

# RED FLAG



## MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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



### Deadly Bridge Collapse is Indictment of the Profit System

## STEPPING UP THE COMMUNIST FIGHT AGAINST FASCISM

INDIA, November 14— Over 160 people lost their lives in Morbi, Gujarat when a newly renovated suspension bridge collapsed. Scores of others were injured. People immediately suspected corruption was at the root of the problem. “A bridge that is more than 140-years old survived all this time, but just collapsed after being restored. It must be corrupt contractors profiting by cutting costs.”

This tragic story is not only a story of ‘corrupt contractors.’ It is an indictment of the profit system, its greed, its callousness, and its calculated neglect in planning to blame the masses who are the victims. It is a story of fascism that is engulfing the whole world. Our response must be to smash fascism with communist revolution. Communism will create a society built by the masses, not profit.

#### Doing More to Fight Fascism

Our collective in New Delhi met to discuss how to build communism while facing the rulers’ increasing fascist attacks. We have been active in anti-fascist protests, but (self critically) we recognize that our response to growing fascism is

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not adequate. We have not fully grasped it as a life and death problem for the working class.

This generated a very lively discussion. A comrade pointed out that in Gujarat, which has become an ‘incubator’ of fascism, attacks on Muslims and Dalits are intensifying every day. The fascist BJP and its contractors use a bulldozer factory in the city of Gujarat to demolish Muslims’ homes. While the BJP supporters demolish the homes of Muslims, it becomes easy for them to completely decimate public health.

#### Garment Comrades Meet with Public Health Workers

Party garment workers in Bengaluru met some ASHA public health workers. After the Morbi bridge tragedy, we wrote a leaflet explaining that public health is fast becoming for-profit health system for the rich. In Morbi, the public hospital was so dilapidated that it did not even have running water. The ASHA workers said, “Because Modi was going to visit Morbi, the hospital got state-of-the-art equipment overnight, but they had no workers to run it.”

The garment comrades had to travel a long

## BUILDING COMMUNIST SOCIAL RELATIONS AMONG FACTORY WORKERS AND FARMWORKERS

EL SALVADOR, November 15— “I am pleased to have you here, to share with you, comrades from the factory, part of our history of struggle. How we are today is important, but where we come from in this process of struggle is also important.” F, a farmworker comrade, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Amidst a pleasant climate and full of camaraderie, we strengthened the communist social relations between workers (male and female) from the city and the countryside. We discussed the importance of knowing the history of struggle of the comrades in the revolutionary process of the FMLN in the 1980s. Now they continue to fight for communism, organized in ICWP.

“I did not participate in marches or church takeovers. I joined the guerrilla army once and for all. About a thousand of us were in a rally. They explained the harsh situation of the repression and that it was necessary to organize ourselves. I saw the inequality and repression where we lived. The paramilitaries came and stole everything from us: corn, beans, candy, animals. But when we armed ourselves, things were different. Then we defended ourselves. Living together during that war meant discipline and a lot of solidarity,” said a comrade.

“A few years ago I met the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP) and I joined this fight. It is necessary to end this system that keeps exploiting workers and especially you who work in the maquilas (sweatshops),” said F.

A farmworker comrade ‘M’ said, “There are several ways of joining a process of struggle. In my case it was under government repression. I had two options: one was to enlist in the government army and the other was to organize

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## THE AMAZON REGION: "LUNGS OF THE WORLD"

EL SALVADOR, November 14— Climate change and its consequences constitute the most dangerous issue facing human society. Humanity is trapped in the economic processes that characterize capitalism. Capitalist expansion, its appropriation of the world, brought with it the formation of a set of relations between capital and the natural environment, with excessive exploitation for its overflowing profits.

The capitalists produce the criminal deforestation of the Amazon. Much of the destruction comes from large-scale international meat and soy companies like JBS and Cargill, and global brands like Stop & Shop, Costco, McDonald's, Walmart/Asda, and Sysco that buy from these companies and sell to the public. It is these companies that create the international demand that finances fires and deforestation.

Their large factories and industries annihilate nature with the construction of infrastructure and wild urbanism. They also destroy the natural environment and dispossess Indigenous people of their lands. We are losing biodiversity, quality of life and, above all, human life.

### Repression and annihilation of peasants and liberal organizations that oppose deforestation.

During the Bolsonaro government, the agencies that supposedly protect Indigenous people and the environment have been led by people close to the agribusiness sector. They have long pushed for the legalization of land dispossession and opposed the creation of protected areas, such as Indigenous territories.

Many people are celebrating the election of Lula, who promises a lot, but will change little. (See letter, next page.)

Regardless of which politicians govern, the working class always loses; and so we know that what we need is a communist society.



**Under the capitalist system there is no solution to the real problem of deforestation.**

**Reforms will not stop these attacks.**

A group of family and friends gathered to discuss the importance of the Amazon jungle. We analyzed the situation in the context of the overwhelming ambition of the capitalist to win. We know full well that the Amazon jungle is a natural reserve and the home of many Indigenous people who were dispossessed of their lands without taking into consideration their living conditions.

We asked what are the negative consequences of capitalism? Roberto talked about endless wars, and environmental catastrophe at unprecedented levels which we see in the Amazon region. He mentioned wealth inequality and how increasingly repressive authoritarian and exploitative regimes bleed life more and more.

We all agreed. Ana added that capitalism has

been the direct cause of the exploitation of resources that has led us to the inevitable and progressive environmental deterioration. These exploiters want the highest return on invest-

ment in the shortest time since the profit is necessarily measured in quantitative terms due to its excessive interest in obtaining unlimited profits

We are left with a big question which all of us can answer firmly and with a foot in the fight: the solution is a communist society.

**Life in the Amazon depends on a communist world—communist masses fighting for a revolution to overthrow the capitalist empire.**

A communist society will not only save the Amazon region but the entire world. It is fair and necessary. We are at a breaking point where system change is the solution, where the common good prevails, where nature goes hand in hand with people.

Communist society without exploitation will reverse climate change by creating ecological reserves. We will have an environment governed by reason where we all collectively work with respect and live in a world without money or self-interest.

Let's unite friends, family and comrades in this fight and mobilize the masses for our Communist Revolution and put a stop to these crimes of exploitation.

Long live the Communist Revolution!

### Latin American Masses Need Revolutionary Communism, Not the Electoral Left

With Lula's victory in Brazil, the "left" electoral parties control more than 85% of the governments in Latin America. This includes the main economies of the region: Mexico, Argentina, Chile, Colombia, and Brazil, as well as oil-producing Venezuela.

Brazil, with a population of 215 million, is the giant of the region and one of the world's ten largest producers of gas and oil. It is also the third largest producer of food worldwide.

China is now Brazil's largest trading partner. Forty percent of Brazil's exports go to China. Brazil is part of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, a geo-political bloc led by China and a major competitor to US imperialism.)

However, the Latin American working class still suffers the attacks of capitalism, including unemployment, hunger, and repression. Huge marches and strikes from Argentina to Mexico show the real discontent of working people.

The creation of a party, the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) in many of these places is what would make the difference. We must reach out to the masses to build our Party. If you know people in those countries, send them Red Flag and get them in touch with us.



November 16—Graduate student workers are on strike at all the University of California campuses. Strikers in Berkeley have welcomed Red Flag and our pamphlet, *Communist Education for a Classless Society*, on the picket line.

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## Capitalists' Climate Change Conference Will Produce More Hot Air

### MASSES NEED SYSTEM CHANGE FROM CAPITALISM TO COMMUNISM

November 15—Reality and the laws of physics have no patience for the capitalist grandstanding and moralizing that go on at climate change conferences.

The 27th UN Climate Change Conference (COP27) is meeting at the “green city” of Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. It’s sponsored by such greenwashers as Coca Cola, IBM, Microsoft, Siemens, and the corruption-ridden Boston Consulting Group, along with Afreximbank, EgyptAir, Infinity-Mazdar (based in Abu Dhabi), and others. In Sharm El Sheikh, in addition to the repressive policies of Egypt’s El-Sisi government, one finds food and water shortages, traffic jams, location tracking and email monitoring through the official COP27 app.

We’ll hear angry speeches from the Prime Minister of Barbados and the usual pleas for immediate action from the UN Secretary General. But the likely final output of this conference is a lot of hot air, despite the massive sub-Arctic (and energy wasteful) air conditioning in the Lamorghini International Convention Center. The facility’s namesake is the sports car company whose climate-unfriendly luxury vehicles average around 12 mpg (5 km/liter) of gasoline.

Half of all cumulative carbon emissions have

been produced just since 1990. Methane and nitrous oxide emissions are on the rise. Emissions accelerated even as Covid-19 allegedly slowed down the economy.

Eight billion of us now live on this planet. But the number of people has never been the problem. The problem has been the consumption of a tiny minority of capitalists-imperialists who exploit the masses, steal their lands, and conduct physical, socioeconomic, and political warfare against them. And their system’s inexorable drive to maximize profits no matter the human or ecological cost.

**The imperialist war between US/NATO and Russia in Ukraine is taking a human toll and an ecological toll.** Warfare consumes enormous amounts of fossil fuels. Armaments release unquantified amounts of pollutants into the atmosphere.

That’s why the US imperialists insisted, in the final negotiations of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, that its military emissions should be exempt from reporting. Sen. John Kerry (now the US Presidential Envoy on Climate) praised US negotiator Stuart Eizenstat for protecting “US national security interests.” Then the US never even ratified Kyoto. While the 2015 Paris accord ended mili-

tary exemptions, it was left to individual nations to enforce this.

**COP27 is a venue for imperialist machinations.** The US softened its opposition to a loss-and-damage fund provided China is counted as a “developed nation” and pays into it. China had suspended climate co-operation with the US over Taiwan. The victims of imperialist infighting are always indigenous people and the working class, and now increasingly also the ecology of this planet.

It’s simply not possible to hold global warming to the goal of under 1.5° C in a capitalist world which is increasingly driven to war. This system requires unlimited growth at the expense of the working class and the ecology. It cannot possibly stop, let alone reverse, global warming. The laws of physics do not answer to the fantasies or deceptions of capitalist, imperialist elites.

Only well-organized, communist masses, cooperating internationally, can possibly hold global warming to 1.5° C by 2050 by destroying the capitalist system. And only a well-organized communist working class could mitigate the inevitable suffering that will accompany even that 1.5° increase by ensuring that resources are directed to those who will need them.

**Workers all over the world have the same interests.** We are all attacked, to varying degrees, by imperialism and its climate crisis. We all need a society where all work as they can and will for the common good, and all receive according to need.

An internationally organized working class needs an International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP). Join ICWP and organize the masses for communism!



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#### Letter from Brazil: The Masses Will Rise Again

My neighbor was overjoyed when heard the news that Lula had finally won the elections in Brazil. “We are going to have our President and he is going to restore Bolsa Familia.”

Bolsa Familia was initiated by Lula in 2003 to provide food, housing, education, and health-care to the millions of very poor families in Brazil. My neighbor and many other families are recipients of Bolsa Familia.

We live in São José dos Campos, the working-class town near the factory where Embraer airplane manufacturing was established fifty years ago. It has over 18,000 Embraer workers and is the largest hub of Boeing, Airbus, and Embraer. The town also has many chemical factories and metallurgy plants. It is located near São Paulo and 200 km from Rio de Janeiro. Our city has immense poverty and very high unemployment. Covid and runaway inflation are taking a toll on workers. Sixty-four percent are Black workers who face rampant racist discrimination.

In early 2000, our city was known as ‘massas famintas’ (hungry masses). When Lula got elected in 2003, his Bolsa Familia program eradicated extreme poverty. So, when he ran for election in 2022, many workers supported him.

Things have changed drastically. Bolsa Familia was funded largely by investment bankers and hedge fund managers of US banks. Lula became a hero to US and European finance. Bolsa Familia was an attempt to pacify the masses and keep them from total revolution. People wanted a fundamental change in the system. Lula offered reform and kept the system alive.

Since Bolsa Familia began in 2003, Brazil’s economy has changed. China was relatively unknown then. Today, China has replaced the US as Brazil’s leading trade partner. During Lula’s first presidency, China’s influence was everywhere. Thousands of students learned Mandarin in Brazilian schools. This dramatic rise of China and the decline of the US created BRICS in 2009.

As always with capitalism, the Chinese economy created wealth for the few and enormous inequality in Brazil and China. Bolsa Familia came to symbolize racism, violence, and favelas with drugs and gang violence. Racism raised its ugly head with evictions in poor neighborhoods. Racist gangs took over and the rulers ruthlessly suppressed the masses with military police, drones, and lethal weapons including tanks and assault helicopters.

Today, many workers have illusions about Lula. Reforms can never free workers from

hunger, racism, and sexism. Communism is both the response and the solution to unending poverty. Lula’s victory was much smaller than anticipated. His opponents are still powerful in many states. The mining lobby with its vast resources will never reverse the process of deadly destruction of the Amazon ecosystem. Lula’s popularity will fade very fast, and the masses will once again rise.

I have been reading *Red Flag* for years. I am inspired by articles from all over the world. Some family problems have kept me from participating actively in ICWP. However, I greet you with my heart and warm comradely hugs. There is an enormous possibility of a communist revolution that ICWP can be part of.

—Comrade worker in Brazil



## EL SALVADOR: FACTORY WORKERS AND FARMWORKERS from page 1

myself in the guerrilla army. I chose the second. Others did so out of political conviction and believed in the need to fight for a better world.”

He continued, “Today in the postwar period I understand the social struggles and I am aware of some arrangements made by the fmln and government commanders and I did not agree. We needed changes for the working class, and these did not happen.”

Three comrades told their stories. Then a worker said, “This meeting has been very important because sometimes we only have the version that the government gave at that time. They said that the guerrillas were bad people.” She continued, “I realize that this is not the case, that there were reasons to fight.”

“This get-together that we have had here is very important. We learn from this. The history of these comrades inspires us to continue fighting in ICWP,” said a comrade. She asked a question: How do we relate to friends, family, co-workers, and the masses, with the aim of recruiting more workers to ICWP? What do we discuss with them?

“When I pass out *Red Flag*, I take the opportunity to talk a little, not only about political issues, but also about their families,” replied a worker.

### Overcoming the Bosses’ Divisive Social Relations

“A co-worker from the factory who is a Party member made me see that we have to be different,” said another worker. “We know that social relations under capitalism divide workers, because the economic system determines how we relate to others in the job.

“In the production process there is hardly any room to talk because the quotas are very high. They watch us so that we do not talk to each other. So as communists we must fight to achieve the type of relationships we want to establish to be able to grow as a party,” she concluded.

“We take advantage of the little time we have left to meet and strengthen the ties of friendship and politics,” added another worker.

This is part of the communist relations that we as ICWP are building with friends and comrades here, in India, South Africa, the US, and other parts of the world. Thus, we break borders and languages, and we unify the international working class.

At the end of the activity we concluded that our goal is to fight directly for communism. Only organizing more workers to fight for this line will make this possible.



## INDIA: STEPPING UP THE FIGHT AGAINST FASCISM from page 1

distance to meet the ASHA workers, who were very happy to see *Red Flag* and the leaflet. One remarked, “Modi can visit Morbi and hop on a helicopter, protected by hundreds of security staff, to stage a fake show. You have come here to share how we can change this society to run without money and without the parasites like Modi.” This small recognition by workers for communism is the building block of the future.

### Communist Relationships Break Barriers of Segregation

Another comrade said that the first responders to the bridge collapse were Muslim villagers living in Morbi, while most of the victims were Hindus. All the comrades agreed that industrial urban cities are segregated because of fascist attacks on Muslims and Dalits. We have been going to these

areas for mass recruitment and to build ties with the workers.

Building communist relationships in the increasingly segregated areas is very crucial for breaking the grip of fascism. Our work is slowly expanding through small steps taken by ICWP comrades in Delhi, garment workers in Bengaluru, and auto workers reaching out to others in Sri Lanka during fascist attacks.

### Answer Capitalist Fascism with Communist Revolution

The Morbi bridge restoration was done by a company that builds appliances and the ‘world’s largest watch manufacturing company’. It had no experience in building complicated suspension bridges. Obviously, it had connections to the ruling BJP.

It turns out that the owner of the company had a private meeting with Modi. The owner presented Modi with his book praising fascism and proposed that India must become a fascist dictatorship for thousands of years to suppress minorities and compete with China.

This rather insignificant company owner is revealing a blueprint of fascism. It is not just him; it is the entire class of capitalists creating deadly situations to make maximum profits.

Our response must be to expand our international work by struggling to recruit new comrades built on unwavering communist ties with the ASHA workers, comrades in Sri Lanka, the industrial workers in segregated Delhi, and many more.



November 2022— National Health Service nurses on strike in England. The strike continues, affecting a million health care workers who are indeed “slaves to the cost of living.” They need to fight to abolish capitalist wage slavery, not for higher wages.

France, November 10: Transit workers shut down Paris Metro during a nationwide strike for higher wages and pensions in the face of inflation. The US/NATO/Russia war in Ukraine is intensifying the cost to the working class of the capitalist crisis. It has led to spikes in fuel prices, increased inflation, and workers have responded with militant strikes throughout Europe. Workers in Europe, like workers everywhere, need communist revolution.



## Teachers, Students, Workers Must Build Class Consciousness

### PUERTO RICO: HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS STRIKE AGAINST TRANSFER OF POPULAR TEACHER

HUMACAO, PUERTO RICO, November 11—Last May, this educational region made a physical education teacher “redundant,” appointing another teacher to a high school where two teachers already filled the slots for that subject. At the end of the term, authorities moved one of them to another school, violating regulations and disrespecting his seniority.

His absence had an immediate effect on the campus. Students questioned why the teacher was transferred. He had been at the school for four years and coached the women’s volleyball team. He had established a close relationship of trust and affection with the students.

They decided to strike on October 13, in front of their school, to demand that the unjustly transferred teacher be returned. They also demanded that the administration clarify the status of the other physical education teacher, whose job could be in danger because of this illegal appointment.

The strike took the school administration by surprise. They didn’t expect their students to dare to carry out this kind of organization. It paralyzed work on campus and caught the attention of the educational region, whose administrators agreed to meet with the affected teachers.

The regional director accepted that they did something illegal and premeditated. She agreed to find solutions and asked for time to study the case.

The students decided to strike again on October 20 because their grievances had not been addressed. Then the school administration began what was expected: intimidation and repressive tactics against the students involved. They iden-

tified participants and threatened them with suspension and elimination of activities. They lied about students, antagonizing them with false statements about what happened in the agreements and how the fellow teacher was transferred.

Many other teachers, intimidated by the school administration, punished the students who participated in the strike. Teachers denied them make-up exams or assignments that carry points or grades.

This immediately put the brakes on the energy of the struggle. Young people with little experience of political activism didn’t realize or understand that they really are the school. They are the majority sector in the school community and the axis of the educational system in general.

These students are the future workers of society. As part of their learning in the educational system they should be taught to fight for justice. But we see the opposite. Critical thinking is not stimulated and the struggle for social justice is repressed.

Certainly, here we can see how the capitalist system and its education do not take students seriously, or even recognize their importance and the great contribution they can offer in the educational process. One such contribution is class consciousness: understanding to which class we belong.

This is something that capitalist education tries to destroy. Still, the students demonstrated by example the path of struggle workers must take to ensure the seizure of power.

In this situation, instead of the teachers fighting together against injustice, against attacks on job stability, and for better conditions, the system pushed them into fighting among themselves on purpose to divide and conquer. Only unity between teachers, students, parents, and other school workers will achieve the qualitative change that we expect in the educational system and in our society.

It is precisely this class consciousness that teachers must take, understand, and teach. But unfortunately, it is one of the sectors that least identifies with the workers’ movement. The objective of communist organizations and communist activists should be to carry that message to the working masses. They must know what class they belong to, identify with their class, and forge its unity. In this way, they will be able to overthrow capitalists from political power and make it their own.

Once teachers identify with their class, they have the responsibility to forge unity with their students from that class perspective so that the struggle for freedom and the destruction of capitalist exploitation is consistent and successful.

Meanwhile, the students of Humacao are still waiting for answers to their demands. They are ready to defend workers’ rights and demand the excellent teachers they deserve. They are giving lessons to their other teachers, setting an example of solidarity with just causes; that’s the reason for their struggle.

—Communist Workers and Students for Social Change



Read ICWP pamphlet:

**Communist Education for a Classless Society**

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

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#### Communist Relationships and How We Build Them

Comrade M and I chatted about recent Twitter news. We discussed social media outlets’ usefulness for having political conversations, circulating information quickly, and rallying people together. However, idealized online relationships seem to have replaced material ones.

This can be problematic since the ruling class controls much of our access. They often restrict it, as in Iran, when the masses mobilize. While useful, they cannot match the value of in-person relationships forged through, say, discussing communist ideas over coffee or a group meal or marching together on May Day.

Relationships built on capitalist values are transactional. That is, one acts only with the expectation of something in return. They are temporary, selfish, and exploitative. We see them in lopsided agreements between capitalist superpowers and poor but resource-rich countries. They invest the bare minimum and expect maximum returns. These relationships are

quickly abandoned when nothing’s left. They leave us feeling used and hesitant to form future connections.

Relationships built on communist values are accepting, nurturing, rewarding, and of mutual benefit. The human record proves our need for kinship and working collectively for the good of all. Our political work helps us build respectful and supportive connections and we contribute to each other’s growth and development. We’ll continue building these relationships under communism by living, working, and making decisions together.

We can build these connections now by sharing our communist ideas with family, friends, and co-workers. It’s important to create or seize opportunities to help them identify with others on the job and with those around the world. We can read and discuss *Red Flag* together. We can also collectively contribute to – and help distribute – it. We can support and defend people at work or in social situations and help them understand how the bosses benefit

from racism, sexism, homophobia, and nationalism.

We build and grow these relationships by challenging our friends and comrades. For example, I had already worked with ICWP for a few years when comrade G asked me “You help with workshops, contribute to articles for *Red Flag*, and we distribute it together. So, why have you not joined the party?” I had no good answer and joined that night.

Comrade M and I discuss all the things we’d like to do for the party, but we often let life get in the way. We decided that we don’t have to do them all at once and have started to write letters to *Red Flag* together. We can all contribute, in some way, to mobilizing the masses for communism!

Weathering the pandemic taught us that social media can be used to build relationships. It also taught us how important meeting and working in-person is to them.

—Comrade in the USA

## DEMOCRACY “RIGGED TO FAVOR THE RICH”

LOS ANGELES (USA), November 11— “What problems do you see with US democracy? Are any related to unequal distribution of wealth?” A math class discussed this online.

Latasha started: “An unfair division in distribution of wealth as well as power regarding politics and government.”

“People in the US don’t see our government as a democracy because of an unequal distribution of wealth,” wrote Nina. “From presidents to people in Congress, they are wealthy. Decisions are being made to benefit the wealthy.”

Alvin agreed. “It’s truly disgusting. Those in power just want to fill their wallets with money without a second thought to the people.”

“Issues are not up for vote by the general population,” Janet observed. “The leader can be influenced by lobbyists or personal convictions that do not represent the people who voted for him. The system is rigged to favor the rich.”

“The people of our communities are not the ones actually making decisions for us,” Lacey added.

### Envisioning a Truly Just System

“‘Socialism’ has such a bad name,” Janet continued, “that simply invoking it can make people turn away from views or candidates that would benefit most working-class Americans.”

“Socialism has such a bad rap in America because history books always paint it in a bad light,” Millie amplified.

“I think communism, not socialism, is an alternative to today’s capitalist democracy,” posted Ida. “No wealth, no poverty, nobody living better or worse than anyone else. Everyone works to produce what people need — not for a paycheck but to contribute to the common good. Nothing will be bought or sold, just shared. Then we ourselves can make decisions for the benefit of all.”

“I lived in China for 25 years. The way communism operated there was just another corrupt system,” Janet responded. “A truly just system has yet to be created. But it is something we should work towards envisioning.”

“China approached real communism with the ‘supply system’ in the Red Army before 1949, the ‘People’s Communes’ of 1958-59, the 1967 Shanghai commune. But today’s Chinese system is best described as ‘state capitalist,’” Ida ex-

plained. “Yes, it’s corrupt, and we must try to envision something better.”

### Does Voting Work?

“It’s up to the citizens to elect the people we believe to be the right person,” Alvin declared. “The problem is that not everyone votes or can. The basic concept of a democracy is good. It’s just the stuff that happens in between that is iffy.”

“The problem,” declared Martin, “is the influence that corporations have in swaying votes and impacting policies. And wealth is unevenly distributed throughout the classes of citizens who live in this country.”

“America’s capitalistic economy is driven off of slavery,” Latasha said, “but the way we vote on taxation is why the rich stay rich and the poor stay poor. We must change the way we vote or nothing else will legally change.”

“Would the wealthy/powerful let the masses vote away their wealth?” asked Ida. “The ‘founding fathers’ restricted voting to white men with property to avoid ‘the tyranny of the majority.’”

“It’s true when they say, ‘money is the root of all evil,’ said Zeke. “It is a distribution of wealth issue.”

Only Kevin saw a bright side to inequality: “Distribution of wealth helps shape democracy. People are free to pursue projects that can bring them unlimited income, like the many entrepreneurial multimillionaires of America.”

### “Rules Are In Place for a Reason”

“Dictatorships perform poorly compared to democracies,” argued Nathan. “In the UK, Prime Minister Truss resigned after revolt from her party. President Putin dragged Russia into an increasingly counterproductive war against



November 16— Migrant garment workers from Hubei and others marched, tore down barricades around residential neighborhoods, and fought police in Guangzhao, China’s southern manufacturing hub. They were protesting Covid lockdowns and the lack of food and other necessities despite government promises.

Ukraine. Despite this, he is still in power. Russians have no mechanism to remove him.”

Nathan conceded that “the United States has flaws in its system” like voting restrictions, lobbyists, and the Electoral College. “Wealthy individuals can buy influence with our politicians. We need to put a cap on the insane level of spending.”

“They put these rules into place for a reason,” Millie responded, “so that those who are already wealthy can make rules that only benefit themselves and their rich counterparts.”

Sondra agreed. “I always believed my vote does not count because wealthy people will have ultimate power over any election.”

We shouldn’t let the many opportunities like these pass us by. One student declared herself interested in the link Ida had shared to *Red Flag*. Let’s work harder to help those disillusioned with capitalist democracy envision and fight for a communist future.

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### Our Hope For Defeating Sexism and Racism: More Communist Youth

My friend is very close to our party. I wanted her take on what is happening to women in the US and around the world as we move closer to open fascism. I asked if she thought we could ever get rid of sexism and misogyny while living under capitalism.

“It is baked into the system,” she replied. “People get these ideas through upbringing and environment. Just like racism, we are dulled to what is going on and this makes it easier for us to tune out.”

We have talked before about how communism, which eliminates class society, will trans-

form everyday life and family relations and allow us to end sexism. Only mass mobilization for communism can finally end the subordination and special oppression of women

We also discussed how identity politics are not the right way to fight sexism. An example is Italy’s first female prime minister, the neo-fascist Giorgia Meloni. She is openly nationalist, homophobic, anti-immigrant, and anti-Roma.

“There’s no reason to think that just because they’re women, they’re good,” said my friend. “They try the same game with people of color. If their politics don’t align with our values, I say screw them!”

I mentioned recent *Red Flag* articles about people around the world fighting back against misogyny and sexism. There are recent excellent examples from Iran and India, as well as big demonstrations in the US. It is very encouraging to

see young people fighting back. That is where she sees our hope. She thinks it is important that we recruit lots of young people to ICWP.

I asked how she thought we might do this. She suggested a series of roundtable discussions, inviting lots of young people to join us and making their input the focal point of these meetings.

“Discussions about topics like fighting sexism don’t happen all by themselves,” she said, “but require in-depth conversations where there can be give-and-take. People can disagree and that is good. We need to ask them what they think, not just tell them what we think.”

She continued, “This kind of discussion gives me more incentive to become active.”

Our collective plans to follow up on her suggestion and make plans for an event or series of events in the new year. We will specifically invite the young people we know: our own friends, children of friends, neighbors, etc. We will listen to them, not just lecture them. And we will be sure to ask this friend to help organize this event.

—Comrade in Seattle (USA)

Read our pamphlet and related articles

### The Communist Fight Against Sexism

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

## FRIENDS OF ICWP IN COSTA RICA SEEK UNITY

ICWP comrades met virtually with friends from the Movement of Workers and Peasants (MTC) of Costa Rica. They are reading *Red Flag* and other party documents. In this meeting we put forward our line of “direct struggle for communism” and “one class, one party.” They sent this letter:

### Why is it important to assess possible articulations between both organizations?

Establishing links between both organizations is a vital organizational task since it strengthens the mass organization for the common and comprehensive welfare of our peoples and the working class for the definitive extermination of capitalism.

Union creates power. Starting from this idea, any space for the exchange of thought and organizational experiences among people and organizations is valid and necessary. Without denying divergent criteria, it enriches common perceptions and feelings in defense of causes beyond any border.

In addition to allowing us to make new readings of reality by clarifying our minds in the light of concrete practices and struggles, we will build new learnings to define joint positions in the face of a globalized world of social injustice.

### What are some elements or ethical-political criteria that constitute the first meeting points and/or consensus that we have found in this

### first space?

We are united in defense of the working class. We unite and mobilize as part of the population, of those forgotten by political systems. The richest always join forces to continue perfecting mechanisms, legislation and policies that guarantee the exploitation and submission of the most dispossessed sectors.

We are learning from experiences with women workers in the maquilas (sweatshops), from other worker and peasant movements. You learn from our struggles in defense of workers in the pineapple and banana plantations. In defense of natural corn seeds versus Monsanto’s genetically modified hybrids. From fights for decent housing where women heads of households are assuming a leading role at the political and organizational level. From the fight against privatization and criminalization/judicialization of the human right to social protest.

In short, we are united by the struggle for a dignified life and to seize power to build countries and nations based on relations of social justice without any trace of racism or discrimination of any kind.

We need to consolidate states under the principle of adhering to the interests, experiences, knowledge and needs of our peoples; that is, the working class, with a deep collective sense. This is the basis for transgressing all individualistic

schemes and patterns imposed by the capitalist, neoliberal, colonialist, patriarchal system.

### What can be some initial lines of action within a sense of dialectical practice that can nurture this link?

We started by experimenting with possibilities of using social media in the service of our struggles. From this, to plan and theoretically-methodologically design other similar spaces to delve into different topics. We do this in an atmosphere of trust, respect, debate, and exchange from our specific positions, without ignoring disagreements.

The fight for the defense of human rights, the fight of our peoples in general, has no borders. We appreciate this space for articulation. Its first steps have allowed us to reaffirm the need to continue defining new lines to strengthen our ties as fraternal peoples.

—Comrades of MTC -Costa Rica



## IMPERIALIST WAR IN UKRAINE AND THE CAPITALIST IMMIGRATION CRISIS IN EUROPE

November 15—“The capitalists invent wars to be able to amass more wealth, and we workers pay for the crises caused by these wars,” said a Chilean friend. These wars are accompanied by racism, crisis, and more slavery.

The war in Ukraine has been going on for nine months with no end in sight. Over ten million of our class have been displaced from their places of origin as the Russian imperialists and the US-led NATO fight for control of the area. And through this war the bosses promote their poisonous racism as a prelude to World War III.

In Europe right now, workers from Africa are

not well received. On the Italian coasts, the fascists led by Meloni have decided to admit only 150 workers (pregnant women, children and the sick). Nine hundred more must stay in international waters. If no country takes charge, they will be treated like a “pirate” ship.

Meanwhile, many immigrants from Africa and southwest Asia have died in the Mediterranean Sea, after desperately attempting to get a job. Capitalism forces us to work for some boss to get wages that will allow us to survive.

Various European countries have welcomed many Ukrainian refugees, notably Poland with

over five million. Russia received some early in the war. The US legalized 100,000 Ukrainian refugees in just five months, unlike 24,000 Venezuelans and many other immigrants seeking refuge.

The hypocrisy of capitalism and the miserable treatment of the working class is strikingly apparent when Ukrainian workers can go elsewhere in Europe as refugees and obtain residency and state aid to start a new life. Having created this war, the imperialists now promote their racist poison, making us believe that they care about the lives of refugees of similar skin color.

But there are also other aspects, like Ukraine’s trade with other European countries that import about seventy-six million tons of cereals annually, including corn, barley, and wheat. There are also the gas pipelines that run through Ukraine to the rest of Europe.

There is geopolitics: Ukraine is confronting Russia with weapons, money and people supplied by the US/NATO. Welcoming Ukrainian refugees is part of that support.

Given this, we workers do not have to be faithful to any boss that appears to be good. The mass movements need internationalist leadership. For that we must massify communist ideas by distributing *Red Flag* and recruiting workers to the political line of the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP).

Only in this way can we build a new world where everyone will be welcomed anywhere regardless of their skin color or language, because we will not have borders, nor governments that take economic or political advantage of the suffering working masses.

We must continue to build an army that will defend the working class and not bosses or profits. Only by winning more comrades to our ranks will we hasten the path to the defeat of capitalism and the construction of the communist society that we so much need.



The previous article explained lessons learned during the 1905 Potemkin mutiny, when many Tsarist military forces came over to the side of revolution. However, the Bolsheviks didn't establish a party military organization. They submitted to a coalition dominated by capitalist collaborators. The party learned from their mistakes and built a military organization that made possible the socialist revolution of November 1917.

## COMMUNISTS LEARN THAT MILITARY REVOLTS ARE KEY TO REVOLUTION

*Mutiny in Andrei, Pavel, and Slava. Admiral Nebol'sin killed. Baltic Fleet does not exist as a fighting force. Will do what I can.* —Vice-Admiral Nepinin, 3 March 1917

The Vice-Admiral couldn't do much. Baltic Fleet sailors sunk the Tsar in February. Nine months later they helped overthrow the capitalist government that replaced him. The Vice-Admiral couldn't even save his own neck; a revolutionary sailor shot him.

In February 1917, the Bolsheviks (Russian communists) had about 100 politically experienced veteran sailors within the tsarist Navy, including the defendants of the 1916 mutiny trials. These veteran revolutionaries were greatly esteemed. To augment Naval organizing, the party sent experienced organizers to live in base towns.

The Bolshevik press reached the Baltic Fleet quickly. The first newspaper was the Kronstradt Voice of Truth, which came out on March 15, quickly followed by the Helsinki Wave. The party guaranteed these papers were circulated even before other party papers reached important towns like Odessa, Baku, and Minsk.

The party also waged campaigns among soldiers in the front lines of World War I, Petrograd garrison soldiers, and other Red Guard detachments of mostly industrial workers. From February to November these key forces turned toward revolution.

Older Bolshevik sailors, soldiers and cadre

fought to spread the lessons learned from the 1905 Potemkin mutiny to the hundreds of thousands recruited to the party during these six months. Party membership requirements were suspended to enroll masses as quickly as possible.

### Bolshevik Military Organization Turns the Tide

On April 13, the party held the founding convention of the Bolshevik Military Organization (BMO) in Petrograd. It began publishing Soldier's Truth. The Bolsheviks were the only ones among all Russian political parties to publish a military newspaper of national importance.

The BMO, relatively small at first, grew rapidly across Russia. As with sailors, the Bolshevik work among soldiers included veterans of previous military revolts. The BMO and these politically skilled veterans established the foundation for growth and revolutionary success.

By June, two thousand Petrograd garrison soldiers had joined the BMO. New military party organizations sprang up around the country.

The All-Russian Conference of Bolshevik BMOs met in Petrograd on June 17. One hundred and fifty delegates attended from forty-three front and seventeen rear military organizations. They represented about 30,000 soldiers and sailors.

Comrade Iurevich represented the party military organization among the Latvian Rifle Regiments. He reported that the Bolshevik collective numbered 1537 members, about 10% of whom were older, experienced revolutionaries. He claimed the Bolsheviks essentially controlled the Latvian Rifle Regiments.

In Petrograd, the Soviet leadership, still in the hands of the fake revolutionaries, called for a peaceful demonstration on June 30. The Bolsheviks showed their strength among workers and garrison troops: 400,000 marchers paraded under Bolshevik banners, including almost every garrison unit. The Menshevik (liberal capitalist) Sukhanov was alarmed:

"Here and there," worried Sukhanov, "the chain of Bolshevik flags and columns was interrupted by official Soviet slogans. But they were submerged in the mass [of Bolshevik socialist revolutionary propaganda]."



Workers in a Petrograd factory listen to a soldier speak.

The Bolsheviks' growing influence among soldiers, sailors and industrial workers enabled them to break loose from the coalitions that made up the Soviets. Ultimately, the only debate that mattered was inside the Bolshevik party over when to launch the armed insurrection. On November 7 they led key forces of the proletariat to seize power, changing the course of history.

### Communist Tactics In The Bosses' Armed Forces Spread Around The World

Fourteen imperialist countries invaded Russia. They aimed to "kill the baby in its cradle" by destroying the new revolutionary socialist government.

The Bolshevik foreign language press kept the invading frontline troops informed of the growing rebellions in their ranks. One such paper, *The Call*, found its way into unexpected places behind the British and American lines.

Red soldiers fraternized with rank-and-file soldiers of all the invading armies. Fraternization proved to be a potent military weapon.

The rebellions grew. Twenty thousand British soldiers revolted in the Calais (France) area, right across the English Channel. Prime Minister Lloyd George was alarmed: "If a military enterprise were continued against the Bolsheviks... there would be a Soviet in London."

Troops in all fourteen of the invading armies revolted. After massive uprisings, all the bourgeois armies were forced to withdraw.

Lessons learned from the Potemkin mutiny built the foundation of a new Red Army among the soldiers and sailors in the Tsarist military thirteen years later. In turn, the Bolshevik revolution taught the worldwide communist movement to reject passive resistance among the troops in favor of building a communist base in the bosses' armed forces.

**Next:** *The Bolsheviks focused on recruiting the proletarian forces needed for revolution. But they fell victim to perhaps the most dangerous of reforms: socialism. Communists must learn the invaluable lesson: this time we'll fight directly for communism.*

**Sources:** Mawdsley, *The Russian Revolution and the Baltic Fleet*; Saul, *Sailors in Revolt*; White, *The Growth of the Red Army*; Rabinowitch, *The Bolsheviks Come To Power*.

### The Communist International on Tactics during Imperialist War

The Congress of the Third International (the Communist International Movement of the 1920s and '30s) spelled out the tactics communists should use in imperialist wars:

When the question of joining the bourgeois army or refusal of military service (boycott) is raised, the Communists must advise the workers and poor peasants to reject the refusal of military slogan...to avail themselves at the proper moment, to turn their weapons against the bourgeois.

In the event of a big mass movement at the moment of the outbreak of war in favor of refusing military service, the communists must combat the boycott ideology and the pacifist boycott slogan. They must speak quite frankly and make it clear to the masses that the only correct way of combatting the imperialist war is to turn it into a civil war. Strenuous propaganda must be conducted urging the necessity of carrying on revolutionary work in the bourgeois armies.

### We Goofed

*The English print edition of the last Red Flag contained an incorrect version of the article "Building a Communist Base in the Military." The correct versions are on the Web and in the Spanish editions. Starting with the third paragraph, the article should have read:*

Resistance and other forms of avoiding military service reached massive proportions in the US during the Vietnam War. It didn't stop US imperialism. The Vietnamese armed struggle did that.

By then, nearly half the US troops had engaged "in organized resistance or outright rebellion" according to the Pentagon. US Army Chief of Staff General Westmoreland, the former US commander in Vietnam, argued in secret White House meetings to end the war before "we lose the army."

The US retreated to an air war before being forced to withdraw from Vietnam. The level of communist organizing in the US military never approached what was required to make a revolution. Still, lessons learned during the intense struggle in the US Armed Forces remain invaluable.