

# RED FLAG



## MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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



**CHICAGO (USA)  
JULY 31  
LORETTO HOSPITAL  
WORKERS ON  
STRIKE  
CLASS STRUGGLE  
IN THE USA,  
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### No Quick Fix to Capitalist Misery

#### **SOUTH AFRICA: COMMUNISTS PLAN REVOLUTIONARY TOYI TOYI PROTEST DANCE**

GQEBERHA (South Africa), August 21— We met five workers during our regular *Red Flag* distribution. We offered them the *Red Flag*. We told them that some of us had been in EFF (Economic Freedom Fighters) but now we are in ICWP. Our party wants to eliminate the capitalists who create inhuman conditions for the working class. We need communism and not a few crumbs thrown at us.

These workers opened up to us and started to say, “How can we join? We need change now.”

We told them that they can join ICWP now. “We will give you *Red Flag* so you can distribute it to other workers. We will also visit you regularly and explain the need to join our collectives.”

Some of them were very glad that we were fighting for communism. Others were still insisting they needed an immediate solution, like a permanent job or protection from oppressive work conditions.

When they talked about the lack of safety boots, we realized they were all contract workers. They worked in shops of 50 to 100. There are dozens of such factories where thousands of workers suffer inhuman conditions. Most of these factories are owned by Chinese capitalists. The workers are employed by contractors from two to ten months and then they get fired.

Most of these workers are not paid monthly. They make R26 (US\$1.38 or 115 Indian rupees) an hour. In a rubber factory with poisonous fumes, the owners offer no safety boots, protective masks, or ear plugs to reduce

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#### **GARMENT WORKERS ANSWER GROWING FASCISM BY EXPANDING COMMUNIST WORK**

BENGALURU (India), August 21— “TV news was flashing nonstop, showing hundreds of houses and shops belonging to Muslims that were bulldozed by the fascist BJP government,” said Sangita, who works in a garment factory. “I have been a member of ICWP who reads *Red Flag* regularly. But this heinous crime can no longer be ignored. I need to be an active organizer.” The comrades in the garment factory had an urgent meeting to find ways to expand our communist work in the face of intensifying fascism in India.

It started as ethnic cleansing in Manipur. It has engulfed much of North India. Right-wing Hindu fascist groups’ hate speech is provoking the killing of Muslims in Haryana. The fascists are protected by the police. BJP goons paint Muslims’ properties with ‘x’. The next day they set them on fire, followed by bulldozers.

Many of these Muslim families are migrants from faraway states. They are afraid to travel by train because a police officer, who supposedly oversaw the train’s safety, shot and killed three Muslim men identified by their long beard. As he killed the last man in front of the passengers, he hailed Modi.

“Everybody in my neighbourhood says that BJP is preparing for the 2024 general election in India,” said another comrade from the same garment factory. “Modi himself became famous for instigating pogroms like what we see in North India now. The fascist BJP wants to consolidate its power base. Nobody talks about 25% unemployment of the youth.” She

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## COMMUNIST INDUSTRIAL WORK IN SOUTH AFRICA, EL SALVADOR, INDIA

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noise pollution. They work with their bare hands, many with signs of deformed skin. When they ask for something to protect themselves, the bosses tell them that they must buy it themselves, which costs upwards of R600 (US\$32 or 2700 Indian rupees).

The workers' lunch time ended. We exchanged contact information and decided to keep in touch as they are only a 15-minute walk from us.

Afterward, we started thinking deeply about how to answer these workers who wanted a quick solution to the misery of the capitalist system. We realized that they were not alone. Millions of workers in the world want a quick fix.

Some newer comrades who had been in EFF said that when workers lose jobs, if there were retrenchment, EFF would resort to individual violence, intimidation, legal battles, or blaming 'white' workers. Our party is struggling against these reformist and racist ideas that only pit one group of workers against another. Our permanent solution is to destroy all the aspects of capitalism with communist revolution.

There is no quick fix. But there is an urgent task. We need to make communist ideas mass

ideas. We came up with a creative way to do this.

The ICWP comrades are planning to organize toyi toyi dance in different factory locations. Toyi toyi dance originated in Zimbabwe in the 1950's as a protest against colonialism. It quickly spread to South Africa. During Apartheid, millions of workers and youth learned to dance toyi toyi. The Sharpeville rebellion of 1960 started with earth shaking rhythm of toyi toyi. After police massacred 69 workers, millions of workers mobilized around the world to fight the capitalist system.

The demand of the South African Communist Party was to fight apartheid system, not to destroy capitalism. This reform struggle disarmed the working class. It brought mostly Black politicians to power. The capitalist system has continued its ruthless violence even more severely than in Apartheid South Africa. Billionaire Ramaphosa instigated the massacre of Marikana mine workers in 2012. The endless shacks, shanty towns, dilapidated hospitals and schools tell the

story that wage slavery must end with communist revolution.

Comrades in South Africa aspire to bring this story of toyi toyi with our communist line. We are meeting to organize some 20 comrades for this protest march. More will join as we spread the *Red Flag* to the masses. We are creatively planning the words and logistics of the event. We will make mistakes in this process. But we are keeping in focus the primacy of the communist world.



19 October 2020: Members of shack dwellers' movement Abahlali baseMjondolo toyi-toyi during a protest against the abuse of Covid-19 relief funds in Durban.

### Collective Necessity Overcomes Individualism

Revolutionary Greetings, communist comrades of the world. I am a worker in the maquilas in El Salvador, part of a collective of the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP).

I want to share with you the situation that we as workers currently face in the factory.

Recently the exploiter boss reported that he is going to compensate everyone with only 70% of what he owes us and not 100%, to be solvent and be able to fire workers or close the factory if necessary.

This is the same old story that due to low sales it's possible that he will close the factory. This is a constant threat, which keeps all the

workers under constant stress.

This has led me to consider stopping work in this area of exploitation and going to work the land. But the socialization with my comrades of ICWP has made me not do it. I think that there is a lot of communist political work to be done to end wage slavery.

I see that many women factory workers are getting sick. For others, their chronic illnesses are getting worse: especially high blood pressure and diabetes. This is a product of the poor conditions in which we must carry out our work.

We work with cloth, and it's necessary to wear masks. But the bosses only provide us with masks twice a week, which is not enough. Sometimes they forget to do it. This makes our health deteriorate, including mine.

In the collective meetings we discuss all this, which makes our struggle for communism even more necessary. We organize to make ICWP massive, to build a society without classes and without money.

In Communism there will be favorable conditions for the working class. We will develop whatever type of work is needed with all the necessary equipment that guarantees our health security.

The work will be collective, based on the needs of humanity and not for profit. There will be no exploitation.

—Comrade Worker Struggling for Communism

### INDIA: COMMUNIST GARMENT WORKERS from page 1

spoke of how BJP constantly blames Muslims for the problems and not the capitalist system.

"There are 550 million workers in India. Currently, 62 million have no jobs. More than 300 million workers are on contract and can be fired at any time," the comrade explained. "Every month 2 million people migrate to city slums. These millions of workers are an opportunity to organize our Party.

"The parliamentary democracy is controlled by the richest capitalists to make maximum profit. Here in Karnataka state, when the Congress party won recent state elections, they passed a bill legalizing a 12-hour work week for six days with the same wages as before, when workers had an 8-hour workload."

There was some disagreement and struggle

around the nature of the open fascists compared to the Congress Party, which some consider more tolerant and progressive. Some comrades thought that we can cultivate many groups that work under the Congress Party umbrella.

Others believed that these so-called progressive groups are only interested in narrow issues like identity politics. This is more dangerous to the working class as it divides and isolates workers.

Most workers join Congress and affiliated groups hoping that they are better than the fascists. Our main task in these groups is not to build them but to build our party. We must constantly sharpen our ideological struggle. Liberal groups come across as pro-worker when we don't struggle around communism. Today's

meeting gave confidence to more than twenty new workers who came to our meeting for the first time.

More importantly, how do we guarantee the growth of our party under all conditions? If we build a strong relationship with the communist line, we can build our party anywhere.

One comrade gave an example of his childhood friends who joined the paramilitary wing RSS, which is affiliated to BJP. They were unemployed for several years and anti-Muslim propaganda led them to RSS. However, our friend was able to struggle with them and now they are staunch communist supporters. We have to develop this kind of collective struggle to recruit many more.

As fascism intensifies and as ICWP becomes a mass party, we must be present everywhere with our line.



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## Need Patience, Perseverance, Confidence in the Working Class

### COMMUNIST WORK IN THE “NO TO APEC” MOVEMENT

SEATTLE (USA)—The political battle in the “Say No to APEC” mobilization is far from over. On July 29 - 30, activists in Seattle demonstrated against the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation trade cartel. APEC’s ministers were meeting here.

The International Communist Workers’ Party held a workshop and a contingent in the march. We showed clearly that only communist revolution will end trade wars and the inevitable imperialist shooting wars.

But the fair-trade NGOs are still advertising meetings with leaders of the US Progressive Congressional Caucus. They are promoting the illusion that they can negotiate a fair deal for the worlds’ workers.

Some leaders of the resistance admit that the trade blocs have become platforms to build alliances in preparation for global war. But they condemn only US imperialism. They refuse to condemn other imperialists.

The idea that we can reform capitalism diverts us from the most important struggle. That is developing communist organizers in preparation for ending capitalism with communist revolution.

#### Revolution not Reform

The next site of the anti-APEC fight will be San Francisco. APEC heads of state are gathering there in November. There will be anti-APEC workshops and demonstrations on November

11th-12th.

ICWP and many friends learned a valuable lesson in Seattle. Coalition leaders pushed reform over revolution. But the rank-and-file wanted to discuss communism, revolution, and the experiences of communist organizers.

At the Seattle People’s Summit, two alternatives were presented to the 400 participants. The morning panel presented the first: reform. They wanted more exposure of the super-exploitation of Asian workers. They proposed one global trade union.

One panelist admitted that prior attempts to negotiate better working conditions for Philippine workers never worked and never will.

After this session, comrades debated what reaction to expect to our planned communist agenda at the ICWP afternoon workshop. Should we water down the agenda or launch right into communist struggle?

The 60 or so who attended the workshop in person helped us decide. Many said they came to discuss communist solutions. This, despite the coalition leaders not allowing us to use the word “communist” in our printed introduction.

Industrial workers from El Salvador set the stage with a short report on building communist cells in the maquilas to counter fascism and super-exploitation. Our solution includes building one international communist party. Reform of capitalism and trade union politics cannot get

the job done. Our goal is international communist revolution.

#### Confidence In the Working Class Helps Develop Communist Relationships

We distributed over a thousand pieces of communist literature during

the two days of workshops, rallies, and marches. More than two dozen people gave the party their contact information. These include rank-and-file activists from Seattle, Portland, and Los Angeles.

In retrospect, comrades and close friends had not adequately prepared for the tremendous response to our communist strategy. **Our number one priority must now be to follow-up with these contacts to deepen our political and social relationships.** We’ll learn from these relationships how to overcome obstacles and resolve political contradictions that slow the growth of the party.

In small ways, we are beginning this process. Some new contacts emphasized how much they appreciated the party’s effort to immediately include them in collective decision making.

A few days later, D, a long time Philippine activist, expressed his doubts. “What do we do if someone disagrees, and we know they made a political error?”

“Obviously, the party has a political line,” answered a comrade. “But the way we advance that line must be anchored in concrete practice and confidence in the working class.” D responded, “That might be right.”

We’ll have lots of time to deepen the discussion about how we work with trustworthy people who have political and organizational differences. D and his friends are going to San Francisco in November.

Our work there will certainly present more contradictions. Learning how to resolve contradictions in a comradely manner will help develop communist organizers and contribute to the party’s growth.

The positive response to our communist efforts has built revolutionary enthusiasm among party members and friends. It will help us find the perseverance and patience we need to follow up the party’s many new contacts. It will mark the path to communist revolution.



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#### Fighting for Communist Revolution and a Communist World

Comrades from the US, El Salvador, and India went to a two-day anti-APEC event in Seattle (USA). We proposed communist revolution as the remedy to the conditions that lead to multinational imperialist alliances and capitalist war.

I attended a workshop where I was able to give a communist perspective to the discussion of US-led preparations for war with China. The workshop centered on the US as an aggressor. It is an aggressor, but so is China. Inter-imperialist rivalry over resources, trade routes, and markets has increased to remedy the capitalists’ crisis of overproduction.

A role-playing exercise tried to show the working-class struggle against the ruling class. But it offered no answers for how to stop the conditions that led to this buildup.

I explained that communism was the only answer to stop the capitalist machine from exploiting workers. We would end the use of money, private property, borders, and racism, sexism, xenophobia, and other capitalist ways to divide the working class.

ICWP comrades led the next workshop. There was great participation and critical thinking. A comrade from El Salvador presented about the struggle there. Another summarized the history of communism in El Salvador. The comrade facilitator laid out thoughtful questions.

Many people stayed afterward to talk and give us their contact information.

The march on Sunday started late. That gave us more time at our ICWP table with our paper, flyers, pamphlets, and sign-up sheet. We had lengthy conversations with several people who left their info and took literature.

We marched with our ICWP banner. Comrades passed out about 500 *Red Flags*, a similar number of communist flyers, and dozens of pamphlets about the communist fight against racism, sexism, and attacks on migrants.

Then we talked about how we would write about our experience. This is my contribution. Long live Communism! Power to the workers!

—Comrade in Los Angeles (USA)

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## Strike Against Wage Slavery

### FIGHT FOR THE COMMUNIST WORLD WE NEED

The world is in turmoil. There is an undeclared war raging. It is a class war: the working class against the capitalist class!

This struggle must end in a revolutionary war for world communism. Only a communist world can satisfy all the needs of our class in a healthy environment.

This struggle is intensifying. We live in pre-revolutionary times: the toiling masses can't live in the old way.

Witness the massive working-class rebellions exploding from France to Sri Lanka, from Peru to India, from Lebanon to Sudan, and beyond.

In the US, the sharpening class struggle points in that direction. A rising wave of strikes, or threats of strikes, has recently hit the country.

Last December, President Biden intervened to prevent a strike of railroad workers. Early this year, west coast dock workers staged a series of walkouts. UPS workers threatened a nationwide strike. Writers have been on strike since May, and actors since July.

In Los Angeles, school workers struck, supported by a teachers' walkout. Hotel workers have walked off their jobs intermittently since July 4th. LA city workers struck for one day.

When we take our communist literature to workers on the picket lines, we find that many question capitalism and are open to revolutionary communism. Workers welcome us.

We have good conversations about wage slavery, and a communist world without money or bosses. We meet workers who want to talk more. Who ask for more literature for coworkers and friends.

Auto workers nationally are threatening to strike on September 14. That would be an opportunity to bring communist solidarity to the picket lines and to our workplaces.

#### Let's Organize Strikes against Capitalism to Inspire Our Class for Revolution

Workers have been striking ever since the

birth of capitalism over 500 years ago. Why do we have to strike to get a meager fraction of the wealth we produce to just barely survive?

We don't have to! It's time to break this vicious cycle of exploitation and strikes. Only communist revolution can do this. We need to mobilize the masses for that!

Instead of striking for reforms, let's organize strikes against capitalism and its murderous wage slavery. Officials of the United Auto workers say a strike against the "Big Three" auto manufacturers could be "historic."

A historic strike would attack capitalist wage slavery. It would inspire industrial workers internationally to fight for production for need, not profits. For a communist society where workers' health and safety are primary.

It would deepen the workers' understanding that successful reforms (at best temporary!) only perpetuate capitalism and its horrors.

Wages chain us to the capitalists. A society without money – a truly communist society – will break those chains forever.

#### Reform Class Struggle versus Communist Class Struggle

Over 175 years, the international communist movement mobilized hundreds of millions of workers worldwide to end capitalism through revolution. The Russian and Chinese Revolutions triumphed, but they, and all other attempts, failed to eliminate capitalism. Why?

Because their strategy was to mobilize workers for revolution through mass reform struggles. They fought for unions, higher wages, health insurance, pensions, but put off the fight against capitalism itself.

Their biggest reform was socialism. Socialist workers' power, they thought, would lead to communism. But it couldn't because socialism was state capitalism. It kept money, wages, profits, and wage slavery. The communist rulers became the new capitalist-imperialist enslavers.

#### ARE STRIKES A SOLUTION?

"I know about the one-day strike of 11,000 city workers," said the MTA bus driver. "It's great."

"Striking is good," said an ICWP comrade, handing her *Red Flag*. "It inspires other workers to strike. However, what we strike for is even more important."

"Workers have been striking for generations. If nothing changes, our great-grandchildren and their great-grandchildren will still be striking. We must end this vicious cycle. We need something different."

"I agree with you. We need something different," repeated the driver.

"Reforms like higher wages and more staffing," continued the comrade, "even if won, eventually are taken away. Inflation eats whatever raises we get. The capitalists couldn't care less that overtime disrupts our lives and health!"

The driver agreed. Then she said, "I tell coworkers that we should also strike to get what we need."

It's a contradiction. She likes revolution. But she still hopes reform will work.

Capitalism's reforms aren't solutions. We remain wage slaves in a period of growing attacks, racism, fascism, and war.

Communist revolution offers the only viable solution. We need to get to know her better to help her see that it's the real alternative.

— Comrade in Los Angeles (USA)

Today Russia and China are challenging US imperialism for world domination – leading to World War III.

Communist class struggle means mobilizing the masses for revolution, but not through reforms. Instead, by raising the need to destroy capitalism through communism.

In strikes and demonstrations, we raise the slogans: Abolish wage slavery and money with communism! Communist revolution will end racism, sexism, nations, xenophobia, and borders!

#### Communism is our future.

Communism means a life of collectivity and sharing, free of exploitation and the horrors of capitalism. Where we all contribute according to our ability and commitment and receive according to our need. Where relations of collectivity, not money, bind us together. Where we can all reach our full potential as human beings.

Join us!



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#### Los Angeles City Strikers Welcome Communist Literature

I walked from my car to the Los Angeles (USA) city workers' strike rally. I talked and gave *Red Flag* to everyone I could who was in my path. I had great short conversations with some workers who initially didn't want a communist newspaper. But after I explained that *Red Flag* talks about similar strikes and situations worldwide, and the leaflet talks about building a communist world for the working class, they took it.

The leaflet "Strike Against Wage Slavery; Fight for the Communist World We Need" was well received. Four comrades distributed close to 700 leaflets and about 165 *Red Flags* among about 3000 workers.

An older worker explained he was going to retire in a few years. He complained of corruption and poor working conditions. I offered that in a communist world we would all contribute according to our ability and commitment and get what we need. I asked if he and his wife would like to have dinner with comrades and talk more. He said enthusiastically, "Of course!" He gave me his phone number and I thanked him. We've talked since then and will be getting together.

—Comrade in Los Angeles (USA)

## ONLY COMMUNIST REVOLUTION WILL END CAPITALIST REPRESSION

EL SALVADOR, August 13— “It’s concerning to see how the current Bukele regime is again taking up old strategies from past governments, through its punitive forces. He is jailing community leaders in the Santa Marta Community under alleged charges,” commented J.

Seven months ago, arrest warrants were issued for six community leaders. Five are under arrest. They are members of the Association for Economic and Social Development (ADES). The government is accusing them of an alleged crime during the armed conflict in the 1980’s. This is just a smokescreen for capitalists’ thirst for profit. And for the current government’s desire to win the next elections.

“The revolutionary struggle during the eighties emerged as a response to the government’s barbarism, massacring, subjugating, and exploiting the working class,” said R. “I know of the difficulty there was in reaching a real reconciliation, without the imperative of justice for all the victims, in the 1992 peace agreements between FMLN and the government.”

The environmentalist Peter Nataren, vice president of the Santa Marta New Heroic Community Cooperative, reported, “In recent months, Peruvian consultants from international mining companies have begun to appear. They are being paid by a Chinese company whose headquarters and project are in Peru.”

The community leaders imprisoned in that area were among the main promoters of an anti-mining law, approved in March 2017 by Congress. The law prohibits exploration, extraction, exploitation, and processing, whether open or underground,

Despite constant protests for the release of the leaders, the government has not responded. We



know perfectly well that in the capitalist system, gold is worth more than life. Exploitation and profits are worth more than the working class and the environment.

Comrade workers, we know that capitalism will never stop degrading and exploiting the mines that kill by contaminating workers’ water. All so that the ruling class will continue subjugating workers and filling their own pockets.

We must fight to completely get rid of this system of destruction. We must fight for a communist society that ends environmental degradation, exploitation of the working class, and wage slavery.

The growth of the International Communist Workers’ Party is key because our party fights

directly for communism. Growth will happen if the work is determined and constant. Both industrial workers and soldiers are crucial in the party’s revolutionary struggle.

In communist society, we will work collectively based on the needs of the collective, without social classes. Nothing will be bought or sold. We will live in a world without money. All necessary metals will be extracted in a way that does not endanger anyone’s life. There will be no over-exploitation of resources.

And to achieve this we must mobilize massively. Let’s unite more comrades in the fight for a communist revolution. Join our ICWP. Let’s organize for communism!

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### Red Flag Opened My Eyes

I am a reader of *Red Flag*. Thanks to a comrade, I became aware of the newspaper. I remember that the first few times, because of my job, I honestly did not read it well, or half read it. Until one day we got together and discussed it. From then on, I became more and more interested until I was the one asking if the new edition was out yet.

I really like the articles you publish. I have identified with many struggles in other countries. For example, about how we are exploited, because it is the same thing we experience daily in our work and in the whole country.

In the last three editions I have been more attentive because I realized and learned in *Red Flag* that it’s not only in Latin America that there is struggle. That was what I had thought all my life.

When I read the article from Seattle about the struggle against APEC, the movements and protests that are taking place in the US, it brought me out of my ignorance. It made me see that it is possible to struggle and leave aside conformity, and that we can win.

For the same reason, I keep up with the information to continue learning. I like it very much because in other media they cover up the real situation. I find all the information in the newspaper interesting and very useful.

I will continue reading *Red Flag* and I will share it so that other people like me can open their eyes.

—Greetings from a friend in El Salvador

### Opportunity to Present Communist Ideas

“I’m not liking this situation anymore. I think I’d better look for another place to work,” said a worker.

“Look, and how much do you think I’m making? Just enough to pay for my return fare,” said another.

These were discussions among two co-workers and a comrade of the International Communist Workers’ Party.

“And you think they won’t have enough money to pay us? What happens is that they do it out of stubbornness. I’ve been working here for three years, and they don’t say anything about my vacations, only about work,” said the first worker.

These are the complaints of the women workers where I work.

But the bosses always say things like, “If production does not increase, we will not be able to pay your wages. Remember that what you produce is barely enough to cover the payroll. We have enough expenses and where are we going to get the money to pay you? You must work harder...and whoever doesn’t agree, we don’t keep anyone here by force. On the contrary, you have to be grateful

that you have work.”

This is the situation where I work. The workers’ discontent is increasing. The bosses’ oppression so they can get richer is more and more unbearable.

I ask my fellow workers “Would you like a better world where we have to work for what is fair, where we produce what we need and not to generate profits for the bosses, where there is no classism and where we can have more time to spend with our families and no longer be wage slaves?”

I’ve told them about ICWP and our newspaper *Red Flag*. My next step is to give them our newspaper and invite them to meetings of the Party collective in which I participate.

—Comrade Worker in El Salvador



## STUDY GROUP ON DIALECTICAL MATERIALISM: QUANTITY INTO QUALITY

**Quantity** is measured in numbers. Some things that are considered quantitative are temperature, age, and hourly wage. This aspect must be measurable.

Quantities go through “intermediate stages.” An example is how a car speeds up. These changes tend to happen gradually rather than instantly. A car cannot go from 0 mph (kph) to 100 mph (or 160 kph) instantly. In getting to 100 (160 kph) it goes through all the speeds in-between. Similarly, children don’t instantly become adults. We must gradually age through the different stages of life.

**Quality** cannot be measured numerically. For example, a car’s color, someone’s facial features, or the taste of a beverage. Qualitative changes can happen instantly. For example, going from being employed to being unemployed. Or turning on a light switch. The light fills the room instantly, not gradually.

**Quantitative changes can lead to qualita-**

**tive changes.** For example, how water turns into steam. When heat is applied to water, its temperature rises gradually. Once it reaches a certain temperature, the water instantaneously changes from a liquid into a vapor. Also, if we remove heat from water, eventually it will turn to ice.

These two examples help us understand the dialectical principle that changes in quantity, positive or negative, will lead to qualitative changes if they go far enough. Like quantitative changes, there can be multiple qualitative changes.

### Example: Distributing *Red Flag*

If we distribute enough *Red Flags*, then we will eventually see a qualitative change. We don’t know the number, but we know that it’s not 10 but maybe closer to 100,000 or beyond. In this process we may experience multiple qualitative changes in our pursuit of toppling capitalism with communist revolution.

We had a lively discussion where comrades shared examples from their lives. One mentioned trying to write something. As they went through several drafts, they noticed qualitative changes happening in their writing and in their interest in the topic.

We debated whether quantitative changes are necessarily number-driven or are they small processes leading to qualitative change. One comrade agreed quantitative change was numerical but also thought that perhaps just processes lead to qualitative change. She said she thought qualitative change came from our interactions when distributing *Red Flag*, not just from the sheer numbers distributed. She gave the example of attending workshops (a quantitative process) was leading to her feeling more confident in writing for *Red Flag* (a qualitative change).

**What do others think?**

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### Maui Wildfire: Capitalist Disaster Shows We Need Communism

Wildfires destroyed the historic city of Lahaina, Maui (Hawaii, USA). Hundreds died. This was not a “natural” disaster. Capitalism caused it.

In 2014, the non-profit Hawai’i Wildfire Management Organization warned that Lahaina was at high risk. Much of that risk was from drought-parched non-native grasses. These spread widely from disused sugar plantations created by profit-hungry imperialists.

These same bosses abandoned the plantations after World War II when tourism became more profitable. Now people fear that Lahaina will be rebuilt for the tourist industry, like Waikiki. Long-time residents might never be able to return.

The plan recommended by the non-profit was only partly put into practice. “It’s just really frustrating and heartbreaking to see that some things could have been done, but we couldn’t find money,” said the lead author of the plan.

Hundreds died because money “couldn’t be

found!” Capitalism only “finds money” for projects that maximize profits for the rich.

That’s why we need communism, a system that won’t run on money at all. We’ll contribute our work to produce and distribute whatever the masses need. We won’t need to buy or sell anything because everything will be shared.

In communism, we won’t have to look for money to make communities safe. Or for anything else. Instead, we will organize ourselves to do whatever work is needed.

In Maui, that might have meant a better emergency response system. Or eradicating the invasive grasses, a legacy of imperialism. We ourselves will determine priorities, not politicians beholden to business interests.

Lahaina survivors showed that we can take care of each other. No official sirens warned them. Neighbors warned neighbors. People helped strangers escape. Afterward, it has been mainly volunteers organizing distribution of food and water. Sharing, not selling – that’s

what communism will be.

The Polynesians who settled Hawai’i did not practice private ownership of land. Western capitalists imposed it, starting in 1848. Many Hawaiian families were forced off lands they had farmed for generations. Like European farmers much earlier, they became wage slaves – often on plantations.

The Communist Manifesto also appeared in 1848, amid massive workers’ uprisings across Europe. Communism will abolish private ownership of land and all other means of production.

Wildfires have devastated large parts of Chile, Greece, Spain, Canada, Kazakhstan, and other places besides Maui. How long will we let capitalism create disasters? What can our collectives do right now to bring communist revolution closer?

—Comrades in USA

## “RACE” DIVIDES US, WHAT UNITES US?

Getting our first job is a truly educational experience! We start so full of hopeful plans. However, what begins as a passage to the world of mature responsibility quickly becomes a harsh reality check. We soon find that all the plans hinge on whether a stranger – the boss – hires us. No job means no plans. *Red Flag* has previously written about the important difference between jobs and work. This article will focus on another important distinction that helps us understand the world more clearly.

This brings us to the main feature of the wage system. It is a class system. At one end are wage-workers (including some “salaried professionals” like nurses and teachers).

At the other end are those who live off profits. They are the owners of factories, mines, and minerals like oil (industrialists), the owners of banks and insurance companies (financiers) and the owners of real estate empires (developers).

Not everyone belongs to these two classes. Take a truck driver, for example. He or she might be a worker, earning a union wage driving for Safeway. Or they could be small business owners operating their own truck. As such they are nei-

ther full-fledged capitalists nor wage workers.

Examples like the owner operator often mislead people into thinking there are no class divisions in the US. In fact, the US is the only Government among the major industrial countries that does not collect statistics based on class. “Class is for European democracies,” George H.W. Bush said when he was President, “It isn’t for the United States of America. We are not going to be divided by class.”

And mainstream liberal America agrees with him. Whether it’s the press and the media, the universities, or the NGOs, they all act as if race and racism is the main division in US society. By talking about poverty, health care, education, prisons, and police shootings almost only in terms of race, they hide the vital role of the class system.

We intend to show that the division between wage workers and capitalist profiteers is the main division in the US. And within that set-up, racism is the main way the wage working majority is divided and weakened.

A glance at the charts will help us make our case. They show the distribution of wealth in the US in 1976 and again in 1999.



The first graphic helps us see the unequal, class division of society. If we carry the image a little further, we can say that those sitting in chairs (not lying upon them) represent small business owners, like the truck owner-operator we talked about earlier, while those standing represent either wage workers or the unemployed.



Then, in the next graphic, as the economy grows, the gap widens. Some small business owners end up as wage workers or unemployed.

It also shows that “WE ARE THE MANY, THEY ARE THE FEW.”

## NIGER CRISIS: MASSES HAVE NOTHING TO GAIN FROM RUSSIAN IMPERIALISM'S RISE IN AFRICA

August 20—A military coup in Niger toppled its pro-US president on July 26. This is the latest anti-French, pro-Russian coup across the Sahel region of Africa. In Mali, Burkina Faso, Chad, and now Niger, masses welcomed military rule with chants against French imperialism.

Many there know French imperialism's bloody history in Africa. More hate France's corrupt neocolonial pawns today. **On top of that, the racist abuse of African immigrants and their descendants in France.**

Niger's new rulers use this anger to mobilize "Volunteers for the Defense of Niger." Their slogan is: "Down with France! Long Live Putin!" But the enemy of your enemy isn't always your friend.

Putin's shock troops are Wagner Group forces. From Syria to Ukraine to the Central African Republic, they've made their goals clear: Capture. Plunder. Exploit workers in gold and diamond mines and the timber industry to make super-profits.

These paramilitary forces extend Russia's geopolitical influence by propping up friendly local rulers.

### Imperialist Rivalry Now Means War

In 1494, the rulers of Spain and Portugal divided South America – as if it were theirs to divide! France and Britain divided the Sahel into "spheres of influence" with the 1885 Berlin Accord. That's why Nigeria is English-speaking and Niger is French speaking even though people of the same ethnic groups live on both sides of the border.

By 1911, imperialists had almost the entire world divided amongst themselves. The main way for an imperial power to expand its "sphere of influence" is to fight another imperial power.

That caused the first world war. Britain and France competed in Africa but allied against the Ottoman, German, and Austro-Hungarian empires. Twenty million died so that Britain could claim control from the Suez Canal to Singapore, from Cairo to Cape Town. France consolidated its hold on west Africa and Indochina.

Imperialism also caused World War II. Did it

start with Germany's invasion of Poland in 1939? The fascist attack on Spain in 1936? Italy's invasion of Ethiopia in 1935? The Japanese invasion of Manchuria, China, in 1931?

Whatever we choose, the result was a defeat for Japanese and German imperialists. Great Britain and France, though on the winning side, lost much of their international clout. US imperialism emerged as the big winner.

But not forever.

### World War: The Need and Opportunity for Communist Revolution

We've described before how World War I sparked a communist-led revolution in Russia. Between 1917 and 1923, mass strikes, mutinies, and attempted revolutions shook many more countries. These included Bulgaria, Austria-Hungary, Finland, Germany, Turkey, Ireland, Argentina, and Mongolia.

The communist-led Chinese Revolution of 1948-49 grew out of World War II. Massive anti-imperialist movements swept south and southeast Asia, the Pacific island nations, Africa, and the Americas.

These movements and revolutions did not fight directly for communism. We think that's why the world today remains firmly in imperialism's bloody grip.

Or is that grip so firm? Are we and the masses learning from the heroic history – and the mistakes — of our class?

### The World Today: Use Red Flag to Unite the International Working Class

ECOWAS (the Economic Community of West African States) is a Nigerian-led coalition allied with the West. It responded to the coup in Niger with sanctions. It has troops on standby.

A few thousand French and US troops remain in Niger. Their stated mission is to fight Islamic



terrorists, now mainly based in the Sahel. If the new government kicks them out, things could heat up fast.

An ECOWAS military intervention would risk triggering a deadly regional war. That would be another proxy war between Russia and NATO. Libya, Syria, Ukraine, and now the Sahel: When would we start calling this a "world war"? When shooting wars break out between China and the US (with Japan and South Korea)?

### The enemy of your enemy isn't always your friend.

The Nigerien masses must defend themselves from their new pro-Russian rulers as well as from French-US puppets. The "Volunteers for the Defense of Niger" will learn this, better sooner than later.

Replacing one capitalist master with another can't end the poverty and suffering that imperialism imposed on the once-prosperous Sahel. Only communist revolution can do that. We call on workers and soldiers everywhere to join ICWP!

Other articles in *Red Flag* explain what communism is and what we can do to bring it closer. Please read them, share them, and discuss them with friends. Do whatever you can to help build our international network of members and readers into a powerful revolutionary force.

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### Capitalism uses Identity Politics to Prevent Working-Class Unity.

Under capitalism the one essential contradiction is between the workers and the bosses. It is only through a working-class communist revolution that we can resolve this.

The capitalist bosses know this. That is why they work relentlessly through their ideological agents, media, books, and education system to divide the workers by imposing different identities on us.

They differentiate and categorise the masses under the guise of inclusivity. In actual fact it is done deliberately to divide. Over time the differentiation and categorisation create prejudices between people. Differences are highlighted and compared, creating hierarchies and supremacies. This creates tribes that compete with animosity against one another.

Nationalism and xenophobia fall under these divisive capitalist tactics. These divisions prevent unity and divert workers' and masses' attention from the real issue. Unemployment under capitalism is falsely explained by saying that "foreigners are taking jobs." Social disorder is explained by saying that Black or Latino or Nigerian people "are violent."

These divisions are mostly created artificially. For an example, in South Africa there are many different "races" which only came into existence less than seventy years ago. Both the colonial and the apartheid governments did this to justify massive exploitation of native and immigrant mine workers.

These racial identities were used to prevent unity of whites and the rest of the exploited workers. Ironically, the African National Congress (ANC) government has intensified these racial identities under the guise of non-racism and inclusivity.

The focus on identity politics is not limited to racialized identities. Even among the Black community here in South Africa, divisions based on language, geography, and tribes are also used to divert attention from the crisis of capitalism under the ANC.

For instance, in KwaZulu-Natal province (which is mainly Zulu) people are accused of coming from the Eastern Cape (mainly Xhosa) to take jobs. The only natural differences between the two tribes are differences in dialect that developed over time. The English colonial capitalists exploited these to introduce Bantustans and pave the way for the apartheid

regime.

As communists, we must fight against this toxic and destructive ideology. We must do so by uniting workers of the world to fight our common enemy, the capitalist bosses.

Communists and socialists of the past, although they weren't fighting directly for communism, showed that working class unity is achievable. Although South Africa is a hyper-racialised society, wherever there was solidarity between workers of different "races" it was the South African Communist Party that led this work.

As ICWP fighting for communism, we must do the same under our own political line. We can build from the composition of the party. It consists of workers from around the world, of different nationalities and races.

Fighting for communism means waging ideological struggle. Having been socialised by capitalist society we are not immune to its ideological poison. Dialectical materialism and collective discussions help us to offer communist responses and solutions to all divisions created by capitalists' ideology and their agents.

—Comrade in South Africa

# Lessons of the 1973 Fascist US-Sponsored Coup in Chile

## ELECTIONS OR INSURRECTION? SOCIALISM OR COMMUNISM?

August 20—Mass rebellions have erupted in Ecuador, Columbia, Bolivia, Peru, Chile, and elsewhere. They are shaking the capitalist rulers to their boots. They inspire workers everywhere.

These rebellions will grow, intensify, and become more frequent. Capitalism's crisis deepens. Fascism intensifies. And the rulers' fight over profits and empire explodes into World War III.

Will our class remain trapped in electoral politics? Or wage armed struggle for socialism, a failed system? Or will we choose armed insurrection directly for communism?

### Chile's Revolutionary History Suggests Answers

On September 11, 1973, General Pinochet led a fascist coup. US imperialism supported it. This ended a deadly illusion of Allende and the Chilean Communist Party. This illusion was that workers can win power through elections.

Salvador Allende was a socialist. He had won the 1970 presidential elections. The coalition that supported him, Unidad Popular, included the Chilean Communist Party (CCP).

The fascists killed Allende. They murdered, tortured, imprisoned, or exiled thousands of workers, peasants, students, and intellectuals. This reign of terror lasted until Pinochet was "voted" out in 1990.

### A Tale of Two Parties

In 1917, the Bolshevik Party led the Russian masses to power. It had only 240,000 members in a country of 150 million.

In 1973, the Chilean Revolution ended in disaster. The CCP had over 125,000 members in a country of 10 million.

The big difference was political line, reflected in organization. The Bolsheviks understood the Marxist principle that no ruling class relinquishes power peacefully. They organized clandestinely for armed insurrection among industrial workers and soldiers in the Czar's army.

Any communist party that fails to do this betrays the working class. The CCP ignored this principle. From its very founding it participated in electoral politics to vote in Socialism.

### Dialectical Materialist Philosophy Crucial to Revolutionary Success

Internal contradictions determine the devel-

opment and characteristics of all processes. That includes the international communist movement. Resolving its contradictions properly determines its success or failure.

Two interrelated contradictions have haunted the international communist movement. First, armed insurrection versus electoral politics. Second, whether to fight for socialism or directly for communism.

The CCP resolved neither contradiction favorably. It started as the Chilean Socialist Workers' Party and changed its name to "Communist" in 1922. It didn't, however, change its treacherous line of participating in electoral politics to establish socialism.

The Bolsheviks, in contrast, properly solved the contradiction between armed insurrection and electoral politics. But they failed to resolve the second contradiction. They fought for socialism, not communism.

### This Error Destroyed the Leadership of the International Working Class

The CCP was not alone. The third Communist International began in 1919 to support revolution worldwide. In 1943, Stalin dissolved it. He wanted to reassure the US and UK imperialists that this was no longer the case. Khrushchev consolidated this betrayal in 1958. The electoral path to socialism became the official line of the Russian Communist Party.

This resulted from fighting for socialism and not directly for communism. We now see that socialism was state capitalism. It kept money, wages, markets, and banks. Industrial managers and high state bureaucrats earned the most. They emerged as a new capitalist class.

By the end of World War II, the Soviet Union was a full-fledged imperialist power. It challenged US imperialism for world domination.

Chinese communists exposed and at-

tacked this betrayal. China became the center of world revolution. The 1949 Chinese Revolution, however, had adapted the Russian socialist model. By the early 1960s, China had a well-developed "Red" capitalist class.

The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution erupted as masses of Chinese workers and youth tried to remove these capitalists from power. Some started building communism directly. They failed because of their own internal weaknesses. But their contributions, and those of all revolutionaries who preceded us, are invaluable.

### The Main Contradiction Remains: Fight for Socialism or Directly for Communism?

We are not doomed to repeat our mistakes! Learning from dialectical and historical materialism, we can confidently answer with a resounding: **Fight directly for communism and nothing less!**

In a dialectical negation of the past communist movement, we discard incorrect ideas and practices while preserving correct ones to advance the process to a higher level.

Let us build ICWP into an international mass party to decide history's course in our favor by mobilizing the international working class for communism.

**Read and distribute *Red Flag!* Join ICWP! Build communist collectives especially among industrial and rural workers, soldiers, and youth. The future is ours!**



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### Workers' Revolutionary Solidarity Key to Breaking Capitalism's Chains

NATO is expanding its influence in contested regions like Ukraine and Taiwan. This follows a predictable playbook. The laboring masses must recognize the ideological struggle as competing capitalists fuel conflicts, pursuing profit and dominance.

Workers must seize power through solidarity, unity and finally revolution. That's how we can dismantle the capitalist agenda of exploitation and oppression.

NATO was once limited to the North Atlantic. It has been consistently expanding. Recently Finland was included in NATO. That further heightened tensions with Russia. It intensified conflicts in Ukraine.

Also, NATO has increased its presence in East Asia. Japan and Korea signed individually

Tailored Partnership Programs near China's borders. This added another layer of complexity.

Multi-national inter-imperialist rivalry is intensifying. This underscores the inherent link between capitalism, fascism, and war. Throughout history, competing bosses' pursuit of profit and control has given rise to fascist ideologies and conflicts.

We must protect the laboring masses from the dangers of fascism and prevent further imperialist wars. For that, workers must actively engage in the ideological class struggle against capitalist bosses.

Facing this, the laboring masses must build international communist solidarity. By mobilizing together, workers can shatter the shackles of inequality and exploitation.

Through this unity, the path to a communist revolution becomes clearer. This path promises

to dismantle imperialist wars and topple capitalist bosses. It can create a world that serves the collective interests of all.

Multi-national inter-imperialist rivalry is escalating. This threatens to deepen inequality and suffering for the laboring masses. The capitalist bosses seek power and profit. Workers must recognize the importance of building international communist solidarity against their exploitative practices.

We must seize power through an ideological class struggle for communism. That is key to breaking free from the shackles of imperialism, fascism, and war. Only through collective action can the laboring masses pave the way towards a world that prioritizes their well-being and dismantles the chains of exploitation and oppression imposed by capitalist bosses.

—Comrade in Los Angeles (USA)