

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY  WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG



MARCH 7—NATIONAL EDUCATION HEALTH AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION ON STRIKE IN MTHATHA, EASTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA **SEE PAGE 3**

COMMUNIST SOLIDARITY WITH STRIKING SWEATSHOP WORKERS

EL SALVADOR, March 2—“There is the machinery, the cloth, the raw material, but why is there no production?” a comrade asked. “The workers are needed,” he continued. “It is evident that without our labor, the boss does not make the profits.” The comrade was addressing several workers during the work stoppage carried out in the factory.

This strike was carried out to demand the payment of year-end compensation to the workers from last year. The boss stalled for time, claiming that he did not have the money to settle the debt with the workers. He offered them 60%, stealing part of the compensation, which is 70%, in addition to what he steals from them daily.

Some company unions supported the bosses' request. Their leaders made a dirty deal with

the bosses, turning their backs on the working class.

This infuriated the workers. They gathered in front of the bosses' offices, stopping part of the production.

ICWP comrades who work in this factory communicated with other comrades, informing them that there was a work stoppage at the request of a union. Immediately a flyer was produced with a message of solidarity and a call to organize in the ICWP and fight directly for Communism.

The flyer emphasized that the ICWP is not fighting for reforms. It is massifying the communist political line among the working class, to end the exploitation and misery of capitalism, which is a dead end.

While a group traveled to the capital, another comrade printed the

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US Bosses' Confusing Propaganda about War in Ukraine:

WORKERS EAGER TO DISCUSS COMMUNIST ANSWERS

UNITED STATES, February 24—“People are confused,” declared a New Jersey comrade, D. He has been fighting the surge of patriotic Western propaganda around the one-year anniversary of the NATO-Russian war in Ukraine. He's contacted many workers, most of them active or retired industrial workers.

A Seattle friend has had it with the Ukraine propaganda. Speaking about the economic attacks on the global working class, including US workers, she said, “Yes, I can see how it hurts workers.”

C, a retired Boeing worker, listed ever-increasing attacks on the working class aggravated by the war. “Inflation, sleeping in the streets, food insecurity,” he began. “You're never off the hook even if you are retired.”

Even the capitalist New York Times admits that US President Biden is having a harder time

selling the war to US workers who are feeling the pinch of inflation.

A Portland area comrade, J, wanted to know more. He asked the party to organize a discussion forum. He was self-critical about focusing on the divisions and splits within the US ruling class, while almost ignoring how his co-workers feel.

“For communists, it's more meaningful to focus on how the working class is reacting,” he admitted. “That way we can identify opportunities for party growth.”

Workers Need Experience With Communist Collectives

Initially, C. was frustrated. He saw some workers ignoring the plight of other workers. He remembered the pain of working where management pits workers against each other. Too many were ignoring

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FROM IMPERIALIST WAR IN UKRAINE TO CLASS WAR FOR COMMUNISM EVERYWHERE!

Workers around the globe are reeling from the effects of the war between Russia and the US/NATO in Ukraine.

Hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian and Russian soldiers are dead or wounded. Both armies have intentionally or recklessly harmed and endangered civilians. Millions have been forced from their homes in Ukraine, and thousands have fled Russia.

In Europe, workers are protesting massively as rising unemployment, inflation, and soaring costs reduce their standard of living. An estimated 30% of working-class children skip a meal every day.

This devastating crisis results directly from rising energy costs due to the war in Ukraine and US-directed sanctions on Russia. The US more than likely blew up the NordStream natural gas pipelines from Russia to Germany or at least abetted whatever pro-Ukrainian forces did it.

Certainly, US energy companies and their investors are profiting hugely from increased exports of liquified natural gas (LNG) from the US to Europe – at extortionate prices. The US now sells Europe more than half its imported LNG. This forces up energy costs to US workers (also squeezed by inflation).

Russia, in turn, has increased oil exports to China and especially India at a discounted price exchanged in Russian Rubles, Chinese Yuan (RMB), and Indian Rupees. Sanctions shut down thousands of US and European factories in Russia, but Chinese companies formed joint ventures to reopen them.

Expanding War in Ukraine: Are We Already Amidst a Global War?

The US imperialists have poured over \$120 billion into supporting Ukraine's fascist government (which they misleadingly call a "democracy"). US workers pay for this, egged on and misled by the rulers' patriotic propaganda. Meanwhile the government cuts health care, food pro-

grams, and education. Some NATO countries, pushed by the US, are reluctantly arming Ukraine—also at workers' expense.

While US industrial output has been dropping sharply for some time, Chinese capitalism has leapfrogged and expanded its global reach. The rising Chinese imperialists are encircling the globe using their navy, railways, and ports.

The declining US imperialists are increasingly isolated in Africa, the Americas, and even Europe. Their increasing isolation makes them more dangerous. They called for sanctions against Russia, expecting their trading partners to fall in line. That didn't happen.

Chinese imperialists are openly preparing to support Russia's war effort. President Xi declared recently that the "bilateral relationship has no limits and there are no forbidden areas of cooperation."

President Lukashenko of Belarus, a close ally of Russia, visited Xi. They agreed to cooperate in defense, rail services, preventing pro-US 'color revolutions,' and combatting terrorism. An unstated objective was to assemble Chinese military equipment for Russia in Belarus, using the Belt and Road Initiative to avoid sanctions. But none of this will help workers in Belarus or China!

China proposed a "peace plan" to Ukraine's Zelenskyy, knowing full well that he would reject it outright. As the communist poet Bertolt Brecht wrote during the last world war, "When the leaders speak of peace, the common folk know war is coming."

Fight for the Working Class, Not for the Capitalist-Imperialist Rulers

From Ukraine to Taiwan and beyond, the drive to maximize profits makes imperialist war inevitable. But the capitalist rulers can't fight their wars without the active participation of soldiers, sailors, marines, and industrial workers. The same military personnel and workers whose families are suffering already because of these wars

and who stand to lose much more!

And therein lies the opportunity for industrial workers and soldiers to lead the masses in a revolution to destroy the bosses' system.

Workers everywhere face increasing racism, sexism, caste violence, and xenophobia. Even with all the uneven development, we can see our class siblings suffering the same ravages of wage slavery.

Is there a way out for us? Yes! It's communism – real communism – not the state capitalism of Russia and China that wraps itself in a red flag.

Real communism will organize production "from all according to ability and commitment, to all according to need." No owners to profit. No one forced by hunger to submit to exploitation. Communism can unite the aspirations of the working class everywhere to live in a world without capitalists, their wars, and all the barriers they have created to divide us to perpetuate wage slavery.

Revolution demands a communist party – one International Communist Workers' Party – that can grow by leaps and bounds amidst the imperialists' expanding wars. A party that enables the most oppressed among us to give key leadership to the international working class. That prepares us to take power and use it to build a new communist world on the ashes of the old.

We build this party today by recruiting the ones and twos who will then recruit dozens and scores, eventually thousands and millions.

By building concentrations in factories, barracks, schools, and other workplaces.

By recruiting young leaders and helping them to develop as communist thinkers and organizers.

By analyzing our work using self-criticism and criticism in the collectives that are the basic units of the party.

We the working masses will become the leading force in the world, sweeping away the imperialists and their wars and ushering in a bright communist future.



London, February 15, 2003: No War On Iraq

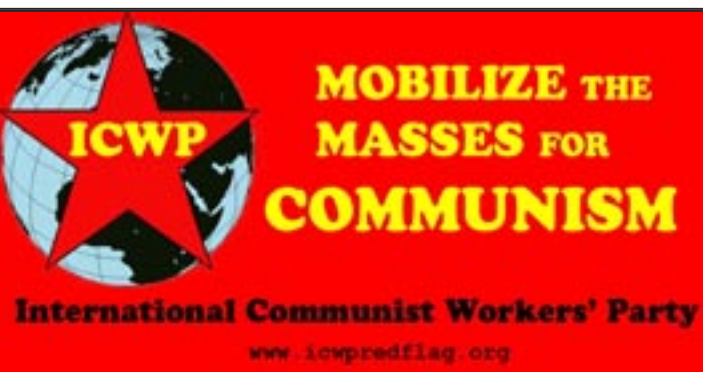


Barcelona, February 15, 2003: No War On Iraq

February 15, 2003: Twenty years ago, over 12 million people marched in almost 800 cities worldwide demanding "No US War on Iraq!" US imperialism invaded Iraq anyway. As masses marched, the troops were already on their way.

Today, the US media hypocritically act horrified that Russia would invade Ukraine. But that's the nature of imperialism, US or Russian or French or British or Chinese: Wars of conquest to win control of global markets, labor, natural resources, and strategic position. Wars against rival imperialists trying to win the same.

We can't stop these wars with peaceful protests or elections or anything else short of communist revolution. By waging and winning the class war to end private property, nation-states, and the profit system, communism will finally eliminate the material basis for war.



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SOUTH AFRICA: MASS ANGER OPENS WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

GQEBERHA (South Africa), March 8—Throughout this week there have been strikes by workers, particularly in the public sector. Among other things, workers are demanding a “living wage” in the face of food prices that are increasing here (as elsewhere). They are also demanding that the government provides electricity.

Many workers are also planning to shut down

the functioning of the country throughout all the cities. They have become disillusioned with the system; that is, with capitalism. Workers are becoming more rebellious in expressing that things can’t continue as they are. This opens a window of opportunity for us communists to win them to revolution, as we understand that only communism can truly liberate the working class from exploitation.

We plan to join the workers on Friday as they shut down Gqeberha and all the hospitals and public offices throughout South Africa. We will spread the *Red Flag* and communist revolution. Our goal is not reform but winning over workers and the working class, the masses in general, towards communist revolution, and recruiting them to the International Communist Workers’ Party.

Facing the Truth: Workers Unite!

Greetings comrades! I joined ICWP in late 2018. My partner was a member before me, but along the way he started to fade away. However, a friend of mine, comrade R, was struggling with me and talking more communism and ICWP.

I had always thought ICWP was just another typical political party. I never really paid attention and my partner failed to explain it to me. However, the minute R started to tell me in detail about what kind of party ICWP is, I started to get interested. Hence, I started to attend some of the meetings.

When I was told what ICWP was struggling about, I genuinely became interested because, first and foremost, the ICWP struggles for the truth. Generally speaking, the truth never comes out about what is going on in the world. The truth is always hidden and never talked about.

We avoid and ignore the things that hurt

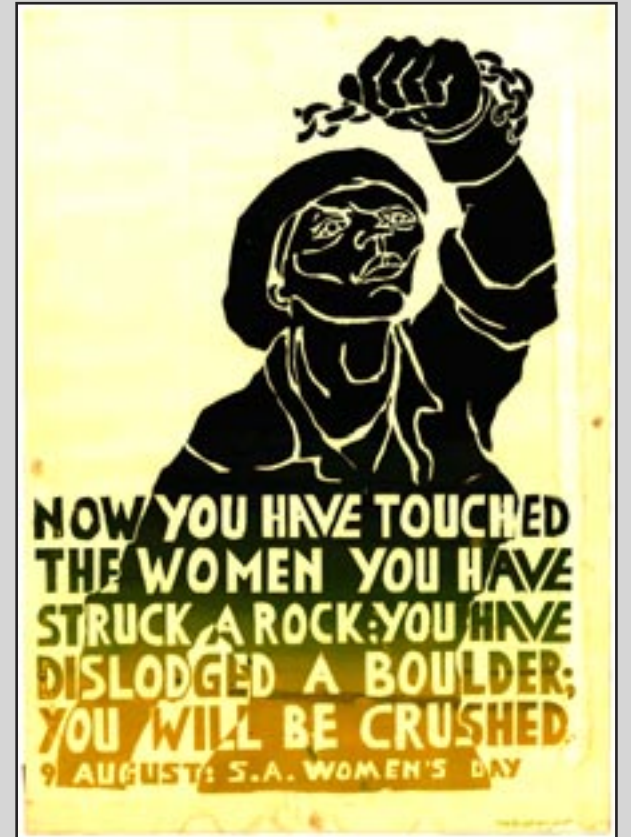
us, and end up hiding and justifying the exploitation. Especially in workplaces because we want to get wages and get paid to feed our kids. We forget about what is rightfully ours.

Maybe that’s why they say, “Money is evil.” In fact, it’s the money that is evil per se, rather than just those who are wealthy (bosses) who are personally evil.

So ICWP is sharing light and hope and truth about capitalist bosses and the officials. ICWP shows this exploitation and how they are abusing us as workers and how we can be united and fight them.

ICWP has shown that it is not like the bosses are more educated or know about everything. It is that they are united in overpowering the poor. We must also unite, and I joined ICWP because it spreads this message.

—Comrade Q, Gqeberha (South Africa)



March 3—Protesters confront Israeli troops firing stun grenades and tear gas. Left-wing Israelis and Palestinians were attempting to hold a solidarity rally in Hawara. Fascist Israeli settlers had rampaged through this West Bank Palestinian town for hours on February 26. They set fires and beat residents in a pogrom that some compared to the Nazi Kristallnacht.

This was too much even for the US rulers. They have poured over \$100 billion into arming Israel while hesitating to criticize its increasingly fascist leadership. Arch-rival China is now Israel’s third largest trading partner. Israel and Russia coordinate on security matters related to Syria. Once a dependable US ally, Israel’s capitalist rulers recently refused its request to send US-made Cold War-era Hawk missiles to Ukraine.

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the increased attacks on workers, even blaming the victims for those attacks. This attitude allows the capitalists to get away with their warmongering.

Capitalism organizes production to make profits. Pitting one group against another is necessary in a profit-driven system. So is promoting individualism, not collectivity, even though large-scale production is always a collective effort.

We discussed the potential of communist collective production, which would not be caught in that contradiction. Workers would plan collectively to gear up the whole factory to provide for the collective needs of our class. There would be no ruling class, no profits. That will help to end many of the petty conflicts that arise among production workers today.

Many workers – eventually, all—would belong

to communist collectives that would struggle against individualism and solve problems together.

“There is strength in every worker if you look for it,” added C. He described the close relationship he developed with a younger co-worker. Together they fought against the individualism that pitted one worker against another.

“Workers are not lazy and people who are homeless don’t want to live on the streets,” C concluded.

“Nor do university students want to scrounge for leftovers at the cafeteria,” added D. He sees this happen at colleges where he helps set up programs to get young Black, Indigenous, and other people of color into industry.

J. is convinced this is an era of war and fascism. Now, more than ever, workers must trust each other. He wants to build an Oregon collective to discuss this and build trust. Others sug-

gested he talk with his friends in the school system. Seattle comrades will ask a comrade and a friend, who live about an hour away, to help.

D. summed up the discussion: “We need to give people confidence that we can end this system and place our trust in other workers.”

He volunteered to help with carefully planning the agenda for a forum so that it’s not just a lecture. We should engage workers in conversation. The workers we invite to this meeting may be thinking about the effects of the war on our class for the first time. Our friends must tackle this issue: it’s in their class interest.

Workers’ reactions to capitalist media lies about the war in Ukraine are unstable and changing. US rulers’ propaganda is designed to confuse them. We must counter the bosses’ ideas with communist answers and struggle for the growth of communist collectives.

PLEASE SEND YOUR LETTERS, RESPONSES AND SUGGESTIONS TO
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El Salvador Maquila Strike: Workers Won't Sit Idly By

El Salvador. March 2, this day we, enraged maquila workers, have demanded our rights as workers before the employers, carrying out a work stoppage. What led us to stand up and not stand idly by was that all of us have many needs and responsibilities that force us to leave our children in the care of people we know (or don't). We pay for water, electricity, food, and many other basic and essential needs.

The employers are denying us our compensation. This is a clear example of the exploitation to which we are subjected. The boss

wanted us to accept 60% of our monthly compensation at the end of the year when in previous years he gave 70%. And this is not enough to support our home and our children.

With our fellow workers we were on a work stoppage from 7 am to 4 pm fighting to get what we could. We demanded 100% of our compensation from the boss. We met with representatives from the labor ministry to reach an agreement.

We hope that with all our struggle they will realize that the working class is no longer there

to sit idly by. And that whatever comes, we will continue fighting.

We are very grateful that our International Communist Workers' Party stood in solidarity with our workers' struggle. And they brought flyers outside the factory to mobilize the masses to continue fighting for our cause.

My dear comrades, I invite you not to remain silent. We should join forces so as not to be exploited and oppressed.

—Comrade maquila worker

RESOLVING INTERNAL CONTRADICTIONS TO ADVANCE THE PARTY'S WORK

EL SALVADOR, March 1—Several young women and men attended the international conference here in December. We believe this is important for the development of new leaders, for they are key to Party life now and in the future.

One young man in particular, S, who had attended previous meetings and conferences as a young student, now participated as a worker.

I think that made him feel more responsible. When a comrade asked him if he wanted to speak, he said, "I still don't want to talk, I want to listen and understand better." But he did write a letter for *Red Flag* at the conference.

This made him pay close attention when the edition with his letter came out. He constantly asked party comrades, "Has the newspaper arrived yet?"

The comrade who had invited him to the conference replied, "Yes, I'll give it to you later."

But what was really happening was that she was putting off giving it to him. She was a little afraid to give it to him, because she believed that because of his youthful impetuosity he might not take the necessary precautions and could be

fired from the company.

"I didn't want to feel responsible for his dismissal," said the comrade worker.

The comrade presented this problem at a collective meeting. We talked about it and a comrade said, "We must overcome this contradiction. We must talk to S about how we do the organizational work and *Red Flag* distribution."

"We are all afraid of losing our jobs, but that should not paralyze us," replied another comrade. "Young people like him are needed in the fight for communism."

"I understand the comrade's fear, but the practical work of speaking daily with more men and women workers will help us to have more confidence in our class," said another.

The experiences of each one of us should serve as a guide in this fight. How did we get to ICWP? How do we recruit someone else? Contradictions do not limit political work. They are overcome by discussing them collectively. We must learn to trust others.

"I admire the comrade because she brought this point to the collective. This provided the op-

portunity to know the opinions of the rest of the group. That gave me more confidence in how to address this point with the young worker," said another comrade.

This has helped us a lot in understanding that the internal contradictions must be discussed. Ignoring them limits the growth of the party. Ending the contradiction is called resolving it. These are big steps that will lead us to resolve the main contradiction in our work.

This situation that the comrade raised helped to better understand the communist philosophy, because we find cases like this when we do practical work.

"I consider it important that the comrade raised the point in the collective, it shows that our communist practice is at a higher level," said another comrade.

From this discussion came the plan to integrate it into a collective that strengthens the collective experience of organizing the struggle for Communism.

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flyer. It was also shared online with the comrades inside. We arrived just as the workers were leaving. We distributed three hundred flyers which were received with joyful expressions. "Thank you, comrade, we are in the struggle," said a worker as he took the leaflet.

This really scared the bosses, who, as always, called their police dogs to protect them.

Other party comrades shared encouraging messages with the workers on social media. "Don't be fooled or intimidated by fake boss-allied union leaders, police, or employers," wrote a health worker.

"This is an opportunity to do political organizing work in this concentration," declared a comrade.

And this is what members of the International Communist Workers' Party did. They were in this action to explain to the women and men workers that we must fight to the death to change the capitalist system. We need communist revolution.



"Tunisian Women Against State Fascism"

TUNISIA, February 25—Hundreds took to the street to protest President Saied's racist and xenophobic attacks on migrants from Sub Saharan Africa and fascist attacks on political opposition.

Then on March 4 masses of workers protested rising inflation, shortages of key goods and planned cuts to subsidies on basics. They called for Saied's resignation.

The capitalist crisis in Tunisia is intensified by the effects of the war in Ukraine. Saied blames migrants. But many see through this racist attempt to divide the working class. They must build on this anti-racist unity to mobilize to overthrow capitalism and its borders and racist divisions. Not just in Tunisia, but throughout Africa and the whole world.

Turkiye, US, NATO, Russia: No Capitalists Are Friends of the Working Class

WORKERS AND SOLDIERS KEY TO COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

March 4—”Take your dirty hands off of Turkiye,” its interior minister told the US ambassador in February.

“They will pay a high price” if they close their consulates, said Türkiye’s President Erdogan.

“Türkiye’s ‘two-faced sultan’ (President Erdogan) is no friend of the West. It’s time to get tough,” wrote *Guardian* commentator Simon Tisdall the next day. Tisdall advocates “regime change” as a political and military tool of Western bloc countries.

What’s going on?

On the face of it, all this rhetoric is about disputes over Islamophobia in Europe and Türkiye’s repression of Kurdish opposition.

But the real deal is not hard to find. Also in February, US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen threatened the Turkish bosses with sanctions and even withholding access to the largest G7 markets, if they continued to help Russia.

Türkiye is strategically located between NATO and Russia/China. Geographically it is the crossroads of southeast Europe and southwest Asia. The Strait of Bosphorus is the passage from the Black Sea (home of the main Russian naval fleets) to the Mediterranean Sea.

Türkiye hosts NATO’s Land Command (LANDCOM) and a radar base within NATO’s Ballistic Missile Defense. European Union countries are among its largest trading partners, but Türkiye has, since 1989, been denied entry to the EU for a variety of reasons ranging from its human rights violations to Europe’s Islamophobia.

Economic relations between Türkiye and Russia have grown by 800% in the last year. Due to the US/NATO embargo on Russian oil, the Turkish bosses are buying that oil cheaply and selling it to Europe. The export of chemicals and microchips to Russia to be used in the war in Ukraine has multiplied. At the same time, Russians are the majority of tourists in Türkiye, one of its main sources of currency.

US imperialism is weakening in the face of the Russian and Chinese imperialists. This contradiction makes the capitalist rulers of countries like Türkiye, Brazil, India, and South Africa challenge them and try to get the most out of them.

To avoid the control of the dollar-based banking system, Türkiye is using alternative payments in lira (Türkiye), rupee (India), RMB (China),

and rubles (Russia).

Another reason for US/NATO discontent with Türkiye is its interest in the Kurdish oil areas on its borders and in Syria. Currently, the contradiction between Türkiye and Russia in the civil war in Syria has faded into the background.

In 2019, Türkiye was removed from the program to acquire modern US F-35 warplanes, due to its purchase of Russian S-400 surface-to-air missiles. The Turkish armed forces are bringing out their first aircraft carrier that will use locally produced drones instead of F-35s.

In these capitalist/imperialist struggles the working class has nothing to gain and everything to lose. Contradictions between capitalists accelerate global military confrontations and brutal attacks on the working class. But the critical point is that capitalist rulers depend on their workers and soldiers. We urgently need to bring the alternative of communist revolution to these masses of workers and the armed forces.

A *Red Flag* reader in Los Angeles, USA said, “What is happening with Türkiye? I want Russia to win.” We responded, “No imperialist or capitalist is a friend of the working class. Join our alternative, that of the communist revolution.”



Read our pamphlet:

**SOLDIERS,
SAILORS,
MARINES:
CRUCIAL TO A
COMMUNIST
WORKERS'
REVOLUTION**

Available at

icwpredflag.org/mpe.pdf

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Behind the Ohio train derailment: Flames of an imperialist toxic system!

The derailment of a Norfolk Southern train on February 3, 2023, in East Palestine (on the border of Ohio and Pennsylvania) is another capitalist system catastrophe.

The capitalists, cutting jobs for their ambitions to maximize profits, are indifferent to the suffering of the working class, the impairment to our global climate, and the harm that continues deteriorating the environment.

The lack of US media coverage for the first week can be described as complicit of a rotten system. Major shareholders of Norfolk Southern include the Vanguard Group, Black Rock Advisers, and State Global Advisers, some of the same shareholders of CNN, Fox, ABC, and CBS news networks.

Due to the bosses’ massive job cuts, the train industry—which at its height had a million workers—has been reduced to just shy of 200,000 workers.

With fewer mechanics and other essential workers, the train conductors are forced to operate larger loads. Inspectors are told to cut

corners. In early 2023 there have been twelve additional train derailments just in the USA alone.

Stephanie Griffin, who worked for Union Pacific in 2016, said her manager told her that it was okay to skip inspections.

“Most railroad workers are fighting against an entire system that only exists as a money-making apparatus to the wealthy,” she declared. “Those trains run through our towns, but they do not run next to rich folks’ homes, nor next to our politicians’ homes. This is a top-down problem.”

The Ohio derailment involved 3 locomotives that were hauling a total of 150 cars, equal to more than 2 miles long. Around 20 cars carrying hazardous materials were among 38 that came off the tracks.

Eleven other cars contained hazardous loads that created immediate explosions, directly affecting a nearby community of about 5,000 people. The cargo of some cars was intentionally breached.

Given the media’s silence when these flames erupted to the skies, the truth could be far worse.

An Environmental Protection Agency investigation could last from 18-24 months. Meanwhile, the outcome for the residents of the nearby regions will be unknown.

The burn-off immediately after the derailment sent toxic gases like those used in World War I into the atmosphere. The exposure to these harmful substances creates serious consequences to the environment and well-being of every living thing. Already hundreds of thousands of fish have died due to the chemicals that have spread in the Ohio river.

We must spread real communist ideas to our working class brothers and sisters in Ohio and throughout the world to stop the imperialist bosses’ devastation and their plans of preparing for an upcoming World War III.

—Comrade in Los Angeles (US)

ELECTIONS, ECONOMIC CRISIS, AND IMPERIALIST CONFLICT IN NIGERIA

March 1—“My family is from Nigeria. My father says things are bad there now,” said a student in the USA.

There has been a lot of tension and fear around the Nigerian elections that began on February 25 and resulted in the election of establishment politico Bola Tinubu as president.

This wave of fear and tension caused a comrade’s relative to postpone a trip from the US to see family in Nigeria. They had saved and planned for this trip and took time off from work to enjoy it. The children of another family member in Nigeria are out of school indefinitely. The schools had planned to close for four days, but now, the family must wait to hear from the headmaster.

Capitalism and imperialism have caused this crisis that disrupts the masses’ lives.

The outgoing president’s decision to print new currency did not surprise most citizens. When the banks returned only debit cards in place of actual banknotes, the people most affected were understandably upset.

Nigeria is full of small businesses and cottage industries that rely on actual currency. They fear trying to access real funds and being turned away. Bank employees in one city, afraid of an angry crowd of customers, got a ladder and escaped the bank through a high window!

Oil-rich Nigeria can’t get fuel to the masses because of large-scale crude oil theft and government corruption. Fuel prices have soared. Over half the population lives below the official poverty line.

Over a third of the workforce is unemployed, including more than half of young workers. Many of the 73 million unemployed young people are also frustrated about the slow development of higher education and a seven-month Twitter ban. Many are still angry that the military got away with killing over a dozen youths

protesting police brutality in 2020.

Half of all Nigerians are under 18 years of age. A third of eligible voters are 18-34. The Labour Party presidential candidate Peter Obi captured their attention as a “new” political force, coming in third with 6.1 million votes. But Obi is a wealthy businessman/banker who stashes wealth in offshore tax havens. He has been a mainstream politician for decades.

Widespread violence – and justified cynicism about politicians – kept voter turnout down to 26%, the lowest since Nigeria restarted elections in 1999.

Nobody anywhere should put their trust in any capitalist politician or expect elections to improve our lives. We must organize ourselves for communist revolution to control our collective destiny.

The US Biden administration used social media to promote “getting out the vote” in Nigeria. A key player was UN Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield, a member of the influential Council on Foreign Relations. She has served US imperialism for decades, mostly in Africa. The US, she has said, is a “close to perfect” country. Ha!

Why is the US meddling in Nigerian elections now? Probably because US and Chinese imperialists are fighting over control of Nigeria’s mineral wealth. China has recently overtaken the US as the largest foreign investor in Nigeria, the biggest economy in Africa.

Terrible conditions in Nigeria have led to mass emigration. Tens of thousands now live in South Africa, where they have been targets of xenophobia. Hundreds of thousands live in the United States.

Today’s international working class needs a communist world without borders or ethnic divisions. The seed of that future exists today within the International Communist Workers’ Party.

Wherever we are, we must work to build communist relations with our class siblings who have been forced by capitalist crisis to migrate from their place of birth.

Lithium in Nigeria: Extraction and Politics

Shortly before the Nigerian presidential election, Twitter posts encouraged people to “enjoy the fruits of democracy.” One such poster was on the Board of Directors for the National Endowment of Democracy. The NED’s then-president said in 1991 that “a lot of what we do today was done covertly 25 years ago by the CIA.” It has been linked to coups in South America, Africa, and elsewhere.

Nigerians should be wary of attempts by colonizer countries (imperialists) to get hold of natural resources. Political entities like the NED often cover for destabilizing governments that oppose US capitalist interests. Imperialists of all stripes back puppet dictators who allow them to take resources out of the countries. They profit from superexploiting the miners and other workers who produce the wealth.

Nigerian capitalists are trying to use the competition among imperialists to their own advantage. Extremely rich lithium deposits have been discovered in Nigeria, used for batteries for large and small electronic devices. A major US corporation approached the former Nigerian president, but that deal ended because the company did not want to build a battery factory in Nigeria. It appears that another imperialist power, China, may end up with the contract to mine lithium and to make batteries in Nigeria.

These capitalists and imperialists are fighting each other for the ability to exploit the working-class masses. Our fight is to get rid of them all!

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Bread and Communism for the Masses

“Greetings, everyone! It’s the first time I’m in this kind of meeting. I came at the invitation of a friend who is here too. I don’t work in the factory, I work in a bakery,” said a young worker.

“How many workers work there?” Celia asked.

“We are many,” he replied. “There are many branches here and there are also bakeries in another country.”

“Well, it’s a factory that produces bread, and a pretty big one,” Celia said again.

“However, not everyone in the area can buy the bread that is produced there. It’s a bit expensive,” said Carmen. “The bread produced is sold for profit, through the exploitation of the workers. Each capitalist seeks to earn more money, pay less, and make the workers work for higher production goals, and generally without overtime pay or by paying a pittance for it.

“In communism,” Carmen continued, “the production of bread will be to satisfy the collective need to feed the people of the community, producing what is going to be needed. The International Communist Workers’ Party fights for that,” she concluded.

“I had never thought of it that way,” said Santiago. “I was asked to be here to learn about aspects of how life could be for the workers.”

In this bread factory there is an opportunity to

distribute the *Red Flag* newspaper and organize more workers. This young man considered passing it on to co-workers.

The worker who invited this young man had attended the recent international conference with his family for the first time. The work of recruiting others to the communist struggle is an every-day task. It is our only chance to change our lives, changing the capitalist system, fighting for the Communist system.

Things will not change in this rotten system. It is time to get out of it by mobilizing the masses for Communism.

This enlarged meeting encouraged us a lot, because young women and men workers from other factories attended. Organizational work is expanding, and *Red Flag* is reaching more workers.

—Comrade in El Salvador.



On August 26, 1921, organized workers took over the Bruree Bakery and Mills in Ireland. They raised a red flag and a banner proclaiming “Bruree Soviet Workers Mills. We Make Bread Not Profits.” This was only one of a number of Workers’ Soviets organized in Ireland during the Irish War of Independence and throughout Europe inspired by the Russian Revolution.

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Let's Organize to Defeat Capitalism and Its Anti-Worker Schools

The unions that represent teachers and other school workers in Los Angeles are threatening to shut the schools down again. The fact that teachers are this angry—four years after a seven-day strike in 2019—makes it clear that this capitalist system cannot meet the needs of teachers, campus workers, and students. From Columbus, Ohio to Seattle, Washington, teachers are more willing to go on strike to demand more sustainable working conditions. But we must now increasingly realize that it is capitalism which cannot sustain us inside and outside of school classrooms.

In the classroom, we must analyze the type of education that we truly want for the working class. Undoubtedly, every teacher goes into the field of education with the great intention of educating our youth and to teach them critical thinking skills.

Even the best teachers are forced to operate within the system. We have to give grades. And students end up doing the work to get the grade, rather than engaging with ideas for the love of learning. And it's no mistake that this prepares them for a life of working for wages, rather than to share their energy and gifts to meet the needs of society.

That's just one way that schools are set up to reproduce capitalist relations of production. Those same grades, and the need to pass some students and fail others, create and justify a hierarchical ranking system.

Schools prepare us to believe that capitalism is a meritocracy—if you're economically successful you deserve it and if you're poor you deserve that. It certainly covers up the fact that the rich get rich by ripping off the labor of the poor.

Schools teach science, but we can't ignore the scale of global warming. We must respond to the intensity of global warming with revolution.

We cannot wait to see if the bosses will ever fix the problems that they have created. Just like we cannot depend on the projected reserves of \$4.9 billion that Los Angeles Unified School District bosses refuse to appropriately distribute to teachers and students.

Much as capitalist curriculum in the classroom censors and limits revolutionary education, billions of dollars have their own limits to take care of our needs.

And we cannot depend on the bosses to take care of us. We must take care of ourselves, and we need to take power from the capitalists.

Our need is also to educate the working class in order to recruit students to join a communist revolutionary movement that teaches students the need to build an international party that can mobilize, educate, and sustain our needs.

—Comrade teacher in Los Angeles (USA)



Los Angeles Teachers' Strike, 2019

Migrant Tragedies Call Us to Mobilize for a Communist World Without Borders

As we distribute *Red Flag* to hundreds of immigrant workers at the Los Angeles Apparel garment factory, I realize that their faces are hardened by a lifetime of fighting to survive under an exploitative capitalist system. They are the ones who have survived the long and dangerous journey to the US.

Multitudes of our siblings worldwide do not survive that terrible journey that they were forced to take from their birthplaces.

Near the coastal city of Crotona, Italy, 59 migrants, including 11 children and a newborn baby, died when their overloaded boat sank.

Near Sofia, Bulgaria, 18 people, including a child, were found dead in an abandoned timber transport truck.

More than 800 migrants died trying to cross the US-Mexico border in 2022, the deadliest year on record. Thousands more disappeared during the journey; their fate is unknown.

Fascist Trump's presidency featured attacks on immigrants and candidate Ron De Santis is following suit. One Trump-era policy denies asylum requests at the US border, forcing desperate people to apply from a so-called "safe" third country like Mexico. The Biden administration plans to reinstitute this vicious policy when Covid-era Rule 42 ends.

There's nothing safe about the border regions of Mexico! Coyotes stoned two migrants to death on the border in February. A seven-year-old boy died the same day his family was scheduled to cross the border. He couldn't get the medical treatment in Mexico that would have saved him in the US a few days earlier.

A relative of a *Red Flag* reader was raped by coyotes in Mexico and then denied asylum in

the US. At least she has not been deported. Many garment workers have similar personal tragedies.

Politicians of all stripes bicker about immigration reform, but none of them will effectively change the situation for the migrants who cross vast oceans and deserts to escape the horrors of capitalism.

We need more than the spontaneous efforts of outraged individuals and liberal organizations to help the few immigrants they can. We need to understand that capitalist social relations of production are the real cause of the crisis, and that communist social relations are its solution.

Private ownership of the means of production means that workers are expendable wage slaves whose survival depends on finding work. Labor-power becomes a commodity which comes under the exclusive control of capitalists who drive down its cost to maximize their profit. With private property come nations, borders, war, starvation, and all the horrors associated with them.

Communist social relations, in contrast, include public ownership and control of the means of production by the working masses. We will abolish money and borders. Our labor power will be used collectively to produce for the needs of all.

This requires mobilizing the masses for a communist world to destroy the criminal and inhuman capitalist system.

Communism will free our class to destroy the last vestiges of xenophobia inherited from the old system. Workers from anywhere will be able to work and socialize with other workers everywhere.

Garment workers who read *Red Flag* in Los Angeles today, with their siblings worldwide,

will bury deadly capitalism and create the communist world we all deserve.

Help us take this message to the streets on May Day, International Workers' Day!

— Comrade in Los Angeles (USA)

Questions About Racism

At a recent Seattle collective meeting, I raised questions about ICWP's line on racism. The collective thought these questions could be discussed with friends, co-workers and comrades in many areas of the work. I hope these discussions will be written up and sent to *Red Flag* so we all can benefit from them.

What exactly is racism and what does it mean to end racism? How does racism differ from other forms of tribal resentment? Is it accurate to say that people were already doing racism—perhaps in other forms—long before they invented capital?

What is the plan to get from here to 0% racism? What would you do to end racism? I understand through conversation with *Red Flag* journalists that communist revolution cannot end racism. Rather, the revolution would lift the final impediment. In other words, we will never see 0% racism until after communist revolution.

If this is true, then a few questions follow. How close can we get to 0% racism right now, before communist revolution? What concrete steps would you take to eliminate racism, both the pre-revolutionary X% and the remainder?

What could interfere with this plan? The process to end racism is obviously going to be difficult. What are the most credible risks to achieving 0% racism, both before and after communist revolution? How would you deal with these risks?

—Reader in Seattle (USA)

ONLY THE DESTRUCTION OF CAPITALISM CAN END RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST DALITS

SAN JOSE (US), March 6— “When I was five years old, my mother used to clean toilets in the streets,” said a Dalit resident of Seattle who came in support of a Seattle City Council resolution to ban caste discrimination. “If by accident, I touched an upper-caste Hindu lady, she would curse and take a shower. We were considered ‘untouchables.’ It was a very humiliating experience.” The City Council passed this resolution on February 21.

This Seattle resident was among many Dalits and their supporters who feel that a law against caste discrimination will help them, as discrimination still exists in the United States.

The humiliating experience that the five-year-old faced continues today in South Asia. In many cases, it is much worse. Rapes and lynchings of Dalits are common in India. When a resident of Hathras was gang-raped, police tried to cover up evidence when her dead body was burnt in the middle of the night. All four accused were freed by the trial court. They were garlanded by supporters of the ruling party BJP.

A leftist journalist came to Hathras to investigate police collusion. He was quickly arrested by the draconian Unlawful Activity Prevention Act (UAPA). The fascist Modi government modified UAPA so it can declare any person a terrorist. Since the journalist was Muslim, the fascist regime automatically considered him a terrorist and he languished in jail for years.

Racism and Casteism: More Alike Than Different

Many of our friends and supporters are asking how to create a society without discrimination against Dalits. “Workers united will never be defeated,” a boisterous group chanted in Seattle. They were pointing to the fact that racism still exists in the US alongside casteism.

Homelessness in Seattle grew by 14% in 2022. In King County (which includes Seattle) 25% of people experiencing homelessness identify as Black, while only 7% of the population does. Similarly, 9% of people experiencing homelessness identify as American Indian, Alaskan Native, or Indigenous, but that group makes up only 1% of the county’s population. A record number of unhoused people of all ethnicities died in King County that same year.

Nobody trusts “f—ing police,” “they are trigger happy” is the sentiment shared by Black and non-Black residents. Recently, the police nearly killed an unarmed man who was having a mental crisis. The man was about to be shot dead by police when about twenty residents risked their lives and surrounded the victim.

In the US we have seen many Black and Latinx residents killed by police. Many who grew up in poverty end up either in jail or in the army. Ironically, Black people whose ancestors were enslaved are now put in the army to fight for some rich corporations like Exxon. When they

return, too many end up homeless with drug addictions.

It is illegal to discriminate against a racial group in the US. The same is true in India. In India, the 1948 constitutional assembly explicitly proclaimed the citizens to be free from ‘caste and religious discrimination.’ These two of the largest so-called democracies in the world have laws against discrimination but, in reality, it persists. Can Dalits feel more protected in a city that continues racist discrimination just because a resolution is passed?

Some of us in San Jose, including the author of this article, came to the US as professionals in IT (information technology) but we grew up facing obstacles in our lives as Dalits. The Seattle resolution has opened our eyes to the wider picture. As we have been reading Red Flag for years, we feel that the root of the problem is capitalism and only its destruction can end material inequality in our society.

While there are differences between Dalits and what we call ‘race,’ the similarities are primary. We all face our capitalist enemy; they aim to divide us. If we are united for communism, we can build a new society. We take this message to many of our friends. Our professional field in IT gives us many opportunities to spread the ideas of ICWP in different ways to fight for communism.

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“Never Give Up!” Defeat Fascism by Mobilizing for Communism

Last night, the Ambedkar King Study Circle (AKSC) in San Jose (USA) screened the BBC documentary critical of the Modi government in India. A group of ICWP members participated. AKSC meetings are normally attended by about 30 people, but last night there were over 200. The documentary shows systematic anti-Muslim pogroms and at the same time, tremendous fightback all over India led by students.

The documentary is banned by the fascist regime in India. We watched the shortened version. After the screening, the moderator introduced the groups who had sponsored the event. They all were moved by the atrocities of the rulers and resilience of the masses. They

unanimously said that we all have similar problems everywhere from Palestine to Kashmir to vast super-oppressed areas of the US.

The event organizer said we must fight capitalism. This is a valuable reminder because the BBC has always portrayed favorable views of British imperialism. The documentary starts with the 2002 pogroms against Muslims. Around that time, BBC was justifying killing and suffering of millions of Iraqis in the US invasion.

We circulated *Red Flag* to some friends and others in attendance.

The highlight of the evening was the participation of two Muslim men who had seen ten of their family members killed. Their story was captured in the BBC documentary. They are from the UK. Their live account of the 2002

massacre was riveting and full of hope that if we put our right foot forward, things will change. They were yearning for a communist future. One recited a powerful poem, “The Bulldozer.” The bulldozer has become a symbol of hatred in India and Palestine as the fascist governments use them to destroy workers’ homes.

These wonderful men from the UK greeted us warmly when we gave them *Red Flag* and repeatedly said we must carry on our fight. The long conversation continued after the event ended. We talked about cricket and class struggle. We promised to keep in touch and, as they said, “never give up.” We will take their fighting spirit to mobilize more to build communist relationships everywhere.

—Comrades in California (USA)

Amid Capitalist Crisis and Imperialist War

CELEBRATE MAY DAY 2023

Mobilize Masses for Communism

Raise the Red Flag with ICWP

El Salvador - India - USA - Spain - South Africa