Communist Workers' Party!

—Young maquila worker in El Salvador

## WAGE SLAVERY MUST DIE SO THE WORKING CLASS CAN LIVE

EL SALVADOR, March 2— “Are you Red Flag?” a worker asked when she saw the leaflet. She had been in the first meeting we had in this factory. “I know that you all fight for us, the workers,” she affirmed. “I have talked with you in other spaces where I meet and one day we will have to unite in the struggle.” We remembered that first time, and how important it was to initiate the International Communist Workers' Party in that factory.

“We invite you to come again to the meetings, you will always be welcome,” a Party comrade told her. We also exchanged phone numbers with another worker, as we gave them the leaflet and they agreed to meet.

A group of four women arrived at the indicated time to carry out the leafleting on the outskirts of the maquila zone. We called on the workers to organize and fight directly for communism.

We explained that ICWP is making this struggle worldwide. The important pillars of our revolutionary strategy are the industrial workers and soldiers, and the participation of all sectors of our class. The capitalists' thirst for profit attacks the well-being of the working class. The Covid-19 health crisis has made this scenario of terror clear. Nothing will change if we workers remain passive.

### Who Produces Everything?

The workers in all types of factories are the ones who add the value to everything they produce. They convert the fabric into clothing, making that product to meet the needs of the people.

But it is the boss who keeps all the profit. This can and must change.

Wage slavery must die so that the working class can live.

### We Need a Communist System

In the communist system nothing will be sold. Everything will be produced to satisfy the needs of humanity. A system without bosses or money where the working class collectively manages society and production will be for use, not for profit.

We also had time to talk to workers we hadn't seen for a long time. For example, we were able to find out why Comrade V hasn't been attending meetings lately.

“I have had some problems that have prevented me from attending, but I am open to the party's ideas,” they explained. “I understand the line and I admire the fight that is being made.” We agreed to meet soon.

The action was successful because we distributed all 450 leaflets, which were not enough. The



Maquila workers celebrate International Working Women's Day with Red Flag

workers received it very well and some came to ask for it.

WITHOUT WORKERS' HANDS, NOTHING IS PRODUCED!

WITH THE WORKING CLASS IN ICWP, THERE WILL BE A COMMUNIST REVOLUTION!

## THE COMMUNIST STRUGGLE IN THE MAQUILAS

I was one of four ICWP communist comrades who met in a maquila in El Salvador. We were fighting to win new comrades and thus mobilize the masses for our cause, intensifying the struggle around our ideology and thus the fight for the communist society that we so desire.

We handed out flyers and addressed them to workers who came outside the maquila so that they know what our party is, an International Party that fights for a change in the system.

While doing this, it was a great satisfaction to meet comrades who already belong to our party. We stayed with them during the last interna-

tional conference in December. The conference achieved its objectives of improving relations and unifying us all again for our ICWP. One expressed, “I'm glad to see you and that you are fighting for our cause.”

Another comrade told us, “I feel very grateful to feel the support of our party. Let's go forward so that many more are part of our party.”

It is not easy, but we will never give up regardless of the obstacles we face, such as factory guards sent by their capitalist oppressors to make us go away, which they did not achieve.

It is a unique experience, full of personal

growth, to know that we are fighting for the change necessary to end this society that eats away at us with inequality and division. We know very well that we must continue to mobilize to win more comrades and intensify our party line.

We will continue to deliver flyers and our Red Flag newspaper. If possible, we will take it to more maquilas so that the ideology of ICWP is known by more workers. Thus we will strengthen the relationships that are our commitment and struggle.

—Comrade in El Salvador

## UKRAINE WAR from page 1

seized power and established the revolutionary Paris Commune.

Amidst the imperialist butchery of World War I, Russian soldiers and sailors turned their weapons on their own capitalist rulers, joining workers to establish the Soviet Union.

The Chinese Red Army mobilized masses to defeat Japanese imperialist invaders during World War II and the US-backed Chinese capitalists soon after.

Our turn is coming.

We fight not to liberate nations but to liberate

the international working class. Not for socialism as 20th-century communists did, which tragically (and inevitably) became today's Russian and Chinese imperialism.

We fight to mobilize masses for communism in its truest sense: A society where we'll produce for the needs of the masses, not for wages and profits, and share according to need.

In communism there will be no competition for profits, no nations to go to war, no weapons of mass destruction, no need for standing armies. Ending the wage system will enable us to defeat racism, xenophobia, sexism and all the other ways capitalism has divided and oppressed us.

Please help spread this communist vision, especially in workplaces and barracks! Start building the communist relations now that will become the material base for ending capitalist nightmares like the one unfolding in Ukraine. Join ICWP and mobilize workers and soldiers for communism.

As the Ukraine war intensifies and the bosses become more desperate, workers and soldiers can become more class conscious. Let's turn these angry, class-conscious masses into a revolutionary army to end deadly, profit-hungry, capitalism.



## WE DON'T NEED DRUGS, WE NEED REVOLUTION

LOS ANGELES (US), March 5—"The Biden administration is funding crack pipes." This narrative has spread for the last few weeks as the administration revealed a \$30 million harm-reduction plan for safe-smoking kits which provide a cleaner way to use drugs.

Communists ask: Why do workers turn to drugs in the first place?

On the one hand, capitalists have historically used drugs (including alcohol, opium, heroin, and opioids) to make big profits while keeping oppressed people marginalized and pacified.

On the other hand, following the uprisings of the 1960s and 70s in US Black communities, the US ruling class used drugs as part of a strategy to systematically target and destroy the militant unity of Black workers.

The CIA-backed contras of Nicaragua funneled drugs into Black and Latinx neighborhoods through drug dealers like Ricky Ross in South Central Los Angeles. The criminalization of crack and the war on drugs waged on communities of color saw harsh sentencing for workers. Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump especially tar-

geted Black men as "super-predators." Joe Biden used similar language when arguing for the 1993 Crime Bill that led to racist mass incarceration.

### Is drug use a "choice"?

Capitalism uses this argument to justify drug use. Communists look at the societal circumstances for that freedom of choice. Capitalism puts workers in the individualistic mindsets to look out for themselves. Workers turn to drugs often when others around them are using in communities where poverty, drug use, and unemployment are high.

"Having seen the long-term effects of drug use in South Central Los Angeles," said a young comrade, "I have never seen a world without drug use. I chose to be a communist because I saw people who had made that choice. But choice is based on what options you have around you."

Communist society will have a real public health policy

"Portugal decriminalized all drugs, spent millions on treatment and rehab, and saved millions," commented a friend.

Drug legalization isn't designed to get to the root of the problem. Legalizing drugs lets the ruling class collect taxes from their sale.

Needle-exchange public

health programs may slow the spread of disease from shared drug paraphernalia and reduce hospitalizations. But they do not address the root social causes of drug use. If capitalism as a system wanted to eradicate drug addiction, it would have jailed the billionaire owners of Big Pharma (like the Sacklers) for the opioid murder of hundreds of thousands of unemployed or partially employed workers. Instead it slapped them on the wrist with fines that barely touched their astronomical fortunes.

### The ruling class wants us to think there is no other way

No one should feel like they have to deal with their past traumas and struggles in life alone. We must not be deceived by the same government which created the conditions for drugs to suck the lives out of so many. We must build the communist ties within the working class that embody the collective society we are fighting for.

When we overthrow capitalism, the bloody life-practices of drug use to cope will begin to disappear because the day-to-day struggle to survive will be collective. Communist society will nurture the human interactions and interconnected relationships that we will build with our neighbors and friends.

The working class doesn't need drugs. We need communist revolution.



Oakland, CA, USA, March 4—Over 500 teachers, parents, and students marched to demand "No School Closures in Oakland!" After closing 20 schools since 2003, the state plans to close 11 more schools with mostly black and brown students. These cuts cheapen the social welfare cost of government and free up tax dollars for the military. Two retired teacher comrades distributed Red Flag and our communist education pamphlet and got phone numbers of several angry and determined activists. Among these activists, committed to resisting the continuing attack on life and schooling in the working class communities that make up the Oakland flatlands, the awareness of the need for communist revolution is growing.

## Egalitarian Societies: Past and Future

### WHAT ARE COMMUNIST VALUES?

LOS ANGELES (USA), March 3—"Private property took away our freedom," Nina declared. We were continuing to discuss *The Dawn of Everything* by David Graeber and David Wengrow. We want to learn what we can, from pre-history and cross-cultural comparisons, about the possibility of an egalitarian future.

This discussion led us to think more deeply about what we mean by "egalitarian." And how to describe more accurately the kind of society we hope and work for.

We agreed with Nina. But this book attacks that idea, even as it also attacks the dominant ideology that capitalism is the only way for people to live today. The authors reject the goal of "egalitarianism" (meaning communism). It is "slippery," they say, meaning different things in different societies.

They describe an egalitarian society as one where (1) "most people feel they ought to be the same" in some important ways, and (2) that ideal is "largely achieved in practice."

When we talk about communism as "egalitarian" we don't mean the capitalist ideal of "equality before the law." Or liberal (and socialist) ideals like "equal pay for equal work" and "one person, one vote." Liberals don't criticize capitalist ideals, just that it doesn't achieve them in practice. In contrast, communism will have no wages, "equal" or not. And it will mobilize masses for real participation in making decisions, not in an occasional election.

The authors don't critique capitalist ideas about equality. Instead they "imagine" a society

where everyone believed they were "equal before the gods" but half of them had no property or legal rights. This takes them back to their critique of the "stages" theory of human history.

**Lots of evidence shows that it's not true that humans moved from foraging "up" to agriculture and on "up" to modern capitalism.** But the authors go beyond their facts to argue that how people produce what they need has little or no connection to how they organize their society. They acknowledge Marx briefly but throw out historical materialism along with capitalist ideas of "progress."

We aren't convinced. Eleanor, our anthropologist, commented that the authors often knock down "straw people" instead of confronting real arguments. They "tease" us with fascinating tidbits of information but use them in doubtful ways.

For example, men in some New Guinea villages "hide" secret musical instruments from the women. Marxist anthropologists who lived among these folks analyzed this in terms of the ideology and practice of sexism.

But the authors see these secret instruments as a model of private property. Since that society doesn't have a "state" they argue that private property is linked instead to "the sacred." They imply that there is nothing fundamentally wrong with private property.

"You can't swallow it all at face value," remarked Nina.

Ernie connected the book's focus on "freedom" (in contrast to "equality") with Graeber's

anarchism. "Freedom," he noted, has as just as many interpretations as "equality." It's just as slippery.

The anarchist view elevates individualism. "Individuals were routinely on the move for [many] reasons," the authors write, "including taking the first available exit route if one's personal freedoms were threatened." Linda pointed out that people leaving the society they grew up in would have been unlikely to survive unless they left in groups. Humans are social animals.

### So what would be "equal" (the same for everyone) in a communist egalitarian society?

Our group agreed that everyone will have equal access to the resources they need: housing, health care, food, water, and much more. Everyone will have equal access to political agency: the ability to help shape our collective lives. People have different needs, skills, and commitments to the collective, but we will value each other equally.

Or maybe, Marcia suggested, communism's core values are neither "freedom" nor "equality." Perhaps they include solidarity—standing with and for each other. Cooperation (collectivity). Hospitality—caring for everyone's needs, wherever they go. The ability of the masses to shape society. To make decisions for oneself in the context of the collective.

**"Think for yourself, but act for others."** How we organize society depends on how we resolve contradictions between collectivity and autonomy. We look forward to reading other comrades' thoughts.



## ANTI-WAR RUSSIAN SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS: NEED REAL COMMUNISM TO DEFEAT RUSSIAN IMPERIALISTS

March 9— “General: Your tank is a mighty weapon... but it has one defect. It needs a driver.” This poem, written by German communist Berthold Brecht during World War II, points out the problem with Putin’s invasion of Ukraine.

As we go to press, a forty-mile line of tanks is stalled on the road to Kyiv. There are reports that some Russian soldiers, eating expired rations and disillusioned with this invasion, are sabotaging their tanks.

In St. Petersburg, Moscow and other Russian cities, protestors immediately took to the streets when the invasion began. They painted “No War between Nations! No peace between classes!” on the walls. Thousands have been arrested in the crackdown against these protests, but the opposition continues.

One Russian opposition group proclaimed that “Putin’s imperial fantasies are not worth a single life.” As more Russian soldiers are killed in Ukraine, this will become a mass line.

“The yachts of the Russian oligarchs will not become smaller, but everyone else [in Russia] will begin to live worse,” they continue. As the cost of war in the lives of Russian soldiers and the cost-of-living increase, so too will opposition to the war.

The war in Ukraine is an imperialist war on both sides. Workers have no side to defend in such a war. The history of imperialist war, from

the trenches of World War I to the jungles of Southeast Asia, shows that working-class soldiers, forced to fight an imperialist war, can turn their guns on their oppressors.

The most visible opposition in Russia has been from anarchists. Their protests are courageous and class-conscious. But anarchism won’t defeat imperialism. Working people in Russia and around the world need an international party to fight for communist workers’ power to build a so-

ciety without wage slavery, exploitation, and war. We invite them, and everyone, to build the International Communist Workers’ Party to carry on that struggle.

Brecht’s poem concludes: “General, man is very useful. He can fly and he can kill. But he has one defect: He can think.” Today, soldiers and workers of all genders are thinking about the devastation of imperialist war. Red Flag invites you to think about the communist alternative.



Read our pamphlet

### Soldiers, Sailors, Marines: Crucial to a Communist Workers’ Revolution

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

PLEASE SEND YOUR LETTERS, RESPONSES AND SUGGESTIONS TO  
[ICWPREDFLAG@NYM.HUSH.COM](mailto:ICWPREDFLAG@NYM.HUSH.COM)

#### Racist Attacks on College Students: Opportunity to Build ICWP

“This educational crisis parallels the health care crisis, the infrastructure crisis, the environmental crisis, and now war in Europe,” I posted in Zoom. “The system is failing. If we want a society where those who do the work (like educating students) make the policies, we should be talking social revolution.”

“It’s so disgusting,” replied a colleague. “And I love your comment about social revolution!”

This story is about how class struggle is everywhere. Even as capitalists aggressively push nationalism and “national unity” amidst the Ukraine war. A story about using the opportunities this creates to advance communism.

The Zoom meeting was discussing a proposed state law (AB 1705) that would require community colleges to enroll almost all new students in transfer-level Math and English. Unfortunately, even pre-pandemic, many working-class youths (especially Black and Brown students) were pushed through high school without the necessary skills.

Schools serve capitalists’ needs, not workers. Fifty years ago, US capitalists expanded community colleges to build illusions in the system. They wanted to get the growing numbers of rebellious young unemployed workers off the streets.

Now – facing a global crisis and the decline of US imperialism – they have different needs.

The number of US-born young adults is shrinking. The rulers will need them as cannon fodder in expanding wars. Fewer workers born elsewhere are getting into the US due to racist immigration policies under Trump and Biden.

Now California capitalists want young adults competing for low-wage jobs, not in college. They are pushing working-class college students through as fast as possible. Those who have to drop out are encouraged to blame themselves.

Math teachers and others are pushing back against AB 1705 and the LA Community College District’s attempt to cancel all non-transferable math and English classes. A college official told me that “the law requires it” (untrue). I replied that “the law” once required everyone to help return formerly enslaved people to their so-called “owners.” She needed a better reason.

I have been talking and emailing about this with about fifty teachers, including ten who have read Red Flag. Most see AB 1705 as a racist attack on student success. They see that the state legislature hopes to save money by driving students away. LACCD officials moan about decreasing enrollment, but their own policies accelerate the decline.

“We could easily figure out 100 ways to arrange things so that everyone gets the lifelong education they want and need,” I messaged a friend. “Capitalism can’t stop or manage climate change, can’t provide decent health care, can’t feed the children, can’t prevent more and deadlier wars.... and can’t educate people either. Time for revolution.”

The slogan “A system cannot fail those it was never built to protect” went viral after the acquittal of George Zimmerman, Trayvon Martin’s murderer, ten years ago. It’s true for the legal system and true for capitalist schools.

Few expect to stop the racist attacks on our students and our jobs, though many are fired up to fight. The alternative to cynicism and passivity is the struggle for the possibility of communism.

—Los Angeles college teacher

#### Northern Ireland: Wage Labour System Is Basis of Sectarian Divide

After reading the letter on Ireland in the last edition of Red Flag, I realised that those comrades, including myself, who composed that letter had not explicitly analysed the essence of the sectarian divisions in the north of Ireland.

We described the division between Catholic and Protestant workers as if it was a purely political tool by the ruling class to keep workers divided. We need a deeper materialist analysis of why this political division emerged.

The basis of the sectarian divide is the system of wage labour. Northern Ireland always had lower wages than Britain, as with most colonies. It also suffered greater economic depression than Britain. Working-class people of a Protestant background received priority in the jobs market, especially positions with higher pay or a contract. They also were first in the queue for housing, due to their full-time employment.

Where capitalism can’t provide wages as high as in nearby Britain and can’t provide employment to large sections of the population, it must find a justification.

Discrimination based on religious and cultural background gave Protestant wage workers a sense of gratitude to be in a job at all, to earn a wage and keep a roof over their heads. The risk of losing these if the “other” were allowed to compete equally for work and possible lower wages is why they continued to believe the reactionary sectarian ideology. W.E.B. Du Bois analysed this phenomenon with the white workers adopting the racism of the American ruling class against the Black workers.

Irish Protestant workers were lower-paid and poorer than British workers, yet they could look down on unemployed or precarious Irish Catholic workers and see the potential life that could befall them. So instead of unity they competed for jobs and higher wages by persecuting and excluding Catholic workers.

The wage system and wage market of work always forces workers to compete. In some capitalist societies this manifests itself in sectarian divisions such as religion, or in “race”. This is the material basis of such a sectarian divide as in Northern Ireland.

—Comrade in London



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

### US Transit Worker: “Ukraine is a Billionaires’ War”

LOS ANGELES (USA)—The Ukraine-Russia conflict has been the primary topic of discussion among the workforce here at MTA (public transportation). The top two comments are “What country is at fault?” and “Luckily, we live here in the U.S., and it cannot affect us, because Ukraine is so far away.”

Some of the MTA comrades who read Red Flag and actively participate in our ICWP collective have growing concerns about the Ukraine-Russia conflict. “It is a Billionaires’ War at the working-class mercy, and the big corporations are using the resources from the working class to protect their corporate personal financial interests,” said a Red Flag reader.

Another said, “The working-class citizens that are in the epicenter of the conflict do not even know why this is happening.” This Comrade also felt that the media had a tremendous impact on downplaying the crisis and many were left scrambling to flee without proper notification. On the other hand, government officials and people with an abundance of money were able to flee in multi-million dollar yachts or relocate with ease.

“Wars are the logical results of capitalism’s struggle to dominate the markets,” said Comrade A, “contrary to communism where the goal will be the cooperation and the well-being of humanity.”

“We need to spread the Red Flag distribution to confront the bosses’ lies and put at the front the communist ideas,” said Comrade B.

Red Flag helps the working class by exposing the flaws and building growing awareness of all the inhumane activities of this so-called beautiful, perfect, democratic capitalist society that has evolved to what we have today.

Current events are showing us that one day we can be going to the market, spending time with the family, or prepping for another work week, but the illusion of a perfect world can easily vanish when things like war can happen in our backyards.

Many MTA workers are joyful that we recently received a 2-year extension of a Union employee pay increase. That pay increase does not mean much when the cost of living is growing exponentially. We are paying much more while the media states we are stabilizing the economy. I am not a mathematician, but the cost of some basic goods has almost doubled in the last two years and wages have not.

All these attacks on the working class must stop. It is our duty to be the moral, humane, and loving people we are, while also understanding the real world we live in today. As an ICWP member, I know that the growth of the party is necessary to be able spread information to masses about communism. To protect our loved ones and to stop Capitalism once and for all.

—MTA Comrade

### What should communists do right now in Ukraine?

People in Ukraine are resisting the Russian imperialist invasion. These forces are heavily infiltrated with Nazis, organized by the CIA, and wrapped in Ukrainian flags.

They are also filled with working people who are being used by US/NATO imperialism. And, as a comrade told me, their fierce resistance to Russian imperialism was inspiring to him.

Everything has similarities and differences. How is this similar and how is this different from

the heroic resistance of the Vietnamese fighters to US imperialism? Or the FMLN fighters against US imperialism?

What do we say to the resistance in Ukraine? What do communists do and advocate?

Comrade veterans of the guerrilla struggle in El Salvador can correct me if I’m wrong, but I think we fight for communism. This requires organizing Party cells within the resistance, to win those who stand with us to a communist perspective. The ideological struggle goes on everywhere, even in the trenches.

Comrades in an anti-imperialist struggle take up arms against the invader, but they don’t take up the nationalist flag. They know that defeating the imperialist invader would maintain the national capitalists in power, subservient to their own imperialist masters. In Cuba, the US defeat resulted in a new set of masters—the Soviet Union, by then a state-capitalist/imperialist state. Defeating the Russian invaders in Ukraine would maintain the Ukrainian rulers in charge, subservient to their US/NATO masters.

Comrades in El Salvador know that defeating imperialists is part of the real fight for communist workers’ power. In my opinion, this is the message that workers around the world in the ICWP have learned from our comrades in El Salvador, and the message we would send to the resistance in Ukraine.

—Comrade in the US

### Abolishing Money and Wage Slavery Can Quickly Strike Strong Blow Against Sexism

Often when I explain how wonderful communism would be, I am met with a lack of enthusiasm if not skepticism or even sarcasm. Many friends like the idea of communism but think it’s pie-in-the-sky because it will be many years before communism is mature enough to make a difference. I try to counter their pessimism by explaining how much can be done almost right away.

Of course, we all live in a society drenched in sexism. We all (men, women too, communists or non-communists) have internalized sexist prejudices, attitudes, and habits. It will be generations before they completely disappear. But that doesn’t mean waiting for years to make a difference.

Once money is gone food, housing, medical care, and more will be distributed free according to need. And experience shows that this can be done quickly. In the Seattle and Winnipeg general strikes and the UK miners’ strike workers organized free distribution in a few days!

Once it’s organized, we will make sure that it’s fair – no one gets the short end of the stick, or consistently gets less, as many women (and others) do now. Poverty will be abolished almost overnight. Single mothers and their children will not go hungry.

Abolishing wage slavery will abolish any economic dependence of women on their partners. They may need their higher-paid partners for emotional reasons (and vice versa of course) which is fine. Or they may not, in which case they can break up with them without fearing the drastic economic consequences of surviving on just one miserable woman worker’s salary. Millions are forced to do that, but the prospect is a strong disincentive to leaving, even leaving abusers. The Bolsheviks, right after the Russian revolution, made divorce easy – but undermined this progress by retaining wages and, inevitably, sexist wage differentials.

There’s plenty of other things we can do soon after the revolution. Like ending advertising – mainly sexist trash. Collectivizing childcare. Ending ‘domestic abuse’ (family violence).

What happened to women in the Soviet Union? Briefly, socialism and the wage system blocked progress towards communism. This progress slowed in the 1920s when they abandoned, for example, community kitchens. Then in the early 1930s there was a sharp turn to the right. Abortion was made illegal (and homosexuality). They tightened the divorce laws, shamelessly used women as a reserve army of cheap labor, and even gender-segregated education! There is no progress without communist leadership and socialism killed that.

—Comrade in Canada

**Our pamphlet:**

**The Communist Fight Against Sexism**

is available at  
[icwpredflag.org/sxse.pdf](http://icwpredflag.org/sxse.pdf)



Southern California (USA), Feb. 28—Unionized workers picket supermarkets ahead of a possible March strike. Seventy-five percent of Kroger workers report being food insecure, 14% have been homeless, and 63% can’t afford basic monthly expenses. Unions can’t end this vicious capitalist system where even grocery workers go hungry! Let’s take Red Flag to workers fighting back and show the communist alternative.



## The Sharpeville Massacre:

### **FIGHTING CAPITALISM'S RACISM AND XENOPHOBIA THEN AND NOW**

CAPE TOWN (South Africa)—On the 21st of March, 1960, some ten thousand workers and youth rallied at the police station in the segregated Black township of Sharpeville. They planned to turn in the hated internal passports that defined them as “foreigners” in their country of birth.

The capitalists’ brutal cops attacked the unarmed crowd with tear gas, batons, machine guns, rifles, and military planes. They killed 69, including children, and wounded over 180 more.

Thousands defiantly took to the streets with protest marches, strikes, and riots across South Africa. The racist and xenophobic Apartheid regime declared a “state of emergency.” It jailed over eighteen thousand people. It outlawed the then-pacifist Pan-African Congress (PAC) and African National Congress (ANC).

The struggle against Apartheid spread internationally. Within South Africa, repression turned the movement from pacifism to militancy. Today, South Africans celebrate March 21 as Human Rights Day. The Sharpeville massacre reminds us of the courage of the working-class struggle against racism and xenophobia.

#### **Communists Fight Racism and Xenophobia Today**

This racism and xenophobia, which effectively is fascism, continues today in South Africa because of the reformism of the old movement. It continues to intensify as the crisis of capitalism intensifies.

The capitalist bosses seek to divide the working class through nationalism, racism, and xenophobia. They seek to break our bonds of unity to make it easy to continue with their perpetual exploitation of the working-class while pitting workers against each other.

In South Africa, the crisis of capitalism is reaching unprecedented heights. Unemployment is among the largest in the world, poverty and hunger are on the rise, and crime. Discontent is also rising. These provide opportunities and challenges for us.

Many who are disillusioned by the system can be won over to communism. However, the bosses are spreading racist and xenophobic ideologies. They claim that immigration causes unemployment, and that “foreigners” are “stealing jobs” from locals. This is entirely false.

Workers are fleeing wars, poverty, and starvation caused by capitalism. The crisis of overproduction is what causes unemployment. As capitalists compete for maximum profits, they cut jobs and wages and automate, causing massive worldwide unemployment.

To end unemployment, xenophobia and racism means fighting to get rid of capitalism. We fight and struggle against these ideologies because we are fighting for a communist society, which is only possible with international working-class unity. This requires a practical and theoretical struggle against racism and xenophobia.

### **MARCH 21, 2022: COMMUNISTS CELEBRATE COURAGEOUS SPIRIT OF SHARPEVILLE**

Comrades in South Africa will bring communist politics to the mass demonstrations against racism and xenophobia this year. These demonstrations are not the communist revolution we need but they provide practical experiences where we engage concretely with workers in struggle.

Mobilizing the masses for communism is our marching line and our daily slogan. Communist revolution requires international working-class solidarity. Comrades of the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP) will be holding events in El Salvador, the USA and elsewhere to celebrate the heroic struggles against racism and xenophobia in South Africa and to build for May Day, the international holiday of the working class.

Long live international working-class unity! Long live ICWP!



South Africa 1956 Women leading the struggle against apartheid pass laws.

#### **Commemorate the Heroic Sharpeville Fight Against Apartheid**

**Prepare for a Communist May Day 2022**

**End Capitalist Massacres of Workers!**

**SOUTH AFRICA: TBA**

**LOS ANGELES, USA: Zoom Forum, Friday, March 18,  
7:00 pm**

**SEATTLE, USA: Potluck Dinner, Friday, April 1, 7:00 pm**

**EL SALVADOR: TBA**

**Contact your local ICWP branch for details or email  
[icwp@nym.hush.com](mailto:icwp@nym.hush.com)**

**Let us know if you plan another event.**

## From South Africa to Ukraine:

### **COMMUNIST FIGHT AGAINST RACISM AND XENOPHOBIA LAYS BASIS TO END IMPERIALIST PROFIT WARS**

SOUTH AFRICA, March 6—Our collective of the International Communist Workers’ Party here is taking up the struggle against the growing racism and xenophobia organized by right-wing nationalists in “Operation Dudula.” We must connect the fight against racism and xenophobia to the war in Ukraine.

Yesterday I went to a night vigil held in solidarity with Ukrainians and their President. Some media here have portrayed Zelenskyy as a hero who is standing up against Russia for the brutally oppressed masses in Ukraine.

We know that this is a lie. Zelenskyy is no hero. He and Putin represent different capitalist-imperialist ruling classes fighting for power and hegemony.

One member of the group was holding banners about Ukraine, singing praises of Ukraine, especially their president for standing up against Russia. I asked her, “Who is most affected by war

and who is benefitting from war?”

My point to her was that it is the capitalist bosses, the corporations, especially the ones in the military industry that benefit in war from the sales of weapons.

The competition for maximum profit among the capitalists-imperialists makes inter-imperialist rivalry and war inevitable in capitalism. They want to carve out their spheres of influence, fight for resources, and control. Russia wants its own hegemony within the spheres they deem their national interests. The people who are suffering are the masses, the working class, whether through economic sanctions or bombardment.

She argued that all wars mean destruction and must be stopped and must never be allowed to happen. We argued that for the working class, our class war is necessary to destroy the capitalist class. That’s the only way to end racism and imperialist wars.

Throughout history, it is always the working class who suffers in imperialist wars. We must never again suffer wars because of capitalism and imperialism. Instead, workers must mobilize to fight for our own liberation. When we are engaged in working class struggle, we must wage war against capitalism.

It was a good conversation. Some students said “stop war” in Palestine and all over the world. We said that we cannot ignore racism and xenophobia, whether in Palestine, Ukraine, or anywhere. In Ukraine the racists are discriminating against African students because they are Black and from non-European nations. The capitalists push racism to divide the working class.

The communist fight we wage against racism and imperialist war will lay the basis for communist revolution.