

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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



Striking Seattle Educators Have Unprecedented Positive Response to Communism

EXPAND ICWP COLLECTIVES TO ORGANIZE FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

SEATTLE (USA), September 13— Six thousand Seattle public school educators went on strike September 7. They mainly demanded the hiring of more paraprofessionals, multi-language aides and nurses, and mental health therapists. They will now vote on a tentative contract.

Comrades talked about communist ideas on the picket lines, with strikers dancing at a major intersection, in the street where traffic permitted, and in cars transporting them to rallies.

“What is communism to you?” a teacher asked an ICWP member during a short ride to a rally.

They discussed the communist motto: from each according to commitment and ability, to each according to need. The comrade explained how collective production, the basis of communism, will replace wage slavery, the material basis of capitalism. They discussed how collective production will allow us to build successful mass campaigns to end capitalism’s horrors, particularly racism, sexism, and xenophobia.

The comrade asked the teacher if this made any sense to him. “Yes, it’s cool,” he answered, taking a copy of the ICWP “Communist Education” pamphlet. Most importantly, this discussion will continue.

Many strikers (paraprofessionals, nurses, multilingual aides, teachers) eagerly took *Red Flag*, pamphlets, and leaflets about the 2019 Los Angeles school strike. Some were new hires; others had worked in the district for many years. Some have long-term relationships with comrades who

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PAKISTAN FLOODS: ONLY COMMUNISM CAN REVERSE CAPITALISM’S CLIMATE CRISIS

DELHI (India), September 10—Catastrophic flooding is swamping Pakistan, home to the fifth-largest number of workers in the world. Tens of millions fled their homes, some never to return. Over 1400 died. Floodwaters have washed out half of the most fertile land, meaning famine is coming.

The immediate causes are monsoon rains, in some places five times heavier than usual, and rapidly melting Himalayan glaciers. These are consequences of the climate crisis that capitalism has caused, and that capitalism cannot solve.

The rise of industrial capitalism in 19th century Europe meant sharpening competition to maximize profits. Coal and oil fueled capitalist production and distribution of goods. They fueled the armies and navies that British, French, German, US, Japanese, and other imperialists needed to exploit the masses worldwide and to fight each other for supremacy.

The early impact of capitalism-imperialism was to increase misery for the working class. The long-term impact of its carbon-based system is

the climate crisis that is drowning Pakistan, India, and Central America while creating drought in Europe, Africa, the US, and elsewhere. Ironically, Pakistan produces just 1% of global carbon emissions but is most severely affected by catastrophic change.

Capitalist ruling classes are trying to lead the angry masses away from confronting capitalism as the root of the problem. Their ideological offensive aims to persuade us that the climate crisis can be solved within the capitalist profit system or not at all. Their NGOs (“non-governmental organizations”) tell us to plant trees or donate to save endangered animals or try to become entrepreneurs. Some NGOs in India accept money from the oil industry.

What’s more, the capitalist rulers are using “Green Energy” as a new way to make maximum profits. For example, two of India’s wealthiest capitalists, Ambani and Adani, participate in a Green Energy initiative with oil-producers Total and Chevron. The “Green” label hides the fact

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FLOODS CAN'T DROWN OUT INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST GARMENT WORKER SOLIDARITY

BENGALURU (India), September 11 —Almost 13 million people in this “Silicon Valley of India” faced rising waters that flooded every street after two weeks of rain. Capitalism’s greed for profit caused this devastation.

As the city’s population surged, real estate capitalists built unsustainable industrial structures, displaced workers to low-lying areas, and built multimillion dollar homes in front of lakes. A small variation in the monsoon pattern was enough to flood the city and cause misery to the masses.

Comrades of the International Communist

Workers’ Party (ICWP) in Bengaluru were under three feet of mud. While struggling without water, electricity, internet, and food, some managed to talk to a garment worker comrade in Sri Lanka’s Free Trade Zone (FTZ) near Colombo. ICWP had sent a contribution to the garment workers there.

This comrade leader, Geetha, has been receiving copies of *Red Flag* regularly. She told us that when she first read it after the collapse of the Sri Lanka government, she was excited about the fall of the unpopular president. She added that *Red Flag* was the only newspaper that talked about how only communism can resolve century-old problems that are piling up on the workers.

But she was scared and felt alone. She seemed to be the only person to defend communism in a country of millions. Management had attacked her in the past for taking part in a strike demanding employer contributions to Employees Provident Funds and Employees Trust Fund. Her union settled for a reduced contribution in return for her to continue to work.

She was also attacked when she was with other women in actions started by her union against the military occupation in the FTZ. She said, “If I talk about communism, the union is going to attack and isolate me. They can fire me without a notice and the bosses will readily agree.”

Amidst this struggle, ICWP comrades in Chennai continued to support her vision of communism. They put her in touch with garment workers in Bengaluru. A Chennai comrade assured her that she was not alone. Our party includes garment workers in El Salvador, Los Angeles, and Bengaluru.

No other party organizes workers across nations. We don’t believe in countries; we believe in workers’ struggle against the capitalist class. In com-

munist there will be no countries.

This constant communication with the Chennai comrade created trust and hope in comrade Geetha. Very soon after the comrade asked her to join the party, she was able to talk with garment worker comrades in Bengaluru. She described this as eye-opening. She felt that their experience was no different than hers. She did not know where El Salvador was, but she imagined that the workers there also faced exploitation.

As her confidence grew, she started giving a few copies of *Red Flag* to the workers she knew. She no longer felt alone or isolated. She started looking at the workers who we can win to communism. That realization was no longer just the garment workers but workers everywhere, in all countries.

Now the struggle with comrade Geetha is to join ICWP and find comrades in her factory who can form a collective to expand the party.

Many *Red Flag* readers have told us that “Labour tribunals are a complete waste for the workers. When we face disciplinary action, the bosses don’t send their representatives, but we must go to court every single time. We don’t get paid, and the court date gets postponed. Eventually, the worker withdraws her case.”

“Since Covid,” one reported, “the bosses make very quick decisions because there is a shortage of raw materials. Suddenly, they have too much work but just two weeks ago, there was no work. This instability causes permanent unemployment. And those who work must do two shifts for the same salary.”

Complaints like these are fertile grounds for comrade Geetha to explain that the capitalists have no solution but to create misery and surplus profit for their class. We must face these challenges and create more communists out of these struggles. It is not an easy task, but the only solution is to end capitalism and create a society based on our needs.

Forming a party collective in Sri Lanka will create numerous opportunities for developing more communist leaders all over the world.



Los Angeles (USA) Garment workers from Los Angeles and Bangladesh. We will destroy wage slavery.

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that some “green” technologies create a larger carbon footprint and are enormously profitable.

Over 500 attendees at last year’s “Climate Change Summit” in Glasgow were fossil-fuel lobbyists. They represented over 100 oil and gas companies and 30 trade associations and membership organisations. They outnumbered the combined delegations of the eight countries most affected by climate change: Puerto Rico, Myanmar, Haiti, Philippines, Mozambique, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Pakistan.

Our struggle is to eradicate the source of profit. Our task is to massively organize so we can transform imperialist profit wars into the revolutionary struggle for communism.

It took capitalism several centuries to cause these problems. It will take time for communism to solve them. The end of capitalism and early beginning of communism could involve desperate capitalists using nuclear weapons and further devastating the climate. How can we build communism from the ashes?

The masses, convinced and mobilized by communist philosophy, will become a material force for change. What seems impossible today can unfold when hundreds of millions of workers are involved. Communist society will be able to slow, reverse, and mitigate climate change with new technologies and, more important, new social relations of production.

The 20th century communist-led socialist revolutions in the Soviet Union and China gave hope for change to workers worldwide as the masses

of workers did seemingly impossible things. Our ideas have evolved out of their past successes and the mistakes that have left these countries firmly in the grip of capitalism today.

Past communists did not have confidence that the laboring masses could be convinced to build a communist society without money, wages, or exchange. But we take from their struggles a vision that such a communist society can do better than the socialist state, which maintained money and markets and therefore exploitation.

To achieve this goal, ICWP collectives in India and elsewhere are recruiting workers and students. We are in communication with comrades in Pakistan and now amidst the sharp struggle in Sri Lanka. The communist collectives we build today, with strong and broad ties among the masses, are the nucleus of the communist world

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Garment Workers:

COMMUNIST REVOLUTION WILL BREAK THE CHAINS OF WAGE SLAVERY

EL SALVADOR—On August 30, approximately 1,000 workers were fired from the factory APS El Salvador SA de CV located in the free trade zone of San Bartolo. Many had been working for many years, increasing the profits for the capitalist owners. The bourgeois bosses closed the factory and disappeared without an explanation or payment for the last weeks, stealing their salary. This clothing factory has been operating in El Salvador since 1993.

This coming October, Fruit of the Loom, an American factory, will also close one of its plants, leaving another 800 workers unemployed. Aggravating the situation of the working class. This is the second-largest employer in the country, with 9,500 workers. It will also close two plants in Honduras.

The capitalist thieves say that this closure is due to the war between NATO and Russia in Ukraine, which has raised the costs of raw materials and the supply chain.

The exploiting bosses do not care about the situation of the workers. By stealing their wages they leave the workers unable to support their families, who will go hungry and suffer many difficulties.

This crime cries out for communist revolution and the establishment of communism!

It cries out for an end to wage slavery and money, which is the chain that ties us to the capitalist-imperialist bosses!

It cries out for a production system where nothing is bought or sold, especially our labor

power! A system where, without money, we collectively produce and distribute everything to satisfy our needs, not to fill the multi-trillion-dollar coffers of the capitalist-imperialists!

The capitalist crisis hits the workers here and all over the world. It has led the masses to mobilize in India, Sri Lanka, Honduras, and elsewhere. Imperialist wars intensify the conditions of misery for the workers.

Potential to Build New Communist Collectives with Laid-Off Workers

“Looking for better working conditions, I entered the APS maquila where they offered me a better work environment and better salaries,” a friend told us.

“That was an illusion because they were almost the same conditions as my previous job. I have a family to support, and I worked expecting bonuses, vacations and overtime, but now I have been fired instead.”

We met with him recently to talk more broadly about the situation that fired workers are experiencing. We gave him *Red Flag*, which he gladly received. We told him about our International Communist Workers’ Party and that we fight to abolish wage slavery internationally, organizing the working class to fight directly for Communism, a society without money, in which our labor power will not be sold. That we are a party open to the working class.

This worker has put us in contact with another worker who has also been fired. We met with her and her daughters, talked to her about ICWP and

what we fight for, and gave her our *Red Flag* newspaper. We are creating communist ties with her and more workers, as the working class needs to be strongly organized to change this exploitative system. In Communism the workers will not go through this. They will work collectively and based on the needs of humanity, not for profit.

Our collective stands in solidarity with these comrades. Among the workers, we have collected and delivered a basic food basket, to help in these moments of crisis.

We will continue with this solidarity effort, with communist ideas and help with food, with our working-class family.

We are expanding the *Red Flag* network with these workers who, we hope, will enter other factories where communist ideas will spread to more workers, creating the conditions to form communist collectives in other factories.

Get organized in the International Communist Workers’ Party!



TURN THE MIGHT OF RAILWAY AND OTHER INDUSTRIAL WORKERS TO COMMUNIST REVOLUTION, NOT TRADE UNIONISM

USA, September 14— Some 150,000 railroad workers might go on strike Friday, Sept. 16, when the second 60-day “cooling off period” imposed by the Biden administration ends. It would be the first national strike by railroad workers in 30 years.

The workers welcome the strike as a chance to vent their anger and hatred of the bosses and gain some meaningful reforms. Their lives on the job are unbearable. Over 40,000 have been laid off recently – 20,000 in 2019 alone. Despite automation, the workload and hours for the remaining workers increased tremendously. The bosses impose these slave-like conditions with vicious, fascist discipline. Workers lose their jobs for getting sick, attending routine medical visits, or even taking time off for a loved one’s funeral.

These conditions demand not a strike for reforms but a revolution for communist workers’ power to put an end to capitalism’s horrors. We need to destroy this system that works us to the bone while making billionaires richer. While railroad workers struggle to make ends meet with an average wage of \$24 an hour, capitalists like Warren Buffet—owner of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad which employs 41,000 workers – increased their fortunes by \$196 billion from 2010-2019.

We need communism, where our lives and our needs at work, at home, and everywhere take precedence over everything. This will never happen under capitalism: money is its whole purpose of being. Money to buy our labor power to enslave us to produce more money for the capitalists! Money that condemns our class to go homeless, hungry, and sick because if we do not have money the capitalists will not let us have what we need – even though we produce everything!

Collectively producing and distributing the products of our labor according to need will end

our dependence on a wage to survive. It will end capitalism’s wage slavery and money, the chain that binds us to the capitalists. It will end markets – no more buying or selling of anything, especially our labor power. Ending wage slavery and the competition it forces on us will end the basis of racism, sexism, and xenophobia.

Communism will create a world without borders

and nations. A world where humanity – composed only of workers and our families – will eradicate the scourge of war and all capitalism’s profit-first policies that are destroying our planet.

For this we need an armed revolution to destroy the capitalists-imperialists and their system. Our so-called union leaders work for the bosses. There might not even be a strike: eight of the twelve unions have already reached tentative agreements with the companies.

The bosses do not want a strike which will cost them \$2 billion a day. It will disrupt their transportation of passengers and goods. But most important, it can inspire millions of other workers to fight against the bosses’ attacks. When workers are in motion, we can win them to fight for communism. This is the biggest fear the capitalists have and the biggest service the union leaders render them: they build anticommunism!



Great Britain, September 14— Over 40,000 workers walked out of their jobs last spring in Britain’s largest rail strike since 1989. A series of rolling 24-hour strikes continues. Workers are demanding a pay raise in response to skyrocketing inflation. Railway bosses are threatening thousands of layoffs and the government is letting them hire replacement workers (scabs). Militant strikers carry signs demanding cuts in profits, not in pay or jobs. But the logic of their anti-capitalist struggle requires, not demands on the bosses, but communist revolution to overthrow their profit system.

One of the two largest unions still holding out is the IBEW. Capitalists organized this union during the 1930s to counter the communist led UE. The communists mistakenly did not try to win the workers to fight for communism, only for reforms. The bosses offered a twenty-five-cent wage increase to all UE workers who would switch to IBEW: tens of thousands did.

However, we still face the same problems. We cannot reform capitalism to meet our needs. We must destroy it. The US Communist Party in the 1930s ignored this fact and became reformist themselves, ending up in irrelevancy. The UE became another capitalist union guaranteeing the capitalists’ profits.

The International Communist Workers’ Party has learned from this history. We mobilize masses directly for communism, nothing less. Join us to fight for the communist world we need!

September 12—Fifteen thousand nurses in Minnesota (USA) went on strike against thirteen hospitals Monday morning. The three-day strike is mainly for better staffing and “letting members provide the quality of care they want to provide to patients,” a nurse explained.

The Minnesota nurses join many others, including hospital and school workers, who are striking over working conditions rather than traditional trade union demands over wages and benefits. They are refusing to allow the capitalist bosses to blame them for the problems created by capitalism’s drive for profit amidst a global crisis.

For example, over two thousand mental health professionals are on strike against Kaiser Permanente in California and Hawaii. Like Minnesota nurses, they say inadequate staffing deprives patients of care and prevents them from working effectively.

Teachers in Columbus, Ohio walked out against large class sizes and dilapidated schools. The school strike in Seattle, Washington (see page 1) focused on staffing to meet students’ needs.

It’s an uphill battle, to say the least. In capitalism, the class that owns and controls almost everything – including schools and hospitals – has the armed power of the state behind it. Capitalism’s golden rule is: “They who have the gold, make the rules.”

Communist revolution, in contrast, will put workers ourselves in control of our workplaces and everything else. We will collectively decide how to allocate labor and organize work. Before that happens, though, the armed power of workers and soldiers, led by communist ideas, must smash the capitalist state. No more “gold” to rule us!



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work or worked for the school district.

Dancing on the Sidewalks

On Friday, educators from all the South End elementary and middle schools marched to Franklin High School, where comrades distribute 70-90 Red Flags every issue and where one comrade volunteers.

The picket captain asked us what we were doing. “We came to talk to strikers about what education might look like with communism and to distribute our communist literature,” said a comrade.

“That’s fine with me,” answered the captain. “People are having a lunch break now, so go distribute your communist paper and talk about communism. I’m a die-hard red myself.”

After lunch, a retired school-worker comrade arrived with her friends from a nearby elementary school. She carried our very popular ICWP sign (see picture). Soon a striker excitedly asked to take a picture. “This is the best sign here. My son is a communist,” she proudly proclaimed.

The Franklin rally, one of the biggest in the district, showed that more young BIPOC people are working in the schools. We distributed all the literature we had to hundreds of strikers dancing on the sidewalk to a DJ.

A worker from Eritrea said that we don’t need the Democrats or Republicans, we need a workers’ party. In a protracted discussion, a comrade explained more about ICWP. “The communists were terrible in my country,” the worker said, referring to the Soviet-backed Derg that held power from 1974-1991. They then talked about real communism, without money or wage slavery, and

he agreed to read *Red Flag*.

Unprecedented Response

Strikers reacted to communist ideas very differently from the 2015 strike. Even before the pandemic, the school district administration had been understaffing the schools. But all schools, no matter how well staffed and how well educators are compensated, are still capitalist institutions, replicating racism, sexism, and all of class society. Our task is to explain why only communist education can benefit our class, and what that would look like.

Meanwhile the ruling class and socialists push trade union politics as the answer. The vast rank-and-file have not rejected all reformism, but many were interested in discussing communism and taking our literature.

Another difference was the distress and anger among the rank-and-file about racism. The millions who took to the streets in summer 2020 protesting racism and police murder had profound effects on school workers.

We saw many long-term friends, who didn’t seem to be advancing politically, step up. Our retired school worker comrade had maintained connections with others who are now strikers at birthday parties, exercise classes, and more.

These friends helped the party advance the fight for communism among other strikers, introducing comrades to their friends, treating us like family, and sometimes recommending our literature to others.



Fighting For Bigger ICWP Collectives

Discussions on the picket lines were gratifying. But due to time and logistical constraints, many questions were left unanswered about how communism works and whether enough people will support it to make communist revolution possible.

We plan to answer questions like these and recruit more ICWP members by expanding our party collective meetings by inviting strikers and other activists to them. There we can delve into what communist education looks like and advance our line. We can continue discussing what communist solidarity is and how communists reject union reformism.

Recently a new friend agreed with us about union reformism. He said that union negotiations just ask workers “which of their fingers they are willing to cut off.” His doubts about communism include how we can counter ruling class anti-communist horror stories. He mentioned the threat of famine after the revolution. He took a copy of the communist education pamphlet to give to his wife, who is a teacher.

We plan to continue distributing *Red Flag* and leaflets about communist education at the three South End high schools and several elementary and middle schools. These continued conversations can build on the strikers’ response to our communism, expand party collectives, and sharpen our line.



US CLIMATE LEGISLATION SERVES US IMPERIALISM

USA, September 11— Liberal activists and Democratic politicians are trumpeting the recent Inflation Reduction Act as “a new day in the fight against climate change.” It shows clearly how the rulers are trying to persuade us that their capitalist profit system can solve the climate crisis it created.

The Democrats, who passed this law with no Republican support, think it will win them votes in the November elections. They are counting particularly on increasing numbers of young voters.

But young people are more interested in “mass protests, occupy movements and increased use of social media as a new platform of political engagement,” reported an international study.

The capitalists are desperate to win young workers to vote for reform, not organize for revolution. We must see the urgency of using every opportunity to win them to mobilize for communist revolution, not reform.

What will the Inflation Reduction Act do – and not do – about the climate disaster?

*It doesn’t even try to slow the fossil fuel industry.

*It gives money away to companies to “promote decarbonization.”

*Its underfunded “environmental justice” provisions promote capitalist investment in communities devastated by the poverty and racism capitalism itself created,

*It “restores U.S. leadership in international climate negotiations” as part of US imperialism’s attempt to reverse its declining global influence,

*It positions US capitalists to “compete successfully in a \$23 trillion global clean-energy market.”

*It will “bolster [US] energy security” — crucial in wartime.

Even achieving its goals would leave the US as one of the world’s largest contributors to global warming – with per-person greenhouse gas emissions several times higher than other large countries.

The limits of US climate change policy are baked into US imperialism’s drive to compete successfully against the world’s other capitalists for maximum profits. Confining our efforts within those limits would be a disaster and arguably a crime against humanity and other species.

We must mobilize to break through those limits by destroying capitalism-imperialism with communist revolution.

Why communism?

Because in communism nothing will be produced for profit. We won’t calculate costs and benefits in dollars, rupees, renminbi, or any currency. Workers will collectively decide what to produce with our labor, and how, based on our long-term needs – including sustainability.

How could communism immediately address the climate crisis and start to mitigate it?

“There would be no commodities. Water would not be a commodity; therefore we would eliminate individual bottled water,” said one young comrade.

“Packaging in general would be greatly reduced, which would eliminate huge amounts of waste.”

“Products will be made to last for as long as possible,” suggested another. “We will build cities that enable communities to produce food locally to reduce emissions from food transportation.”

“We will organize and allocate housing so that workers can live close to where they work,” added a third. “No long car commutes due to housing costs.

“And workers living on islands or in coastal areas threatened by rising sea levels will be able to relocate to higher, safer ground,” she continued. “A friend told me that in Jamaica right now, more houses are going up in the

mountains, but most people can’t afford them.”

Let’s bring this discussion about the potential of communism to the mass protests, occupy movements, and social media where young workers and students are seeking alternatives. And to the workplaces, classrooms, and barracks where we have, or can build, concentrations.

They will have many more ideas about communism and how to mobilize for it. They, and we, will start to see the possibility and the urgency of building a mass International Communist Workers’ Party.

Don’t vote – organize for communist revolution! That will truly start a new day in the fight against climate catastrophe.



Climate Protest, South Africa, 2019



Climate Protest, India, 2019

NO SAFE DRINKING WATER IN “THE MOST RADICAL CITY ON THE PLANET”

In Mississippi (USA) a devastating combination of capitalist climate crisis and racism has left the state capital without safe drinking water. Jackson is a majority-Black city of 163,000 people, a quarter of whom live in poverty. Today, Jackson doesn’t have enough water to fight fires or flush toilets.

As the climate crisis accelerates, the most oppressed workers face the worst effects. That’s certainly true in Jackson.

In the mid-20th century, Jackson was majority white. But as the civil rights movement challenged legal segregation, middle-class white and Black families began to move out of the city to the suburbs. They abandoned Jackson, like many other cities, to urban decay. The funding went with them. The infrastructure was abandoned, and workers in Jackson have suffered from years of service disruptions and boil-water advisories.

Black-led community-based cooperatives have organized in the area since the late 1960s. Cooperation Jackson, for example, organizes “under-

and unemployed sectors of the working class, particularly from Black and Latino communities...in a radical form of social organization built on equality, cooperation, worker democracy, and environmental sustainability.” This movement, like the Mondragon collective in France, sees itself as a nucleus of ecosocialism.

On one hand, their experiences, involving masses of people, are a rich source of practice for how we can live in a communist society.

But on the other hand, these cooperatives, like the 19th-century utopian socialists criticized by Engels, run into capitalist reality. At their worst, they fall into supporting Black politicians like Jackson mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba, who campaigned on a program of making Jackson “the most radical city on the planet.”

The fact is that the infrastructure of the US empire is crumbling, most dramatically in the communities where the poorest workers live. Local cooperatives or municipal-power campaigns don’t change the decisions of capitalist-run state

and national funding bodies.

This summer, torrential rains brought by climate change caused the Pearl River to crest and flood the city’s water treatment plant. But the city had already been under a boil-water notice.

In the winter of 2021, freezing storms resulted in burst pipes and water mains. Tens of thousands were without water for three weeks. In 2020, the Environmental Protection agency warned that dangerous contaminants such as E. coli in the water system endangered residents. In 2016, state officials warned the city of high lead levels.

Mayor Lumumba says that modernizing the city’s infrastructure could cost as much as \$2 billion. Mississippi received only \$75 million for water and sewage from last year’s federal infrastructure bill, but that money is for the entire state, not Jackson alone. Racism means that Jackson’s water system won’t be fixed any time soon.

One more reason to fight for a communist system where workers’ needs come first.

COMMUNIST EDUCATION FOR A CLASSLESS SOCIETY

This is the lead article in our pamphlet “Communist Education for a Classless Society.” The pamphlet is available on our website at icwpredflag.org/epe.pdf

What we learn and how we learn it are tied up with how society organizes production. This was true in pre-capitalist societies and in capitalist society. It will be true in communist society.

Education is more than schooling. It includes all the ways we are socialized. All social institutions—the family, the exercise of power, popular culture, and more—help shape children and youth.

Capitalist schools are important institutions of class dictatorship. They serve the interests of the ruling class just as much as the cops and the courts. Capitalist schools prepare the children of the rich to be bosses and most children of workers to be workers and soldiers. They teach the ideology, social behavior and skills required to play those roles and to make exploitation and imperialist war seem acceptable.

Some say that public schools are “our schools” that working people fought for and won, our hope for a better world. This is a deception, like the ideas that government is impartial and justice is blind. Government is an instrument of class rule. In capitalist society, all schools serve the interests of the capitalist class.

Communism will do away with money and classes and the private ownership of the means of production. Everyone will contribute as best they can, and everyone’s needs will be met so that nobody lives better or worse than anyone else. The individualistic and competitive behavior which capitalist education promotes will be replaced by the collective and cooperative behavior necessary to build a communist society.

Communism is the only answer to the horrors inflicted by capitalism on the masses of people and on the planet, especially as global economic crisis leads to rapidly-increasing environmental destruction and world war. The international movement for “education reform” is part of this development.

As soon as the working class takes power anywhere, we must mobilize the masses to build communism. We will immediately abolish money, commodity production (producing for sale) and the wage system (which forces workers to sell their labor power or starve).

Workers will be motivated not by the prospect

of individual gain, but by the possibility of living in a communist society, in which social relationships of cooperation, collectivity and share-and-share alike are primary. These relations will provide material experience that can develop into a framework for all other decisions.

Communist education is the opposite of capitalist schooling, not a “new and improved” version of it.

Capitalism gives lip-service to critical thinking and life-long learning. But capitalist schools actively discourage anything beyond what’s required of particular groups of wage slaves or managers.

In contrast, mobilizing the masses for communism demands that everyone possible, not just a few, must learn to analyze, criticize, and help decide everything. The purpose of communist education is the creation of communists and communist social relations.

“We would not believe in teaching, training and education if they were confined only to the school and were divorced from the storm of life,” wrote Lenin. “[Education] must train [the youth] to be participants in the struggle for emancipation from the exploiters.”

Today, under capitalism, communist education prepares us to struggle for workers’ power and the classless society. To win communist power millions of workers must be committed to that goal and armed with an understanding of political economy, dialectical materialist philosophy and more.

Our Party educates through *Red Flag*, study-action groups, conferences, summer projects, and through our practice. All our work – organizing demonstrations or picnics, producing and distributing literature, raising communist ideas wherever we can – trains us to end the distinction between mental and manual labor, to struggle sharply politically and to work collectively.

After our class wins political power, communist education will vastly extend its reach. It will mean different things at different times, based on the particular needs of the international working class. But basic principles are clear:

Communist education must place the creation of communist social relations before the acquisition of technical knowledge or intellectual expertise. It must prepare us to fight for and build a classless society, without money or racism or sexism or borders or exploitation.

Communist education will not replicate inequality, exploitation, racism, competition, and privilege. Instead, it will expand relationships of equality and cooperation, creating more and better communists.

Communist education must help to merge “mental” and “manual” labor. The agronomist and the farmworker, the engineer and the construction worker, the molecular biologist and the nurse will be the same person. This requires a deep understanding of science for everyone, not just for the few.

Breaking down the division between manual and mental labor, and between the “experts” and the masses, will help eliminate the material basis for the capitalist idea that some people are more important than others and deserve a bigger say or an easier life.

Communist education means combining life-long work and study, theory and practice. Mass mobilization for communist production requires breaking down the barrier between education and work. Communism will end the marginalization of children, youth, and the elderly. Everyone will learn and work their entire lives.

Instead of relying on full-time expert teachers, everyone will share their experience and knowledge. The division between teacher/expert and student/learner will be destroyed. Students will learn where people actually work, not in isolated classrooms.

We have taken only the very first steps in learning/teaching about what education and work will be like in communist society. Further insights come as we put into practice our line of MOBILIZING THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM. We invite you – we urge you! – to join us in this world-historic task.



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Teacher Writes: The Core of Our Hardships is Capitalism

As a teacher and parent of two school-age children in Los Angeles (USA) my support goes out to all Seattle educators who are currently on strike. I am not surprised there is so much agitation among teachers across the US because teachers, like millions of workers around the world, are going through a significant time in history.

We are transitioning from a devastating pandemic, experiencing a high teacher shortage, and attempting to survive an increased cost of living in major cities like Seattle and Los Angeles. In Los Angeles, amidst a salary dispute, United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) is rallying teachers to boycott on October 19, 2022. That is the first of four optional days that the LA Unified School District added to the calendar without any parent or educator input, according to UTLA.

This is, and has always been, the nature of capitalism. When things get rough, we hit the streets to make our voices heard as unions attempt to see eye to eye with our bosses and take a seat at the same table through collective bargaining. Yet, I believe, we must go further than to ask for a seat next to our bosses. We must organize for communist revolution because we must realize that as long as capitalism exists, labor disputes of all kinds will also exist.

The truth is that under capitalism we will always be confronting bosses to justly compensate us for our labor and respect our positions. We can call for better wages now, but the value of our labor will never be matched. The fact that we have to fight, and have always had to fight, for better living conditions, is a testament to the cause of the problem: capitalism.

So it’s time to get to core of our hardships. Whether it is systemic racism, unjust police

brutality, unfair wages, or imperialist war – capitalism is the cause of all these problems. Therefore, it is capitalism that we must destroy and replace with communism.

The bosses will never simply give us power. They will never treat us as their equals at a negotiation table. They will always disrespect us. So enough of the bosses! Enough of demanding reforms that only perpetuates their capitalist system!

Teachers, students, and workers in Los Angeles, Seattle, and around the world must organize to topple down the capitalist system that inherently oppresses the working class. We must organize for real long-term systemic changes, and the systemic change is to destroy capitalism so that we won’t have to beg for crumbs but organize a communist society. Join ICWP to get to the core solution: communism!

—Red Teacher

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Communists Led the 1932 Peasant Uprising in El Salvador

After a discussion with some members of the *Red Flag* collective, we concluded that the article "Fighting Racism in El Salvador" in the last edition of *Red Flag* did not mention that the leaders of the 1932 peasant uprising in El Salvador were openly communist.

Led by communists, the uprising was postponed for several days to gain more support within the army, since they had done consciousness-raising work among soldiers.

One factor that contributed to this uprising was the Great Depression of 1929, which hit the country hard. The Salvadoran Communist Party (PCS) was founded in 1930 when the Bolsheviks had a great international revolutionary communist influence.

They saw an opportunity to organize and take the mass discontent to a higher level, which became the peasant uprising.

We believe that knowing this part of history is fundamental for our Party. We evaluate past processes and see them, not as irrelevant, but as tools that will help us carry out our line and mobilize the masses for communism.

—Some comrades in the *Red Flag* collective

Unity and Struggle Within the Mexican Ruling Class

I liked the article on Ayotzinapa in the last edition of *Red Flag*, but I would like to specify something else.

The article refers to "a fight among the Mexican capitalists. On one side, those who have been in power for generations (PRI-PAN) enjoying the wealth squeezed from the labor of millions of Mexican workers. On the other, capitalists who came to power recently (MORENA party and others)."

It isn't "bosses who came to power recently" who lead Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO) to the presidency. Yes, it is a dispute within the bourgeoisie for the surplus value extracted from the working class. The PRI-PAN rulers cynically promoted their own enrichment and that of capitalists related to them; with tremendous corruption, duping their own American partners who ended up giving their consent to the AMLO government, despite the Russian-Chinese affiliation of some of his consorts.

A consensus of capitalists, including billionaires like Carlos Slim, C. Hank Glez (Banorte) and other powerful capitalists are obviously

there to further their interests. Many prominent former PRI members are in the government.

AMLO's arrival restored credibility in elections and bourgeois institutions. He calmed the anger that exploded in protests in other countries. He "tied up the tiger" for them, as he had offered.

AMLO maintains wage slavery successfully, hooked into the North American region and taking good advantage of the US-China dispute.

The big capitalists have made arrangements with the AMLO government. Citigroup advertised that they would have no problem working with anyone who came. The export industry has been maintained and it has plans to expand. There is a group of "adversaries" facing AMLO. However, they are not the most powerful.

The report of the Commission for Access to Truth and Justice on the Ayotzinapa case does not go up the chain of command.

Alejandro Encinas, Undersecretary of the Interior, when presenting the Report, stated that no indications link former President Peña Nieto or General Cienfuegos with the disappearance of the 43 students and the murder of six others the same night. He blames representatives of the State.

The bourgeois state with AMLO is plugging the cracks through which mud and blood drip. It has been able (and not inept) to maintain and prolong the system of wage slavery, favored in foreign investment, less corrupt, and supporting exporters (foreign and national).

The State is an organ of oppression of one class over another. To overthrow and crush the current one, the working class needs to develop its general State (the ICWP).

As the article said, "Today as we commemorate the eighth anniversary of the 43 Ayotzinapa students, we must redouble our efforts to build a communist society without disappearances, racism, sexism, and exploitation."

—Comrade in Mexico

Criticisms of the Article "Capitalist Crisis, Imperialist War, and Class Struggle"

First, the beginning quote is old.

A more current quote from a high-ranking military official, politician, or think tank stating the possibility of global war soon would have giving World War III the urgency it requires.

The subtitle should have been, "Local, re-

gional and world wars inevitable under capitalism" instead of "War is fundamental to capitalism."

The main reason NATO bombed Yugoslavia was to prevent the USSR from defending its sphere of influence.

Russian oligarchs, who stole most of USSR's wealth, wanted to make Russia an appendage of US imperialism. Putin, representing imperial Russian rulers determined to resurge, dismantled their plans after rising to power in 2000.

US rulers then opted for military encirclement to contain Russia. Hence NATO expanded eastwards by incorporating seven Eastern European countries in 2004.

The second criticism concerns the statement: "The productive forces have developed so much that they can no longer return profits sustainably for their capitalist owners."

This excludes the conscious human element. Capitalism's crises are caused by its competitive nature, which forces capitalists to fight for maximum profits and greater market share. They invest in the productive forces to produce more, cheaper commodities - resulting in overproduction, depressions, and wars.

The third criticism is about the capitalist-imperialists' fears of their rivals and of the working class.

Which is primary? History shows that the first is primary because they always resort to war. Making the second fear primary leads to the deadly assertion that this "holds back today's imperialists from launching a full-scale World War III."

Their fear of workers is proportional to the size of the revolutionary communist movement. In World War I it was almost nonexistent. World War II was different. The USSR-led international communist movement had great potential for worldwide revolutions.

Thus, the bosses needed to win masses of workers to anticommunist fascism. Germany, Japan, and Italy chose this path. The US rulers and allies - aided by the Comintern's United Front line - used anticommunist bourgeois democracy to mobilize the masses to fight for their empire and profits.

Our period is like WWI: small communist forces internationally, yet workers not won ideologically to fascism or rabid anticommunism. Pre-revolutionary conditions exist now worldwide.

Despite the bosses' fears, World War III is inevitable, imminent, and perhaps already raging in the US-NATO proxy war against Russia in Ukraine. It took several years for all the major imperialist powers to enter WWII after Germany, England and France declared war in 1939. Some historians claim WWII started with the Japanese invasion of Manchuria, 1931-1932.

Where will revolution happen? Lenin said at the weakest link of the imperialist chain: where revolutionary conditions exist and there is a Party capable of leading the masses to power. This made revolution in Russia during WWI possible.

Given the internationality of our Party, and the objective conditions worldwide, several communist revolutions are possible simultaneously. This could inspire workers in many other countries. The danger is real, but the opportunities are great. Our future is bright.

—Comrades in California (USA)



DOWN WITH MONARCHIES AND ALL CAPITALIST DICTATORSHIP

“Off with his head, with his crown on it!” That was how Oliver Cromwell in 17th-century England rallied his coalition of Levellers and capitalists to attack the rule of King Charles I and replace it with a Parliamentary system of government.

Yet, in England, some 350 years later, Prince Charles assumes the crown on the death of his mother Queen Elizabeth II and becomes King Charles III. Somehow, the monarchy as a major institution of class rule has survived in capitalist England from feudal times to the present day.

It has survived because its role has changed. True, it still struts its wealth (and power) in ceremonial parades with gold scepters, crowns studded with huge diamonds stolen from South Africa or India, and soldiers with funny hats. Yet it is

more than a mega-attraction for American and Japanese tourists.

In England (and some Commonwealth countries like Australia, Canada, and New Zealand) the voters elect a government and Prime Minister. That government, however, has no legal power until its leadership reports to the palace and swears allegiance to the King or Queen.

The same is true even of un-elected state institutions like the Armed Forces, the police, MI5 (Intelligence) and the 400,000 civil servants. All the institutions that run Britain’s day-to-day business swear allegiance to the King or Queen—the Monarchy—and not to the elected government. Even the Prime Minister must report to the Palace once a week.

Yet the Monarchy doesn’t have absolute power. Cromwell and his rising capitalist forces chopped that off along with the head of Charles I in 1649. The British monarchy is an institution through which the unelected major capitalist forces assert their power.

When the pro-Palestine, anti-nuclear bomb, leader of the Labour Party, Jeremy Corbyn, grew in popularity, leaders of the Armed Forces and intelligence agencies declared they would not fully serve his government. Their allegiance was to the crown, not any future government. It was a clear example of how the institution of the monarchy acted as a check on any radical political wishes of the masses.

After all, it was the Queen’s Governor-General of Australia who “constitution-



Jamaica, March 2022



London, September 2022

ally” removed the elected anti-Vietnam war Prime Minister of Australia in 1975. Behind the deference, the pomp, the curtsies, the stilted speech and the feudal titles, an efficient brutal dictatorship of capital operates.

As, after seventy years, “God Save the Queen” is finally buried, the deaths perpetuated by the Army that swore allegiance to her need to be answered. It’s a shameful legacy that stretches from the brutal suppression of the Mau Mau in Kenya, through the cowardly “Bloody Sunday” in Northern Ireland, the NATO bombings and occupations of Yugoslavia and Southern Iraq, and more.

To hell with the Queen and her capitalist consorts! The time has come to fight for the open, honest, direct rule of the working class that communist revolution can bring!

FIGHT DEPORTATIONS AND EXPLOITATION EVERYWHERE BY ORGANIZING FOR COMMUNISM

Several migrant workers were arrested and deported from Qatar after participating in a protest denouncing the Al Bandy corporation, which has not paid them back wages for up to seven months. A very common

practice since 2010 when Qatar was named the host of the soccer World Cup.

Among the deportees are workers from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Egypt, the Philippines, and Africa. Thousands of workers, invisible and disposable in the eyes of capitalism, but with the magic to build great roads, stadiums and hotels that will serve to produce enormous profits during the World Cup this November. These workers labor 16- 18 hours a day in temperatures of over 40 degrees Celsius (100° F).

Capitalism is in decline, and to try to stay afloat it must make life more miserable for millions of workers. For the other millions, it will also be our turn for the losing streak, when the bosses, in their desperation to hoard energy resources and markets, must push the buttons of world war.

These workers took their anger to a higher level and took to the streets. They did not sit idly by in the face of this situation that is the product of a capitalist system that wants to trample the working class. As for workers who do not accept this defeat, we have the weapon that is the *Red Flag* newspaper, which is raising awareness among these workers to organize the communist revolution that will destroy the capitalist system and its borders.

We are building the foundations of the communist system where borders and exploitation will be things of the past. Millions of workers will put their minds and hands together to build that new communist world.

We will eliminate wage slavery and all forms of exchange, based on sharing all the resources that workers have at any moment. Not one more deportation committed by the bosses! Let’s fight now for communism.

—Immigrant Comrade in the USA



**WORKERS SOLDIERS
STUDENTS UNITED
WE WILL DESTROY THE
BORDERS
LONG LIVE ICWP**