

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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



INDIA, March 28-29—Millions of industrial workers, electrical workers, bank employees, transportation workers, and metro drivers joined health care workers and some garment workers in a two-day general strike against the economic policies of the fascist Modi government. ICWP members participated in Chennai and Bengaluru. One comrade was inspired to send *Red Flag* to relatives of comrades in the army. Full story in the next issue.

Student Strike in South Africa:

FIGHT ANTI-COMMUNISM AND XENOPHOBIA, RECRUIT NEW PARTY MEMBERS

PORT ELIZABETH (South Africa), March 30— The conflict in Ukraine has ramifications far beyond Europe. A case in point is what happened at a college here.

Students went on strike because they have not received the government support that international students and those from the provinces are supposed to get for accommodation and food. The reason they have not received anything is corruption. The money allocated to them was supposedly “lost.” How do you lose two billion Rands (about US\$140 million)?

Students find it hard to afford basic things. Because of the conflict in Ukraine, prices have skyrocketed. For example, the cost of 750 ml of cooking oil has doubled from 50 to 100 Rands. No one is feeling this more than students and the working class.

We just came from Covid and many the people were laid off, and some outright let go, by the bosses. Now, to add insult to injury, the students also are suffering the same fate. Most come from working-class families that have been decimated by Covid.

This was the major reason for the strike. The war in Ukraine contributed to this. It is up to us to draw the conclusion that Ukraine may seem far away, but what happens there has a direct or indirect relationship to South Africa.

What is the Party doing? Some say that communism is wrong, but the important thing is to find solutions. One comrade has taken two students who are struggling with accommodations into his house. “It builds communist relations with future members of the Party,” he explained. “They know I am a communist. I am struggling with them to join the Party and they have seen

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Fight to Destroy Capitalist Bosses, Not to Defend Them

COMMUNIST SOLDIERS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD

INDIA, March 27— “When I read the story of an Indian medical student in Ukraine, I was very inspired,” a comrade declared. “Her life-changing experience taught me that we can turn these horrific wars into the fight for communism.

“Her story is the story of millions around the world. Instead of feeling like victims of war, we have an opportunity to build a secure future for our class where there is no money, no profit, no banks,” she continued.

“Comrades in my collective, with whom I meet only occasionally because I am far from the city, have asked me to organize ICWP in my village. I will print out a copy of *Red Flag* tomorrow because some young people in our village are on a leave of absence from the army.”

She reported the next day: “I was nervous and excited because the young soldiers whom I had known as young boys are stationed in Kashmir. About 700,000 Indian soldiers are deployed in Kashmir, which has a population of 13 million. This area has more troops than anywhere else in the world. Across the borders, in Pakistan and

China, another half a million soldiers face the Indian army.

Soldiers Welcome Communist Pamphlet and Compare Kashmir to Ukraine

“On that sleepless night, I read and reread the ICWP pamphlet “Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines; Crucial to a Communist Workers’ Revolution.”

“Every word of this pamphlet is true. It said, ‘We have been used to put down strikes and anti-racist rebellions. We have been mistreated while being deployed, put in harm’s way, ordered to kill other soldiers and civilians who are members of the working class, like us. Soldiers are crucial for maintaining the bosses’ power, both at home and during imperialist wars. Soldiers will be crucial in taking that power from them and using it for the working class.’

“In the morning I was ready. My confidence level was enormous after reading the pamphlet and I urge all of you to read it now.”

When the young soldiers arrived, each one got the pamphlet. The comrade did not have to ask what they thought of it. One started talking very

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Deadly Imperialist War Spreads in Ukraine and Worldwide

BUILDING A NEW COMMUNIST WORLD ON THE ASHES OF THE OLD

March 28—None of the key aspects to the war raging in Ukraine feature in Russian or US propaganda.

Capitalism, built on the exploitation of the majority for the profits of a few, has always relied on brute force. As it develops, the world of competitive capitalist states transforms into a world of imperialist blocs. The violence of battle fields expands to the brutality of “total war” targeting neighborhoods, hospitals, and all civil life.

The Russian barbarities that are televised today are the same barbarities that were hidden yesterday when the US committed them throughout southeast Asia, Latin America, and Iraq.

They are the same barbarities that capitalist India is committing today in Kashmir, Israel in Gaza and the West Bank, Turkey in Syria, Saudi Arabia in Yemen, the Chinese-backed Myanmar military in Myanmar, and especially Ethiopia in Tigray, where as many as half a million people have died so far from fighting, starvation, and lack of medical attention.

In every case, national capitalists are carrying out the agenda of some imperialist power.

Yet the Russian invasion of Ukraine is not just another regional war. It will intensify every conflict presently underway. “The war in Ukraine is like a powerful earthquake that will have ripple effects throughout the global economy, especially in poor countries,” declared Kristalina Georgieva, head of the International Monetary Fund.

“The US and NATO want to fight Russia until the last Ukrainian standing,” observed Major General Bakshi (Indian Army, retired).

“We [NATO] are waging total economic and financial war against Russia, Putin, and his government,” confirmed the French minister of finance. While Ukrainian civilians (with or without NATO weapons) are dying alongside working-class Russian soldiers, US and NATO bankers and hedge fund directors are eliminating their rivals!

“A new world is being born,” says Martin Wolf, a major columnist in the influential Financial Times of London. “The hope for peaceful relations is fading. In the long term, the emergence of two blocs with deep splits between them is likely. Even nuclear war is, alas, conceivable.”

Wolf is not the only one talking of nuclear war: all three leaders, Putin, Zelenskyy, and Biden, have referenced it.

Masses are already feeling the effects in eastern Africa, which relies heavily on imported wheat (90% of it from Russia and Ukraine). This is deadly in places like Somalia, which is in the grip of a severe drought. On March 16, the president of Kazakhstan spoke of spikes in food prices and currency volatility as fallout from the war in Ukraine. Hunger is beginning to stalk the working class across Central Asia.

The rulers understand food insecurity was a catalyst to the

Arab Spring revolts of 2011-2012. Can another wave of protests be far behind? The need and opportunity for communist revolution is even more urgent now.

The other major Russian export is oil. Capitalists regard oil as more important than wheat because the profits of the few are more important to them than the survival of the masses. US imperialists thought sanctions would hit Russia hard. But their policy is backfiring.

India, the world’s third-largest oil importer, is exploring ways to buy discounted Russian oil for rupees, possibly using the Chinese yuan as a reference currency. Qatar and other OPEC countries are also considering a switch from dollars to yuan.

The world of regional wars, unchecked Covid, and economic hardships is further ruptured. The Russian invasion of Ukraine suddenly shakes the very foundation of the global world order.

Arguing who is to blame for this war – the Russian oligarchs and imperialists led by Putin, or the US imperialists led by Biden – misses the point. They both are. “It takes two to tango.”

Imperialism is the outgrowth of capitalism, which uses tremendous wealth against the increasingly impoverished masses. It makes devastating wars inevitable.

Imperialism has proved itself incapable of providing for the masses’ needs in the face of its drive to profits. As long as imperialism dominates our world, war will be inevitable, and the threat of nuclear devastation will hang over us.

It will take the communist (not socialist) revolution we are mobilizing to end that threat and build a world that meets the needs of the mass of humanity.

A new world is being born, but not one imaginable to the *Financial Times* analyst. In that new communist world, there will be no dollars, rubles, yuan, or any type of currency. No wealth or poverty. No borders to divide us and no nations to make war. No nuclear weapons and no addiction to fossil fuels that are leading to climate catastrophe.

Instead, the masses will produce and share all life’s necessities (and eventually luxuries) so that we care for each other and welcome everyone everywhere.

This new world is already being born everywhere that the International Communist Workers’ Party is on the move. The work we do today prepares us for the new world that’s on its way.



When the Rulers Talk “Peace,” You’d Better Get Your Helmet

The Soviet Union (the major rival to US imperialism) collapsed in 1989. European capitalist leaders had a vision of co-operation on a continental scale. The French and German rulers talked of joining Comecon (the transnational market of the Soviets and Eastern Europe) with the newly upgraded European Economic Union.

The Warsaw Pact (the armed might of the Soviets and Eastern Europe) and its adversary NATO could both be disbanded. A giant land-based market could stretch, in Mitterrand’s words, “from the Atlantic to the Urals” and even beyond. The plan had only one problem: the US had no place in it.

It was a plan for capitalist prosperity that sidelined US imperialism, whose Army occupied Western Europe. So the dream of a Pan-European Federation was quickly replaced by a US-led financial attack called “Shock Therapy.” Instead of bargaining as a trading bloc, each eastern European country had to come cap-in-hand to the main Western European countries and International Monetary Fund.

This trashed European dreams. It set Comecon countries in competition against each other. In the end, it stripped them of productive capacity, closing or buying out factories. It forced drastic cuts to their social services. It created poverty and death on a scale equal to any military war. According to UNICEF, the excess mortality in Russia, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Hungary, and Poland between 1989 and 1993 was 800,000 people

Trade war, however barbaric, cannot bring “peace.” It can provoke resistance and revolution. Thus NATO bombed Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1995, and four years later the now-destroyed multi-ethnic Yugoslavia. Only then were eastern European workers forced to accept NATO’s “peaceful” intentions.

While the Russian capitalists were bringing “peace” to Chechnya by reducing its capital city, Grozny, to rubble, the NATO-led capitalists were “bombing Serbia back to the Stone Age.”

And NATO marched closer and closer to Ukraine, shutting down auto plants (among other productive facilities) in Western Europe to re-open them in eastern Europe

(see RED FLAG “Slaving for Wages, We Make Cars, They make Profits” <https://icwpredflag.org/DepthE/WeMakeCars.html>.)

It was setting the stage for the present war.

Yemen, March 18—Masses protest murderous blockade of fuel, food and other necessities amidst Saudi-led war

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MARTIAL LAW IN EL SALVADOR: NEED TO DESTROY CAPITALIST SYSTEM

EL SALVADOR, March 28— Tanks, military and police cars have been deployed in the poorest areas of the country. Thousands of young soldiers humiliate and intimidate young civilians. We must talk to the families of these soldiers and civilians so that they know that the enemy is the capitalist system.

The fascist government of Nayib Bukele, through control of the Legislative Assembly, on Sunday morning, March 27th, approved by decree an emergency regime for 30 days, which may be extended. This was announced as a measure in the face of increasing homicides attributed to gangs (62 murders on Saturday). It is an issue that no one talks about for obvious reasons. This crisis has gotten out of control here and elsewhere.

The decree means that people are exposed to a suspension of laws such as freedom of assembly. It extends the length of administrative detention

in prisons. Prison officials can review correspondence and communications without the right to defense.

The current and previous governments have been at the service of the capitalist economic powers, applying strategies that allow them to continue repressing the population.

Governments need wars, like this so-called “war on gangs.” They use them for electoral purposes and more. This seems to be the case in the face of criticism from the population for not having a security plan. Organized groups have made demands in the face of unfulfilled agreements by the government.

Faced with this scenario, they resort to repression, which makes it clear that this is an attack on the working class, however you look at it.

Since the peace agreements of 1992, new generations have lived under fascist government programs. These plans have had different names,

including “citizen security,” “strong hand,” “super strong hand,” and “territorial control.” Those who suffer from them are young people who live in populous and marginal areas.

As ICWP members we organize internationally to end all forms of repression by ending capitalism at its root. Communism will be a classless society. Therefore it will end the society’s inequality. This requires a strong and sharp struggle to organize the working class to join with communist ideas.

As communists we understand that under capitalism all governments without exception govern for the capitalist class. For their interests that are irreconcilable with those of the working class.

We represent the only organizational alternative for the struggle for the communist system: the International Communist Workers’ Party.

RED FLAG FIGHTS TO REPLACE THE ROOTS OF CAPITALISM WITH OUR COMMUNIST SYSTEM

EL SALVADOR, March 27—We showed a video of the police massacre of a group of workers and youth in Sharpeville, South Africa on March 21, 1960.

Afterward, a worker leader said, “It seems that in El Salvador there is no racism, because there are not many people of African descent. But there is already a racist group that is organizing here. The truth is that we indigenous people have always been discriminated against. It is an insult to call you ‘Indio.’ We must fight against racism as the Party says, in all the areas where the *Red Flag* is present.” he concluded.

A comrade leader asked, “Will the bosses give us the control of production if we ask for it?”

A young worker responded: “The bosses will never do things for our well-being. Whatever

crumbs we have gotten, have been through organized struggle. From my experience I know that the unions end up contributing to the boss, so my answer is: NO.”

A new worker comrade wrote: “What does it mean to be a Party comrade? As an organized class in the factories and as comrades of the International Communist Workers’ Party, we already know where we are and where we are going: to communist revolution.

“Therefore, we must be aware and sure of what we are doing. Because when it comes to attacking the capitalist system, it’s like you want to touch a beehive without covering your body. I don’t know if the example is understood; but what I want to say as an organized worker in the Party is that the bosses are always prepared to wage

war against the workers.

“If we threaten the profits produced by us (workers), from the products they sell, they don’t hesitate to attack us; they even try to exterminate us mentally and physically. We already know that it hurts millionaires to lose even a penny of the profits that we generate

for them.”

What should we communists in ICWP do?

As the working class we must be aware and conscious of what we must do. For that we need to continue growing in ideological knowledge of communist ideas and continue organizing millions of workers around the world, to achieve the goal of implanting the system of the working class.

The bosses and their servants in the factories try in many ways to prevent our *Red Flag* newspaper from being delivered to workers, including physical threats or firings of comrades. But that encourages us to continue the frontal struggle against them and to know that we must defeat them with an organized struggle.

We, the ICWP comrades, must create a revolutionary army of workers, aware of the communist ideas of the Party. Because only united do we make a single proletarian force. It’s time to remove the fear that the boss instills in us. It is no longer time to continue oppressed.

We are in the time where we must think about what we want for our children. Only with a revolutionary army armed and organized around *Red Flag* can we achieve it.



El Salvador: Communist Women in the Struggle

Three women workers told us in a recent meeting that they had dedicated their entire lives to working in the maquilas (garment sweat shops), always suffering, and struggling to have a better life. Their family is the engine that drives them to continue despite the exhaustion, discrimination, and exploitation to which they are subjected.

E tells us that from very young she faced working under the most difficult situations, experiencing marginalization of all kinds since it was her first job. She was exploited and treated badly because she was a woman. She was ha-

arrassed, making her look “less than,” in addition to the long and heavy days without benefits. She suffered this situation every day.

D said that all the workers have gone through the same thing, but she also felt that there was always a difference between men and women. L agreed. At the same time, she believes that the Korean-owned maquilas are more exploitative than the American-owned ones, having worked in different maquilas. But she tells us that whichever bosses they are, workers are always exploited.

L told us to share our *Red Flag* digital newspaper with her so she can share it more easily with her friends. She said that we can meet,

just as we were on this occasion.

In the end we came to the same conclusion: that now is the moment for women’s leadership. It is a crucial moment to stand up and organize and at the same time share with other workers the need for this change from the capitalist society in which we live and seek the common good, without inequality.

That is why now more than ever is the time to rise up massively for our communist society, for our struggle. We can only achieve our dreams through constant work and commitment to fight for more comrades.

For more communist women!

—Comrade in El Salvador

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the generosity of communism. We will always help according to our ability, which I have done, and I am confident that those we have helped, as soon as they are in a position do so, will do the same.”

One of these students has agreed to join the Party and the other has not yet decided. This requires us to struggle with them around our com-

munist ideas and dispel whatever misconceptions or apprehensions they might have about communism.

Another thing that has divided students during this strike is xenophobia. Most of the students from South Africa are struggling, but the international students from Botswana, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe are in the same position. So it does not make sense to exclude them from government assistance. The EFF party called for help to “South

Africans first.” This is a wrong approach because we are all students, all Africans, and help should not be distinguished by where you come from.

This has been our approach. With this approach we will win lots of students from different parts of the continent to our cause. We have been struggling with two international students around our ideas. And they can take these ideas back to where they come from.

Sexism and Class Society: Don't Blame Neolithic Farmers

LET'S CHOOSE TO LIVE OUR COLLECTIVE LIVES AS COMMUNISTS

LOS ANGELES (USA), March 11— “To see an agricultural society that existed over a very long time with no evidence of inequality was deeply meaningful to me as a communist,” a comrade said. She was reflecting on having seen the remains of the neolithic community Çatalhöyük (in today's Turkey) that flourished from 7400 to 5900 BCE.

Our book group was discussing the chapter of *The Dawn of Everything* that describes Çatalhöyük.

“One kind of building – people lived in them,” the comrade continued. “No government or church or temple buildings of any kind. Just places where people lived the richness of their lives...close together with ladders up to the ceiling and interconnected rooftop communities. No castles or palaces.

“I had thought that because agriculture created the possibility of surpluses, it inevitably led to class society, a state to enforce it, and a church to justify it, like medieval Europe. But the authors got this right. Agriculture did not make class society inevitable.”

Ernie had summarized the chapter's main point: “The move toward agriculture was slow, playful, led by women, and tended toward equal-

ity and peace not patriarchy and violence.” The evidence the authors presented includes:

Studies of human teeth and skeletons at Çatalhöyük reveal a basic parity of diet and health for men and women. So does the ritual treatment of male and female bodies in death.

There is no evidence of central authority in Çatalhöyük and not many “explicit signs of rank.”

People may have farmed in warm months and hunted in winter months. They practiced flood retreat farming, which requires “little central management” and has “a built-in resistance to the enclosure and measurement of land.” This lent itself “toward collective holding of land, or at least flexible systems of field reallocation.”

Evidence from this and other sites indicates that “the ‘Agricultural Revolution’ took 3,000 years, much longer than it should have if it had been an inevitable trap. For much of that time people seem to move in and out of it as they deemed practical.”

And the Neolithic world was not “simple.” The authors argue that “Most of humanity's greatest scientific discoveries – the invention of farming, pottery, weaving, metallurgy, systems of maritime navigation, monumental architecture,

the classification and indeed domestication of plants and animals, and so on – were made under precisely those other (Neolithic) sorts of conditions.” Much of it, they assume, must have been done by women.

“Is that really true?” someone asked.

“Yes,” replied Marcia, who has read a lot about the history of science. She recommended *Science in History* (1954) by the Marxist J.D. Bernal. It's limited by the traditional “stages” framing of human history and by not having had access to the last half-century's archaeology and anthropology. But it does treat Neolithic accomplishments as real and important science.

Eleanor, an anthropologist, offered that, if anything, the authors of *The Dawn of Everything* overemphasize gender differences in neolithic social roles. They promote a mythical ideal of women that assumes women and men are essentially different in outlook. They take for granted that gendered work roles have always existed. Much recent research contradicts this “dichotomous” (either/or) thinking. Women were hunters (and cave artists) as well as gatherers, for example.

“My step-brother lived in Bali in the late 1960s,” Nina shared. “There was no hierarchy in his village. Everyone lived in a large dwelling and shared the tasks. They worked in the fields together. There was no pressure to do more or get more. There was no ruler; decisions were made by communal discussion.

“I realize now,” she concluded, “that it was an example of how society could be egalitarian and agricultural at the same time.”

“Does how you obtain subsistence determine how you organize social structure?” asked the first comrade. “This is the key question. That's why Çatalhöyük is so important. Agriculture did not necessarily lead to a class system or gender inequality.

“This has huge implications. Folks can decide how to live our collective lives.”

“That's why this book gives me hope,” Ernie concluded.



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emotionally. “We are an army of occupation,” he said. “Our job is to kill, kill and kill. We kill the civilians, women, children, older people. The army covers up by saying we were chasing Pakistani infiltrators. Men have escaped because they are fearful. Only children and women are the victims.”

Another soldier said, “I think of what is happening in Ukraine. Soldiers on both sides are killing each other for who is going to control oil. The civilians are the victims. This is exactly what is happening in Kashmir. This war is about which boss is going to control.”

Indian Rulers Push Islamophobia and Genocide

In another meeting with this group, soldiers told us that “The Islamophobic bosses of RSS/BJP [the ruling party] have been massively showing a hateful movie, *The Kashmir Files*. It shows the masses of Muslim workers in Kashmir as aggressors trying to kill minority Hindus. This is a lie! Muslims have lived with Hindus for centuries. When the insurgency started, Muslims saved Hindus, and many were killed trying to protect them.”

The soldiers described the effect of this movie. The officers and big bosses are trying to tell us that to defend Greater India, we must eliminate

Muslims. They call this Saffronization. This is the color of the fascist BJP.

None of the soldiers in our meeting agreed with this genocidal ideology. They reported that the army is very divided. Most people are like them. But they follow orders. And the orders come from the officers, who are all BJP supporters.

Chinese Red Army Showed that Communist Soldiers Can Change the World

Some of the soldiers thought they would be willing to fight China to protect India's border. So we read the ICWP pamphlet carefully. It was eye-opening to read about the Chinese communist Red Army. A small group grew to millions,

defending the poor peasants against the onslaught of the capitalist bosses. But they made the mistake of supporting “good bosses.” History has shown that there are no good bosses.

After two hours, we made several important decisions. First, the soldiers will find a way to read our literature and show it to other soldiers that they trust. Second, the comrade in the village will struggle with young students in the village, many of whom will join the army. We agreed that these soldiers have the power to change the world.

Read and distribute *Red Flag* and the ICWP military pamphlet to soldiers, sailors, workers, and youth everywhere

The pamphlet:

Soldiers, Sailors, Marines: Key to a Communist Workers' Revolution

is available at

<https://icwpredflag.org/MIL/mpe.pdf>



US-Russia War in Ukraine: Fascist War Criminals vs. Fascist War Criminals

WORKERS EVERYWHERE MUST TURN IMPERIALIST WAR INTO REVOLUTION FOR COMMUNIST WORKERS' POWER

USA, March 25— The US government accused Russia of war crimes in Ukraine on the same day as the death of Madeline Albright. She was US Secretary of State during the war on Iraq. A reporter once confronted her with the fact that the war killed half a million Iraqi children. “We think the price is worth it,” she responded.

The hypocrisy of US imperialism and its media lapdogs has no limit. Liberal newspapers and commentators emphasize how Putin is lying to the Russian people. And he is. But meanwhile US media are massively lying to people here and worldwide.

The US rulers insist that Putin, an “evil madman,” started the war. But they have known for twenty-five years that NATO expansion into eastern Europe would likely cause war with Russia. For example:

Cold War strategist George Kennan (1998) warned that NATO expansion would provoke “a bad reaction from Russia.”

Analyst John Mearsheimer (2015): “The West is leading Ukraine down the primrose path” and the “result is that Ukraine is going to get wrecked ... [We are] in fact encouraging that outcome.”

According to the Rand Corporation, “Since 2014, the United States has provided over \$2.5 billion in military aid to Ukraine.” Ukraine deployed these against lightly armed Russian-backed separatists in the Donbas. The “vast majority” of these separatists, while armed and trained by Russia, “consist of locals—not soldiers of the regular Russian military.”

The liberal US media portray Zelenskyy and the Ukrainian government as a brave model of democracy. But in 2019, they reported that many

considered the comedian-turned-candidate to be a puppet of the Russian oligarch Kolomoisky. Zelenskyy is an actor. Others (whether oligarchs or the CIA) write his scripts.

CBS and NBC are singing a duet about “Russia’s alternate reality”—meaning its references to “Nazi Battalions.” As if those didn’t exist.

From 2015-2017, the US House of Representatives unanimously amended its Defense Appropriations Bill to “limit arms, training, and other assistance to the neo-Nazi Ukrainian militia, the Azov Battalion.” Under Pentagon pressure, this amendment kept disappearing.

A 2018 law stipulated that “none of [these] funds may be used to provide arms, training, or other assistance to the Azov Battalion.” Representative Ro Khanna declared that “White supremacy and neo-Nazism are unacceptable and have no place in our world.”

But Ro Khanna today: “The Ukrainian fight against Russia is a totally justified war ... we ought to be supporting the Ukrainian people with money in arms in that fight.” No mention that the Azov Battalion is now part of the Ukrainian National Guard. Or that fascists worldwide are rushing to join them.

Putin openly envisions himself as a new Czar reviving the old Russian Empire. Russian workers and soldiers need to take a lesson from 1917 and overthrow his capitalist regime. So must the rest of us.

But let’s also learn from the mistakes of the Bolshevik revolution. The socialism they fought for was another form of capitalism. It evolved into today’s Russian imperialism. We must mobilize directly for communism.

And nationalism (or patriotism) is never a good thing. It turns worker against worker, soldier against soldier, and helps only the capitalist rulers. As *The Communist Manifesto* said, working people have no country. We are one international working class.

Committed fascists are perhaps 10% of the Ukrainian force fighting the Russian invasion. The other 90% may be following their tactical leadership, but most could become convinced of class-conscious communist internationalism – if the fascists don’t win them politically first.

The same is true in India and in the US military. A 2020 Military Times poll found that “about one-third of active-duty personnel have witnessed signs of white supremacy in the ranks — and nearly half consider it nearly as menacing as foreign terrorism.” Friends of *Red Flag* have reported sharp struggles between racists and anti-racists on several bases.

In these situation, even small numbers of active communist organizers inside the military can be decisive. Every Party collective must plan how to contribute to this work.

US, Russian, and Chinese imperialists – and national capitalists worldwide – are intensifying their bloody conflicts. We must intensify the fight to defeat nationalism and win masses into the ranks of the International Communist Workers’ Party.

Red Flag and ICWPRedFlag.org are the media that you, and workers and youth worldwide, can trust. Spread and promote them! Translate them into more languages! Contribute ideas, letters, pictures and more!

NATO USES UKRAINIAN FASCISTS TO FIGHT RUSSIA

Russian missiles struck a military base at Yavoriv in Western Ukraine on March 15th, killing “international volunteers” fighting with the NATO-backed Ukraine forces. Among those killed were ex-members of the British Parachute Regiment, which massacred civilians in Ireland in 1972.

The British reactionary rag *The Sun* quotes an observer who describes this pick n’ mix bag of reactionaries as “a Star Wars canteen. There were gun nuts, biker gangs, tough guys, American religious people there to do God’s work, war addicts.”

These volunteers having nothing in common with the International Brigades who embodied proletarian solidarity during the anti-Fascist struggle in the Spanish Civil War (1936-39). They are mostly fascists who will find good company among their hosts in Ukraine.

NATO is using Ukrainian people to do its fighting while NATO and the US supply the arms and ammunition. US-NATO imperialists are using Ukraine to fight a war against its challenger, Russian imperialism.

Ukrainian Fascists have a long history

Émigré Ukrainians established the Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) in 1929 after their defeat in the Russian Civil War. They modelled it on Mussolini’s Italian fascists. The OUN sought to infiltrate the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. It employed terrorist methods to try to break it from the USSR and establish an ultra-nationalist fascist regime.

The OUN split in 1941 when Nazi Germany invaded the USSR. One faction, the OUN-B led by Stepan Bandera, established an independent

government of Ukraine in Lvov, and declared allegiance to Adolf Hitler and Nazi Germany. It established the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) and massacred Poles, Jews, and other Soviet citizens. The OUN-B was a major participant in the Holocaust.

After the Red Army smashed the fascist Axis powers, many UPA members remained in the USSR and the Polish Peoples Republic as terrorists. They were eventually crushed, but survived abroad in the US, Canada, and Britain, where they received funding from the US CIA.

After the collapse of the USSR in 1991, many Ukrainian exiles and their descendants returned to Ukraine. They established fascist parties based on the OUN heritage, including the Svoboda Party and the Right Sector.

The Azov Battalion is one such group. They identify with the legacy of the OUN and its armed force, the UPA. They are a paramilitary group with a lot of street power. They use Nazi symbols and espouse fascist, nationalist, and antisemitic ideas. Since the 2014 Maidan coup and civil war, the Azov Battalion has been incorporated into the National Guard of Ukraine.

Fascists are influential in Ukraine today and form the backbone of Ukrainian nationalism. The old Nazi collaborator Stepan Bandera is today considered a Ukrainian national hero. The current President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, (who is Jewish) said during his election campaign, “Stepan Bandera is a hero for a certain part of Ukrainians, and this is a normal and cool thing. He was one of those who defended the freedom of Ukraine.”

The white supremacist USA had no problem

installing a Black president in 2008. Likewise, today Ukraine has no problem placing a token Jewish president in charge to hide the deeply fascist and ethnocentric Ukrainian nationalism.

This white supremacist, antisemitic Nazi group is getting a free pass from Western media, including some who had previously exposed its Nazi ideology. Now this is all ignored or ‘forgotten’ in the name of fighting Russia.

Azov has received weapons and training from NATO member states. It has used its training to murder Russian Muslims in Ukraine. It has also used civilians in Mariupol as human shields to defend their fiefdom.

The support for extreme nationalism and fascism is quite in keeping with NATO’s history. They never ceased supporting Ukraine’s Nazi groups and now are using them for the purpose which perpetuated their existence: to fight NATO’s war against Russia.



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Do Not Die Defending Capitalism!

“Who should be held responsible for the atrocities that are being committed in Ukraine?” asked a friend.

The answer is that Russia and Ukraine are no different from each other. Ukraine’s close ties with the US and its interest in being a member of the fascist NATO organization represented a major threat to Russia’s profits.

The spark ignited in Ukraine has already impacted the lives of the working class worldwide. Gas prices are at historic all-time highs, food prices keep rising and will only keep worsening for millions of workers and their families.

On the other side, every capitalist country has their hands filled with working class blood. Throughout early colonization and modern history, invasions have taken place to seize other nations’ resources.

Germany’s collaboration with Russia’s Nordstream2 project that would have transported natural gas through the Baltic Sea has now been dismantled by US imperialists, whose hegemony continues its deep decline.

Russia’s oligarchs are after a bigger global stake of profits at the expense of the working-class blood as well.

Their attack on Ukraine is strictly to take control of Ukrainian territory, prevent Ukraine from joining NATO, stop paying Ukraine royalties, and to keep the US bosses from meddling in their affairs.

Capitalism utilizes its servants of the news media to spread their poisonous venom to keep the working class divided and not making a rational judgement against capitalism!

US imperialism is slowly orchestrating a confrontation against other imperialists but will not be able to do it alone. Therefore it will utilize its current influence over European Union nations to keep flexing their military muscles to get ready to face their rivals China and Russia.

Our International Communist Workers’ Party has for a long time been writing about the impending World War III that the bosses will need to engage for global dominance.

The working class should not take sides for either of these bosses. We need to emphasize the need for communist revolution.

We should encourage all soldiers of the world not to kill their brothers and sisters, not to fall prey to the ruling class that sends them as cannon fodder to fight and die to defend their economic interests.

The trigger needs to be pulled against the real murderers of the working class. Fight for communism!

—Comrade in Los Angeles, USA

Let’s fight for a communist society without money, where we produce what we need

The wife of a Party comrade who works in a factory asked him, “How can we live without money?” The comrade answered, “In *Red Flag* I have read that we will only produce what our class needs and not to generate profits for the bosses, as is happening today.”

He has shown her how the *Red Flag* newspaper talks about a society led by workers in which money will not exist. This young couple has discussions about what is written in *Red Flag*, about how a communist society will work.

She continued, “I don’t understand what it would be like to go to the store without money in my hand?”

So that the workers in the maquilas (garment sweatshops) and other parts of the world better

understand what it will be like to live without money, we ask ICWP readers and comrades to write about this issue.

This week the different meetings of Party cells in the factories, where we have friends, readers, and comrades, had to be cancelled. The last cell meetings had been discussing the need to fight for a society organized by ICWP, where there is no money. We will continue with this topic.

The bosses enslave the workers with their threats of wage deductions and firings. The bosses had delayed exports and forced everyone to work up to twelve hours from Monday to Sunday, to fill the orders of their clients of each brand. Who is stealing from whom?

The Party, despite these inhuman acts that are so natural for the bosses and that affect our working class, used social networks to encourage the members of each cell to fight, because one day it will not be like that. In communism there will be no exploitation by the capitalists. What humanity needs will be produced.

In addition, we talked about needing to invite more workers for the historic May Day March 2022 with the Party. Among the slogans that we will shout in the main streets of the Salvadoran capital will be: “Workers don’t need money. They need to have their needs met.”

Only in this rotten bosses’ system does wage slavery exist. It is urgent to organize ourselves more in ICWP, fighting for a society without money. And to fight for communism, which is the only way to end capitalism.

—Comrade in El Salvador

War and Racism Go Hand in Hand

“It is the open policy of the bosses to give priority to the Ukrainian refugees,” said an immigrant in the US. “The war is not only in Ukraine; the war is all over the world with its racist attacks. Some of us have to emigrate because of poverty. We all need help, regardless of whether we are black or white, we are all human beings,” he continued.

Hundreds of Ukrainians, Russians and Belarusians have recently become part of the overcrowded poverty tents in Tijuana, Mexico. They have become part of the thousands of migrants from Latin America who have spent months and years waiting for a visa in search of refuge in the US.

But why are Ukrainians given automatic passes and admitted quickly to begin their refugee application processes?

Of the more than three million who have left Ukraine as refugees, most do not want to leave Europe. They have been accepted in Poland, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, and Moldova. The bosses use the idea of “Europe for Europeans” to create warmongering loyalty. At the same time, they promote racism against African migrants and Islamophobia against those from the Middle East.

Ukrainian refugees are white. For the bosses this is enough to classify them as deserving a better life and humanitarian treatment, different from the treatment received by the thousands of Syrian, Iraqi and Afghan refugees.

Something similar happens in the Americas. The bosses’ governments promote their supposed humanitarianism towards the workers but what stands out is their racism and disdain towards the working class. That deep down they fear that they will organize revolts against their oppressors.

A few days ago, ten countries of the Americas held a conference to, according to them, resolve the problems of “irregular” migration. They focused on the jungles of Darien, a natural border

between Colombia and Panama. In 2021, some 130,000 people passed through the Darien Gap. Several drowned, some were robbed, and others suffered sexual violence. Those at the conference knew in advance that they will not be able to solve these problems due to the limitations imposed by racist capitalism.

More crises and more wars will come. The working class must have a goal and a political line that no worker is inferior to another worker because of their skin color or birthplace. What unites us is our need to end this exploitative and divisive capitalist system.

Only a united working class that fights for a communist world without borders and without bosses will be able to live in full peace and harmony between human beings and nature.

—Comrade in Los Angeles (USA)

Anti-Racist Movements Need Revolutionary Communist Ideas

I relate to anti-racist movements and organizations as part of my work. As a white person I hear the term “white ally.” The message is that white people are not targeted by racism and that the role for white people is to support the struggles of people of color.

This message does not understand the material conditions for racism and that its two primary purposes are for the capitalist class to extract super-profits and to divide the working class.

Because we understand the material conditions of racism and the history of racism and racist ideology, the message that communists send is that racism also hurts white people and it is in the class interests of white people to fight racism and its cause, capitalism.

A popular book, highlighted by the capitalist-controlled media, is *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson. She says that caste and racism are states of mind. This leads to the conclusion that the work is to transform our understanding and to focus on how we treat each other, rather than to change the material conditions that perpetuate racism and caste by overthrowing capitalism.

Anti-racist movements need revolutionary communist ideas. And white working-class people must not fall into the ignorant and racist ideology of color-blindness as the core of working-class solidarity. Color-blindness denies the systemic nature of racism, and thereby contributes to it. Our movement must actively fight racism.

I struggle with my students, friends, and colleagues about bringing communism into their lives. Many are immersed in anti-communism, consciously or not. They agree that capitalism is a harmful and oppressive system, but they still equate communism with authoritarianism and understand it to be anti-democratic.

We talk about the anti-communism of the McCarthy era, the racialized politics of division, and the white nationalist movement’s massive media campaign of anti-communism and racism. We talk about the Paris Commune and the Chinese Cultural Revolution. We share stories of multi-racial collectivism. This provides a sense of what communism is all about.

We need a shared vision of what multi-racial international communism can become.

—Friend in Oregon (US)



COMMUNISM CAN END RACISM, STRESS AND GREED

LOS ANGELES (US)—“A pastor asked me why I had not been to church,” reported a young worker at a recent ICWP forum. “Because I’m a communist,” I responded. “You cannot be a communist, you are a Black man,” retorted the pastor, who added, “Jesus was the only true communist.”

The young Black worker told us that he understood that communism meant “to each according to need.” He felt that many Black people are asking themselves, “Communism—what’s in it for me?” He declared that millions of Black people around the world are influenced by Pan-Africanism. If they were swayed to communism, they would be a powerful force to reckon with. “I’m a communist and I want to help in this effort,” he concluded.

Another comrade gave a brief history of the South African masses’ fight against racism. From Sharpeville and the fight against the racist pass system during Apartheid, to the Soweto student uprising protesting racist education, to the striking Marikana miners demanding a living wage, and against the poor living and working conditions.

All along, arrests, torture and the murder of workers and youth failed to quell the fighting spirit of the masses. The masses have shown that they are an unstoppable force against racist oppression.

Now our International Communist Workers’ Party grows in South Africa. Our brothers and sisters in South Africa have learned through our

international party that you cannot defeat racism without defeating capitalism. They have begun to mobilize the masses for communism.

Our South African comrades are carrying out this fight by organizing collectives around *Red Flag*, reading it, writing for it, and distributing it. They struggle within the collective to join the fight against racism and bring a communist analysis. They have come to understand, as we all should, that with communist revolution we can get rid of racism.

At the forum, a relatively new transit worker comrade from MTA introduced the discussion of the international crisis in Ukraine. He described it as an inter-imperialist fight. Two other MTA comrades participated in the discussion.

Then he said, “I am asked at work, why and how is being a Communist important? The answer can be deep and complex. The stigma that many money-hungry nations have implied over the years can be a scary thing.

“The true definition is how I choose to describe this world of Communism. First, I have to be able to embrace the culture of using and having

the things I need. To live a healthy and stress-free life while still doing my part in our community to better the lives of everyone.

“Next is the abolition of a monetary system. That will eliminate the necessity of greed, that commonly is a result of the desire of profits.

“The only solution is the belief of true Communism. I feel that true Communism has not yet existed. Only Socialist societies with some implementations of communist philosophy have been tried.”

At the end of this lively communist forum, a comrade called for preparing our coworkers, friends, and family to participate with ICWP in May Day activities, bringing our communist ideas to the masses.



LOS ANGELES (US) Comrades take *Red Flag* to the masses, organizing for a communist May Day.

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Let’s Defeat Racism and Unite for a Communist World

The talks we’ve been having with co-workers here in Spain recently have been about the war in Ukraine.

A friend from Equatorial Guinea mentioned that it is very hypocritical of some media outlets that say, “this is something incredible, they are blondes with blue eyes, not from Syria,” referring to a journalist’s post on social networks. That the “normal” war was in “third world” countries.

A Colombian co-worker said that economic interests were always going to lead to wars between rich countries, and that poor and working people were always going to pay the piper in the wars of the rich.

In these discussions, we talked about why this type of situation happened and we mentioned that the nature of capitalism is to exploit workers to get profits. As a result of their drive for profit, they wage wars to control resources, factories, and workers’ labor power. Wars in which only workers die.

Trying to better understand the reason for these wars, we asked why, if there are also wars in Syria, Afghanistan, Yemen, or Ethiopia, are Ukrainians receiving asylum in Europe with automatic residencies by simply filling out an online form and the “others” are not.

We argue that the racism generated in these



MADRID, Spain March 25, 2022: Truckers strike over high gas prices

situations paints it that “whites” are always good. It lies that those who are not “whites” always turn out to be criminals, or that they are influenced by cruel wars and therefore affected by living in situations of violence on a daily basis in any country.

We say that this capitalist system does not resolve the contradictions that could lead us to have a better quality of life in society. This system is broken. We must change it. We need a communist revolution in which there is no racism or nationalism among the working class. Instead of destroying each other, we need to unite for a communist world without borders or wages.

We agreed that we would continue talking about this. We hope that we will meet again soon. In social networks we share *Red Flag* articles so that friends can read about what is happening in Ukraine. Friends from Germany, Ireland and even from Peru have gotten these articles.

We hope that they continue reading *Red Flag* and contribute their comments to continue building a new society, a communist society in which the workers really are the ones who sustain society. LONG LIVE COMMUNISM!

—Comrade in Spain



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MARCH ON MAY DAY 2022 WITH ICWP TO END FASCIST TERROR AND IMPERIALIST WAR WITH COMMUNIST REVOLUTION



REVOLUTIONARY SPIRIT OF 1871 PARIS COMMUNE INSPIRES COMMUNIST MAY DAY

EL SALVADOR — The working class of Paris took power in March 1871 and held it for 71 days. Although a short period of time, this historical event had a great impact on the whole world.

The Paris Commune arose during the political crisis resulting from the Franco-Prussian War (1870-71) between two of Europe's greatest powers. French society was full of inequalities and the misery of the masses intensified after the French defeat.

It inspired Marx, the Bolsheviks, the Chinese Revolution, and the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution. And today it continues to motivate the working class that organizes ourselves in the International Communist Workers' Party. For the first time the working class took power into its own hands and used it to reshape society in its own interest.

"I knew this part of history when I joined the International Communist Workers' Party, and it was very inspiring for me," said a worker who had attended a forum on the Paris Commune.

We have read in *Red Flag* about many aspects of this event, especially the participation of

women in the insurrection and in building the Commune. Thousands of women – laundry workers, garment workers, shopkeepers and many more – worked in weapons and ammunition factories, built barricades, took up arms from the fallen, and joined the struggle. They organized food, education, medical care, and political collectives.

Every story of these women, with their participation from beginning to end, is a lesson for our Party organization.

Mostly women work in the factories where we organize the struggle for communism today. As always, they have been key to mobilizing the working class in the struggle for a just system for humanity. The participation of women is key to the mobilization of more workers in the ranks of the ICWP.

The Paris Commune is a guide for industrial workers today, who continue to live in miserable conditions of exploitation. In factories here, bosses force them to work unpaid overtime to meet high production goals.

Like the workers in Paris in 1871, we need to prepare for armed revolution. We must not

get stuck trying to reform capitalist wage slavery. One of the main lessons of the Paris Commune is that the working class needs a party that organizes and mobilizes the masses towards communism, as the ICWP is doing. A party that fights directly for communism.

The Franco-Prussian war created the conditions for the Paris Commune. We must see the wars spreading across the world today, from Ukraine to Ethiopia to Kashmir, as an opportunity for revolutionary communism. Now, as then, soldiers – as well as women and men workers – are key.

Discover more about the Paris Commune on the ICWP website

<https://icwpredflag.org/wp/wordpress/pamphlets-and-article-series/paris-commune-of-1871/>. Learn more about the struggle for communism today in the pages of *Red Flag*. Distribute the paper to co-workers, friends, and family. Invite them to participate in May Day marches and other events with the International Communist Workers' Party.

**Long live the spirit of the Paris Commune!
Long live communism!**