

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

New Delhi, August 2023, green fabric hiding slums during G20 meeting

Shaheen Bagh, New Delhi, February 2020, protesting against xenophobia and demolition of protest sites



INDIA

G20 Summit in India

GOVERNMENT'S WAR ON WORKERS CREATES OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

DELHI (India), September 10— “There is a war going on behind this green fabric”, Mayawati told comrades who were distributing ICWP communist literature.

The government erected miles of green fabric to hide slums as the G-20 meeting is taking place here.

“The policemen constantly harass us, there is a complete lockdown”, Mayawati continued. “The barbed wires prevent us from taking public transport just a few meters away. No medicine, no sewer, damn this government!”

Everyone in these slums had a similar story. The government is trying to hide more than two million slum dwellers to show that India is on the path to becoming the world's third-largest economy.

“Here is our communist literature”, explained a comrade of ICWP. “This war you are talking about can only be defeated by the masses of people like you joining us. Only communism can put an end to the wage slavery that is being celebrated on the other side.

“People like you have built freeways, airports, metro, hospitals. But they have put you in slums with no facilities. There are hundreds of millions like us that capitalism has created around the world.” The comrade had to keep walking as hundreds of police were keeping an eye on every movement.

Comrades prepared a very short leaflet, “Smash G20 war preparations with Communist Revolution.” We went to these locations with our leaflet

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El Salvador:

RESPONDING TO FACTORY LAYOFFS BY MOBILIZING FOR COMMUNISM

EL SALVADOR, August 31— “Look what they are handing out, does this help the fight?” a worker asked a group of workers outside the factory.

Another worker answered, “Yes, the ones distributing it are *Red Flag*,” another worker answered.

“Oh that's good,” concluded the first.

Worker comrade P said, “Thank you, comrades, for coming to support us. The flyer demonstrates the Party's interest in the workers' struggles. Tomorrow, we expect to see the reactions of workers inside the factory.”

We responded quickly to the layoffs of more than 60 workers by mobilizing at the gates of one of the largest factories in the country, which operates in the free-trade zone. It employs more than 600 workers, and we have a concentration of comrade members of the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) there.

We distributed 100 copies of our *Red Flag* newspaper and 200 copies of a communist flyer. It attacked the exploitative capitalist thieves who are firing workers and robbing them of their compensation in addition to their labor. As always, workers gladly accepted our literature.

The current wave of dismissals is a ruse to force the workers to accept the theft of the compensation that they are supposed to receive. This will happen as long as capitalism exists.

Workers' organization must defeat capitalist terror. That means reading the newspaper of the working class and joining the International Communist Workers' Party.

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From India to El Salvador:**COMMUNIST GARMENT WORKERS FIGHT FASCISM**

EL SALVADOR, August 27— “I’m shocked and angered by what’s happening in India. But I’m encouraged by the determination of the comrade worker who says she must be an active organizer. We should follow her example,” said a comrade worker.

“Things also happen here in the factory and the communities. Sometimes we turn a blind eye. We must question why all this happens. We can’t be indifferent,” said a worker, who came to the meeting with her teenagers.

About twenty workers came to the meeting from three factories where the ICWP has friends, readers, and comrades. We read the article written by comrades in India, “Garment Workers Respond to Growing Fascism by Expanding Communist Work.”

Fascism is on the rise in many parts of the world. We are in similar conditions here in El Salvador. Under the government’s regime of exception, large contingents of soldiers and police, protectors of the fascist system, arrive in the communities to intimidate the people.

We organize in a situation of great repression. When the capitalist system is incapable of creating dignified conditions for the working class, and the workers rebel, governments resort to fascism.

The answer to the intensification of fascism in India, El Salvador and other countries is more organization and struggle for Communism.

The factories, where we suffer exploitation by the thieving capitalist bosses, are also the place to spread our communist line and organize a mass party.

“Where I work, we make women’s clothes. Some of the garments we make sell for up to US \$40 each. But we get paid a few cents for each.

The bosses fire workers all the time, for any reason,” said a young worker, who came with his mother. She works in another factory.

We explained that the unions are allies of the bosses. The union being in a factory is no guarantee there won’t be layoffs. Only workers’ organization for communism will end wage slavery.

“We should distribute *Red Flag* there,” said one comrade.

“I’m starting to organize in ICWP. I’m reading the paper. That’s going to help me start building political work there. I must evaluate to whom I can pass the newspaper,” said the young worker.

“You have to start building social relations with other workers,” said another comrade.

Building communist social relations among workers opens the possibilities of sharing communist ideas that are most important to the working class.

We also share the importance of communist philosophy, dialectical materialism, for the political struggle. It helps us understand how the organized working class can make change. Organized, we will make the communist revolution for a classless society.

The work in the factory is an example of this. It shows that we are in constant conflict with the idealist philosophy

of the bosses. They want the working class to think all the exploitation and poverty of capitalism is normal. We’ll continue to study the philosophy of dialectical materialism in the ICWP collectives.

At the end of the meeting there was a conversation with young people who have participated since they were children. They were listening to the discussion along with their parents. They are the future of ICWP.

The next day, one of these young people, who is now a worker, was laid off from the factory. We are collecting various forms of support, moral and economic, for him and other comrades.

We distributed chicken, rice, bread, and sodas before going to the swimming pool and the beach. The recreation is welcomed by the workers’ families. Workers produce everything and deserve all the best.

**INDIA: OPPORTUNITIES FOR REVOLUTION, from page 1**

several days before the recent G20 meeting. As we talked to the workers, it became even clearer that there was a war on the working class. Just weeks before, the fascist government had bulldozed thousands of homes of Muslim workers living in slums surrounded by the posh suburbs of New Delhi.

Our communist ideas were making sense. Many young people were impatient. “How can you explain that 50,000 international G20 delegates are housed in five-star hotels while millions here are sleeping on the streets?” they asked. Forty-three heads of state from the richest countries in the world are here, along with delegations from 115 countries. They are served on silver and gold plates.

“This is how capitalism transforms the wealth produced by workers into the richest capitalists. Only the complete destruction of capitalism, its wage slavery, its money, and its banking system can end this misery of the masses. However, the destruction of capitalism is also the process of building a communist society based on the needs of the masses. We don’t need banks to tell us

how to build houses, hospitals, schools. We, communists, can do it.”

During the week before G20, we had already gained some experience in the neighbourhood. We had to be extra cautious as the government was watching us. However, they had given us the opportunity to talk about communism because millions of people were under lockdown. We were able to talk to many people for hours. Many young people wanted to join ICWP right away. We gave them huge stacks of our literature, which they took with enthusiasm.

G20, BRICS Expansion: US and Chinese Imperialism on Collision Course

Our leaflet said that the G20 is a continuation of the process of world war. The G20 sugar-coats its fascist agenda with lofty slogans like “One planet, one family, one future.” But underneath there is tension between the US and its European and Japanese allies and the rising China and Russia. The G20, chaired by fascist Modi, agreed to a joint declaration that made no explicit reference to the war in Ukraine. The only major “achievement” was a proposed alternative

to China’s “Belt and Road Initiative.” The proposal to link India to Europe via the Middle East was a pipe dream as it was obvious that such a project could take seventy-five years.

At its conference in Johannesburg last month, BRICS added six more members. It also expanded China’s role. China has the largest trade balance with these countries. The world is divided between the US and China. They are on a collision course because these imperialist powers need to capture new markets. The wars in Ukraine and Africa show that more wars are in the future. Some workers in Johannesburg denounced Modi in August as a warmonger, along with Putin and Biden.

We learned from the G20 that whenever we are with the working class, we create opportunities for communism. It gives us confidence that we can advance faster than we think if we are with the workers. They are impatient. They are fed up with empty promises. Our communist alternative gives them a vision for change. We will go back to those young workers to show that, with their help, a communist revolution is possible.

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FIGHT BOSSES' EXPLOITATION WITH COMMUNIST WORKING-CLASS UNITY

GQEBERHA (South Africa), August 28— “It is my first time here and we were invited to come, so I want to know what this is about. What is this party about,” asked a new comrade at the start of a recent meeting. That opened a lively discussion.

Comrade T, who is relatively new, answered enthusiastically: “This party is about workers. We mobilize workers and fight for them”.

Another comrade added, “ICWP stands for the International Communist Workers’ Party. We mobilize the working class for communist revolution and to build a new society free of exploitation”. He continued, “Sometimes this exploitation can be hard to explain to new members, but every worker has felt it. The bosses don’t pay workers the value they’ve created. The value they created that isn’t paid to the workers is surplus value.

“Now often people confuse us for the Union, but we are not the Union. Primarily we are not focused on raising wages although we don’t reject it either. Our focus is all about mobilizing millions to end the very same system of wages instead of a 10% wage increase”.

We explained to the comrades that there is no

way they can grow ideologically in the party without reading the *Red Flag*. We talked about how the *Red Flag* connects us with other workers around the world. It connects us with their struggles.

We then had our regular collective reading of *Red Flag*. In keeping with the women’s month here, we discussed an article on sexism, racism, and exploitation. A new female comrade said, “Yes, bosses would rather have us fighting each and not focus on them”.

Another continued, “Indeed, it’s easy to blame people of other races, but they didn’t give each other the work, the boss did. We need to recruit coloured, whites, and others and unite with them”.

One comrade said, “Yes, because we have more in common with coloured people who work and live within our neighbourhoods than, for example, with Ramaphosa, who is Black. That’s why we focus on uniting the working class of the world and fight the exploitation system and not narrowly focus on race”.

The latter part of the meeting was about logis-

tics. Comrades, especially new ones, will get chances to distribute the paper. Given that our number is growing, we decided that different comrades will go on different days, to give everyone a chance to have this experience.

As a comrade said, “Distributing the paper isn’t just about handing it out. Rather, you try and engage workers and their questions. Hence, we must read the *Red Flag* so that you are familiar with what is written. We can’t expect workers to read the paper if ourselves we don’t read it”.

Throughout the week, the comrades will be distributing the paper. Later, in the next meeting, we will have reports on that activity and progress. We are changing the meeting schedule so more comrades can come.

It was a very productive meeting. There were new faces, female comrades who were keen on learning more about us and communism in general. Also, some old comrades who haven’t been in a meeting for a while came and contributed to answering questions from the new comrades. It was great to see comrades’ comments about the articles, and about sexism and racism in general.



Capitalist Disasters in North Africa

“The ones who should’ve helped the people don’t care,” declared a Moroccan worker. His family members were among thousands of dead after a 6.8 earthquake levelled communities on September 8.

The same is said in Libya, where ten thousand or more are feared dead from unprecedented floods. Storm Daniel breached two dams and swept away a quarter of the city of Derna on September 10-11.

This is a capitalist disaster, not a “natural” one. The dams had not been maintained since 2002. Rival governments in Libya, linked to competing imperialist powers, are leaving many people to fend for themselves.

The workers are the ones who must help ourselves and each other. We must become the earthquake that tears down the capitalist system. The international working class must become the flood that sweeps away the exploiters who care only for the profits they wring from our labor.

As we dig each other out of capitalism’s rubble, we must prepare now to rebuild our world on the communist foundations of collectivity and sharing.

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Mexico: Plans to Realize the Communist Potential

I travel three hours from home one weekend every month to meet up with a couple who are comrades. They always welcome me with lunch before our meeting, to which they invite some of their friends.

Despite ups and downs in our political work, the comrades remain in the party. The youngest daughter, 12 years old, asked at the last meeting: “Since when have I gone to the May 1st march?” She answered herself: “Since I was born?”

Her father said that when violent events occurred in the marches, they stopped taking the children because of the risk. But last May 1, in Mexico City, she and her sister helped distribute communist ideas through *Red Flag*.

They have always found a way to overcome fear. In Mexico there is no “state of exception,” but the bosses’ policy is “reaction all along the line.” There are constant murders of activists and journalists.

There is a lot of potential with this family of

comrades. They have an active social life and many friends. We struggle ideologically so that they talk about the Party with them, and they do with some.

I asked the husband how he had first discussed the Party with the wife. She replied, “Because he was in love and wanted me to know everything about him.”

She continued: “He invited me to the May Day march and his friends were all carrying red flags. I thought that was the thing to do and took one. Then I repeated what they chanted. He had already told me that he was a communist and I didn’t think that was bad, since he was good. He married me and we are still here.”

I said that this was an example showing that we can speak directly about the party with the workers with whom we share our social life. They know that we are trustworthy, and we must trust them.

She read the *Red Flag* article “Work, why it’s better than a job” and other articles that she liked.

We made plans for a meeting with more comrades and friends at the end of the year to revive and continue Party work in Mexico. We hope to have the presence of comrades from other countries.

The visit ended and they put me on the return bus: three more hours to get home. But with many ideas and plans to continue fighting for a communist world.

—Comrade in Mexico



MEXICO CITY, September 8— Over 5,000 students attend a secondary school here. We distribute *Red Flag* in classrooms. Many teachers let us speak in their classrooms. So far, we have distributed 650 papers. It’s our best platform. We explain how capitalism causes humanity’s problems. From youth unemployment and the mistreatment of their teachers to criminal violence. Prejudice against working women and LGBTQ+ diversity. From racism to climate change. For now, many just listen. However, youth are always at the forefront of the fight against injustice. *Red Flag* calls on them to build ICWP and mobilize for communism.

SHIFTING IMPERIALIST ALLIANCES MOTIVATE COMRADES AND FRIENDS TO ORGANIZE FOR COMMUNISM

SEATTLE (USA), September 10—“Since the BRICS Summit and the anti-APEC demonstrators, the most remarkable thing has happened,” reported D, a comrade in the eastern USA.

He was surprised that several of his friends quickly grasped the significance of the rise of BRICS globally in contrast to the decline of the US-led G7.

These friends are workers, students, vocational teachers, and university adjuncts in New York City and Maryland (USA), Ecuador, Brazil, and China. They are struggling to understand how these seismic shifts will affect their work environments. They are thinking more seriously about the need to fight for communism.

J in Portland (USA) was energized by the communist work done at the anti-APEC forums, rallies, and demonstrations. He said that seeing the party put communist struggle into practice was among the most inspiring activities he has witnessed lately.

But he did not have as good a response from his group of anti-racist activists in the Oregon schools as did comrade D. He hadn't understood the significance of the trade-bloc conflicts well enough to explain it to his friends.

J is now prepared to fight harder for communism. The collective worked out a plan to distribute ICWP pamphlets on migration as we did during the anti-APEC activities. His group of anti-racist activists links xenophobia to racism. J thought it would open the door to the ICWP's strategy for international communist revolution.

J.'s plan shows confidence in the masses of workers. His conviction that the masses will fight for more than their immediate economic needs inspired other comrades. International communist revolution rests on this foundation.

Old Friends Learn New Things

Seattle comrades have recently made contacts with dozens of people who are interested in our communist strategy. We have been in touch with some of them and are inviting them to an upcoming barbecue.

That doesn't mean we can neglect our longtime friends. Mobilizing those close personal and political friends is crucial to following up these contacts.

M, a long-time activist, has helped the party for over a year despite some ideological differences. After the BRICS expansion, he spent some time with a comrade discussing our slogan throughout the APEC activities. ICWP included the Chinese-led trade blocs when we said, “Abolish All Trade Cartels With Communist Revolution.” China is also an imperialist power.

“I'm with you with that,” M agreed for the first time. The BRICS expansion made an impact on him.

M agreed that anti-APEC coalition organizers, whom he's known for a good while, were wrong to blame only US imperialism. He is interested in what the ICWP comrades in South Africa think about BRICS. Ideological changes like these driven by communist practice validate persistent communist struggle.

We plan to show the new contacts list to M. and ask him to help us visit them to make our case for communism. We are asking M to continue inviting people he knows to our meetings and social events.

“In politics, when the water starts boiling it is foolish to turn off the heat,” wrote D. Now is the time to step up our efforts to rally our longtime friends and returning comrades. They will help heat up the struggle for a mobilized base to grow the party and build for communist revolution.

EL SALVADOR, from page 1

In a communist society, no one will be lining their pockets at the expense of the efforts of other workers. Production will be to satisfy the needs of the workers.

Currently the bosses steal what the workers produce every day. And they want the worker to thank them for the theft and exploitation of their labor. That is the wage slavery to which capitalism subjects us.

At the factory, as always, we take the opportunity to talk to all the workers that we can. We express our support at this time when the employers and their union leader allies agree to throw workers onto the streets. Some of these workers have been working for up to twenty years.

Others have chronic diseases and need medical attention. Now they are left without health insurance coverage, aggravating their health situation.

We spoke to three women whom we invited to our collective meetings. We explained that we must make a broader fight for system change, a fight for Communism.

We also acknowledged workers who are friends of the ICWP, motivating them to continue in this fight that will lead us to end wage slavery.

The factory is well guarded by the subservient police and soldiers, who protect those who exploit their own kind. But even under these conditions the communist material could be

distributed.

SEATTLE (USA), September 13—Trade bloc wars are growing like weeds in an unkept garden. Every month there is a new trade coalition meeting. In between, US or China are inventing new political-economic alliances. Every bloc promotes exploitation of the global working class. Each prepares for war.

In August, the BRICS alliance (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) added six new nations. These are Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. A staggering 47% of the global population now falls under its umbrella. So does 37% of the world's gross domestic product. The lion's share of energy reserves and other key national resources do too.

The numbers don't lie: BRICS surpasses the US-led G7 in almost any category that counts. No wonder even US longtime allies are flocking to Beijing in search of trade deals.

US imperialists tried to retaliate at the G20 summit in September. They fell short. Nothing substantial was agreed upon. The US hoped to get a condemnation of Russia's role in Ukraine. The final declaration was even feebler than the one drafted at the last meeting, in Bali.

The US is increasingly isolated. The Chinese and Russian heads of state didn't even bother to attend the G20. They are preparing for their Belt and Road forum in October. More than 150 countries and over 30 international organizations have signed cooperation documents. Over 90 countries confirmed their attendance.

“When I first got involved in anti-imperialist political work, the US was the dominant power,” said a Portland (USA) comrade. “That's not true anymore. China and its allies now hold the upper hand.”

China's rise and US decline reflect uneven development among competing imperialists. Each continues to fight for supremacy. They turn trade blocs into platforms to recruit war allies.

Some self-identified anti-imperialists insist the US is the aggressor and the China is just defending itself. The Portland comrade thinks that assessment is particularly dangerous. It promotes nationalism and racism, sacrificing the lives of millions of workers for the sake of one imperialist or another.

“Communist politics can prevent this from happening,” added a comrade in the eastern US, “by taking the communist fight back to the bosses, whichever country they represent.”



We are coordinating to support our dismissed comrades and friends (two women and a young man, members of the ICWP). We plan to make an international collection, to provide either basic necessities or financial aid.

We are also looking at the possibilities of helping them find a new job and to continue organizing in other areas.

After the activity we met with the ICWP comrades to share details of everything that is happening inside the factory and to make new plans to maintain our communist work.

We will not give up! The fight for Communism continues!

US Auto Workers Still Fighting for the “Eight-Hour Day”

WE NEED TO END WAGE SLAVERY, NOT REFORM IT

USA, September 10— “They’re really heavy pieces of steel. I lift them all day. The heavy work means lots of injuries.” James White was telling reporters about installing Ford trucks’ back springs in Louisville, Kentucky (USA).

“Take pills!” he said the company told older workers in pain after their shift. “You can’t live off pain pills,” he said.

The company forces workers into ten-hour shifts. White said, “I only get about four and a half hours of sleep a night. We should have eight hours of work, eight hours of recreation, and eight hours of sleep.”

This was the slogan of US workers organizing a general strike for the eight-hour day in 1886, 137 years ago.

The eight-hour day became US law in 1938, but today auto workers are still fighting for it. Fighting for reforms is futile! Worldwide, 10- or 12-hour shifts and mass unemployment are again the rule.

Communists and anarchists thought that the eight-hour struggle would unite the working class internationally for revolution. It didn’t.

It fostered among workers the deadly illusion that capitalism can be reformed to meet our needs. It helped kill the international communist movement as a revolutionary force. But the old communist movement never learned this lesson.

Two Tiers, Many Tiers

Once, union contracts promised all auto workers the same wage. No longer! In 2007, the United Auto Workers allowed Detroit automakers to introduce a “two-tier system” to “gain back competitiveness.” Now new hires start at \$17/hour – top pay is \$32/hour.

Competition for market share is again sharpening among US, Japanese, Korean, German,

and Chinese automakers. Again they exploit workers more intensively through automation and lower wages. Fewer workers produce more cars than can be sold profitably. This spells mass unemployment and a declining rate of profit.

Capitalists’ desperate competition for market share and maximum profits leads directly to World War III.

Wage Differentials Divide the Working Class

A Ford worker noted, “The companies need the two-tier system because a house that’s divided can’t stand.”

This is true worldwide, where there are many more tiers. In Mexico, auto workers get \$3.25/hour; in South Africa \$4.27/hour; and in India \$2/hour. They do the same work as US auto workers, often for the same companies.

Capitalists cross borders at will to build factories where they can superexploit workers. No reform can change that. Only communist revolution can destroy capitalist wage slavery.

It’s the fight for communism that can unite workers worldwide! Let’s build one International Communist Workers’ Party everywhere, with the one goal of building communism.

Auto Workers Key for Communist Revolution

The UAW contract with the “big three” US automakers expires on September 14. Over 146,000 auto workers may strike. It would affect 1.7 million US workers who work in auto-related jobs.

With a communist outlook, US auto workers could become a key force for revolution, uniting with auto workers worldwide.

Workers produce and move everything in society. We create all value. Capitalist profits

worldwide come from stealing it. Their wage system requires them to divide workers with racism, sexism, national borders, and police terror.

The capitalist parasites live off our sweat, tears, and blood. They discard as useless the billions of us worldwide whom they can’t exploit profitably.

Communism will embrace those unemployed billions as productive workers to shorten our working hours tremendously.

The bosses need us, but we don’t need them.

Our historic task is to bury capitalism with a worldwide revolutionary war for communism. Communism will eliminate capitalism’s threat of “work or starve.” Instead, the masses will work motivated by commitment to meet the needs of our class.

Let’s strike and fight for a communist world without bosses where workers collectively and safely produce only what our international working class needs. That includes safe collective transportation that doesn’t destroy our environment.

Auto and other industrial workers can lead the broader masses to fight for a communist world. They are key for armed revolution and building the communist world of cooperation and comradeship that we need.

Let’s take *Red Flag* to auto and other industrial workers and soldiers wherever we can, including picket lines. That’s an important step toward freeing our class from wage slavery and imperialist war. Let’s build ICWP collectives in industry worldwide.

WILMINGTON, CA (USA)— A comrade handed another worker *Red Flag* at the Labor Day Parade, saying, “We’re fighting for a world without money. No rich, no poor. Communism.” The worker replied, “You’re right. Money is the problem.” Another said, “Yes! We need to get rid of capitalism.”

We distributed 500 *Red Flag* newspapers, all that we had, and 800 leaflets, among about 3000 people. These included unions, school bands, and onlookers.

“We are here to spread the word about the need for a communist world,” another comrade said. “Under capitalism, we the workers are constantly fighting for better wages, better working conditions and better job contracts. But we create everything that exists in this world.”

“That’s right,” a worker interrupted. “We create all the wealth.”

We made contact with several women who live nearby and noticed our rally. We ended the rally by singing the Internationale.



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Los Angeles Bus Driver Takes First Small Step Toward Revolution

“Good afternoon! *Red Flag*?” asked a comrade.

“Good afternoon. Thanks,” said a young MTA bus driver who had taken the paper three weeks ago.

“Things are changing. Capitalism is attacking workers harder. Workers are fighting back. We need a revolution,” said the comrade.

“You guys are doing a great job. Keep it up!”

“We are not going to make a revolution by ourselves. We need organizers. Join us!”

“People are not interested. They are caught up in their own world,” the worker replied.

“Things are changing. Workers are on the move. US autoworkers are threatening a na-

tionwide strike against their 10-hour shifts.

They are demanding: ‘Eight hours of work, eight hours of recreation, and eight hours of sleep.’ In 1886 that was the slogan of US workers fighting for the eight-hour day,” the comrade explained. “That was 137 years ago. This shows the futility of fighting for reforms. We need revolution.”

“I agree with you, but my coworkers are satisfied with having a job, a place to live, and their bills paid. They won’t listen to me.”

“As things change, they too will eventually change. Young MTA workers will never be able to buy a house in Los Angeles. Racism is getting worse. You might be killed for the color of your skin, or for your hair style.”

“You are right about all that but ... revolu-

tion?”

“Everything starts small. A small group can change history, for bad or for good. Hitler and a handful of followers founded the German Nazi Party. It grew into millions and rained death and destruction on millions more. In China, 26 communists founded the Chinese Communist Party. It grew into hundreds of thousands and moved millions to make a revolution in a country of 450 million people. Revolution is a possibility and a need. Why don’t you take an extra paper for a friend?”

“Okay,” she said. “I guess that that means I am starting today.”

“Yes,” said the comrade. “See you next issue!”

—A comrade

THE HISTORY OF THE EARTH AND THE FUTURE OF COMMUNISM

The tipping point was in the 1950s, scientists now say. Radioactive fallout blanketed the Earth. We entered the Anthropocene period. Now, human activity is the main driving force of planetary change.

But humanity is divided into classes. Our massive working class, whose only resource is our ability to work. Versus the tiny capitalist class that exploits our labor and is driving us off a planetary cliff.

Which class will dominate the Anthropocene?

We, and generations before, have lived under the tyranny of wealth. Could that ever change? Could workers take everything – everything! – into our own hands?

Everything changes. Even the bedrock of Planet Earth.

A Short History of Our Planet

Earth formed 4.5 billion years ago as a molten fireball. For half a billion years – the Hadean Eon – its outside slowly cooled.

Some minerals started to form solid but unstable slabs. Slowly, larger fragments formed a thin crust. The quantitative changes in surface temperature transformed the nature of the planet.

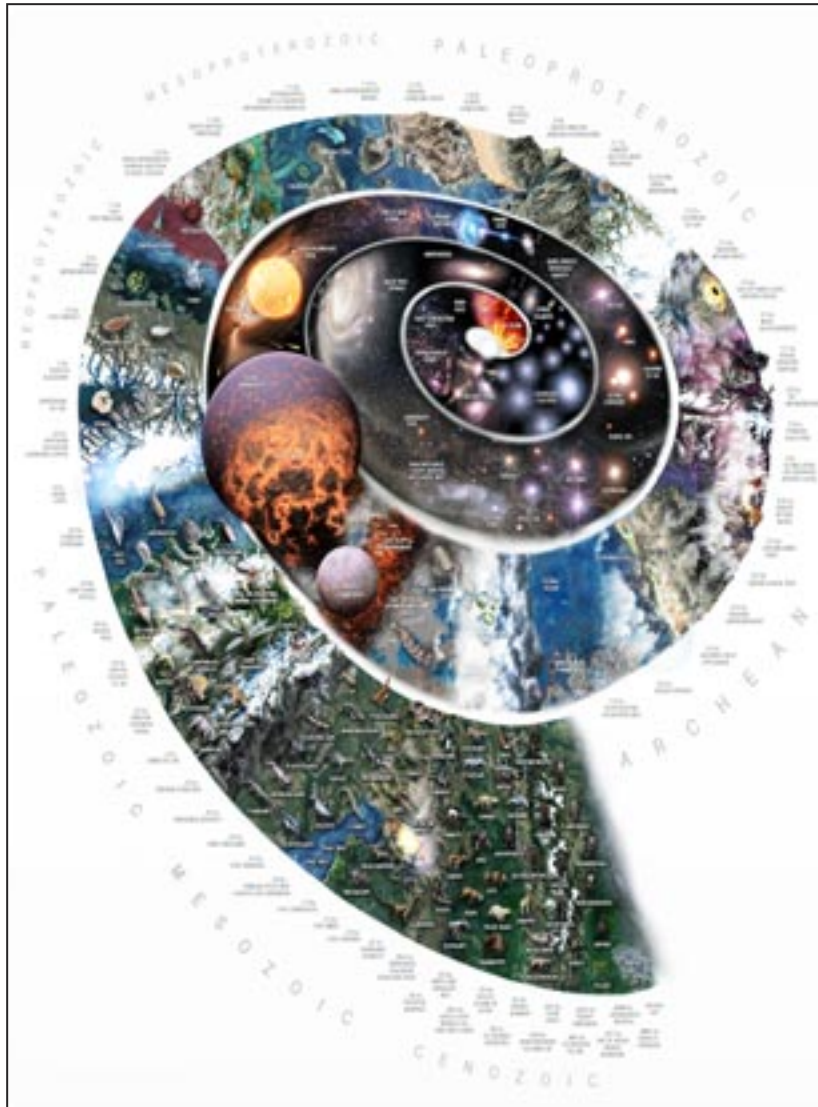
A new eon – the Archean – began. Earth's molten core remained, but something new appeared: the rock record.

Over a billion and a half years, continents began to form. Surface temperatures dropped below water's boiling point. Oceans appeared. We see the first evidence of microscopic life.

The gradual development of life forms gave rise to the Proterozoic Eon, about 2.5 billion years ago. Blue-green bacteria began making oxygen (photosynthesis) and releasing it into the ocean. Oxygen bonded to iron and other elements, creating minerals like iron oxide. Life was changing the planet's chemistry.

A tipping point came when photosynthesis released more free oxygen than minerals could absorb. Dissolved oxygen gas filled the oceans. It eventually bubbled out into the atmosphere, allowing many more organisms to evolve and thrive.

Free oxygen reacted with methane, creating carbon dioxide. The atmosphere cooled. This



probably caused the first glaciation event around 2.1 billion years ago.

The explosion of life forms marked the start of the Phanerozoic Eon, 541 million years ago.

Our Place in Earth's History

We live in the Quaternary period of the Cenozoic Era of the Phanerozoic Eon. The Quaternary started 2.58 million years ago. If the history of the Earth were a day long, the Quaternary would be less than a minute.

Our human species has only existed for a few hundred thousand years—the blink of an eye. But in that time, we've strongly influenced the Earth: its ecosystems, its climate, geology, and even its chemistry.

Nuclear fallout is the marker scientists chose for the start of the Anthropocene. But humans have also created over two hundred new minerals. We added metals and plastics to the fossil record.

Two centuries ago, the capitalist industrial revolution started spewing carbon into the at-

mosphere. Twelve thousand years earlier, the invention of agriculture reshaped ecosystems and even geography.

Human activity has qualitatively changed Earth. We are part of that change.

Communism: The Way Forward

Blue-green bacteria had no idea what effects they were causing. For a long time, humans didn't either. But (unlike bacteria) we can analyze, learn, imagine, and plan. We can consciously shape the future, within limits of course.

Capitalists plan to maximize profits at the expense of workers and our environment. The biggest capitalists (imperialists) plan for war, even nuclear war, against their competitors.

We cannot leave them in charge of the Anthropocene!

The alternative is communist revolution for workers' power. Communism will end the profit system. It will empower us, the producers, to decide what to make, and how. To plan for our future, not for the quarterly balance sheet.

To mobilize our labor and resources to limit and repair the damage. To envision and build the world we need on the ashes

of the old.

Communism will run on relationships, not on money. We will work for each other and rely on each other. We will overcome the racist, religious, gender, national, and other divisions created by capitalism.

Everything changes. Things change slowly. Then they can reach a tipping point where things change fast.

The small things we most need to do right now are those that build communist relationships. Converse with one more person (or many) about communism. Get *Red Flag* to one more person (or many). Ask one more (or many) to share it with others.

Join or build a party collective. Or take on one more responsibility for yours.

We can't always see results from what we do. But these small steps are the bubbles of oxygen that will change our social atmosphere. That will make communist revolution and communist society a reality.

MEXICO: CAPITALIST SCHOOLING VERSUS COMMUNIST EDUCATION

MEXICO, September 8— General presidential elections are scheduled for June 2024. Candidates are using the education system to advance their political goals.

The debate revolves around textbooks that some criticize as being sympathetic towards socialist or communist beliefs. As if leftist content will bring about a communist revolution in Mexico!

Nations have always used textbooks to “educate” our children with the knowledge that the capitalists want our children to know. All schools, from elementary schools to universities, are designed to produce workers with capitalist behavior. The capitalists need schools to produce workers who maintain the status quo of capitalism. Schools are an arm of the Capitalist State.

Recently there has been an uproar about inefficient and outright incorrect information in textbooks in Mexico. This shows how the ruling class in Mexico is desperately trying to create anti-socialist and anti-communist propaganda.

When people start complaining about alleged misinformation in textbooks, it has nothing to do

with better educating our youth. Rather, it has everything to do with tightening control over students and workers. It also shows how groups of bosses are divided over how to control and rule the working class.

One laughable claim is that the current Mexican administration is trying to spread “the virus of communism” in classrooms.

It's not surprising that there are strong anti-capitalist tones in Mexico's textbooks. The fact is that capitalism is to blame for all the problems in our lives. Especially when it comes to “the deterioration of nature and society under capitalist culture,” the title of one chapter in a fourth-grade textbook.

This is true, but it requires more than subliminal messages to organize a communist revolution. And no communist is ever going to care about whether Benito Juarez's birthday is stated correctly or incorrectly in a textbook.

As politicians and bosses fight over what kind of schooling to give us, we must educate and organize students and teachers with communist ideas. We must prepare to destroy their schools

that only perpetuate capitalism.

We don't need their textbooks to organize a massive international communist movement. What we need is a massive ICWP. Our party educates workers around the world to mobilize the masses for communism. For armed revolution to destroy the Capitalist State, including their capitalist schools and other appendages.

Read our pamphlet:

**COMMUNIST
EDUCATION
FOR A CLASSLESS
SOCIETY**

Available at
icwpredflag.org/epe.pdf

“HARD WORK NEVER KILLED ANYONE” AND OTHER CAPITALIST LIES

You can get a job with “good pay” or one with “bad pay.” But you can’t get a job with a “fair day’s pay for a fair day’s work.”

Why? Because the bosses don’t pay you for the actual work you do. They only pay you for your ability to work.

If they paid for the work you do – what you actually produce – South African gold miners would be driving Lamborghinis. Youth flipping burgers at McDonalds (or any other fast-food joint) would be rolling in money.

Let’s look at McDonalds.

Let’s concentrate on the burgers. Put the fries and soft drinks aside to keep things simple. We are using prices from around the year 2000. Today the prices are higher, but the ratios will be similar.

Back then the franchise aimed to sell 147 hamburgers per hour at \$2.09 each. That meant taking in \$308 every hour just on burgers alone.

It took seven workers and one manager – a crew of eight – to make the burgers. Seven members of crew earned \$11 per hour and the manager got \$15. Collectively we were paid \$92.

Working together, our crew made \$308 worth of hamburgers every hour but only got \$92 in pay. The owner got \$216 every hour. There’s nothing fair about that! It’s called exploitation. The owner lives off the labor of their workers.

There’s more. The owner does not pocket all that \$216. They have to buy the raw materials (bread, meat, electricity etc.), take some for themselves (profit), pay a tiny portion for Government (taxes), and pay some to Corporate Headquarters (franchise rent). On top of that, bankers will end up with some of it as interest for the money borrowed to buy grills, fryers, and refrigerators to start the business.

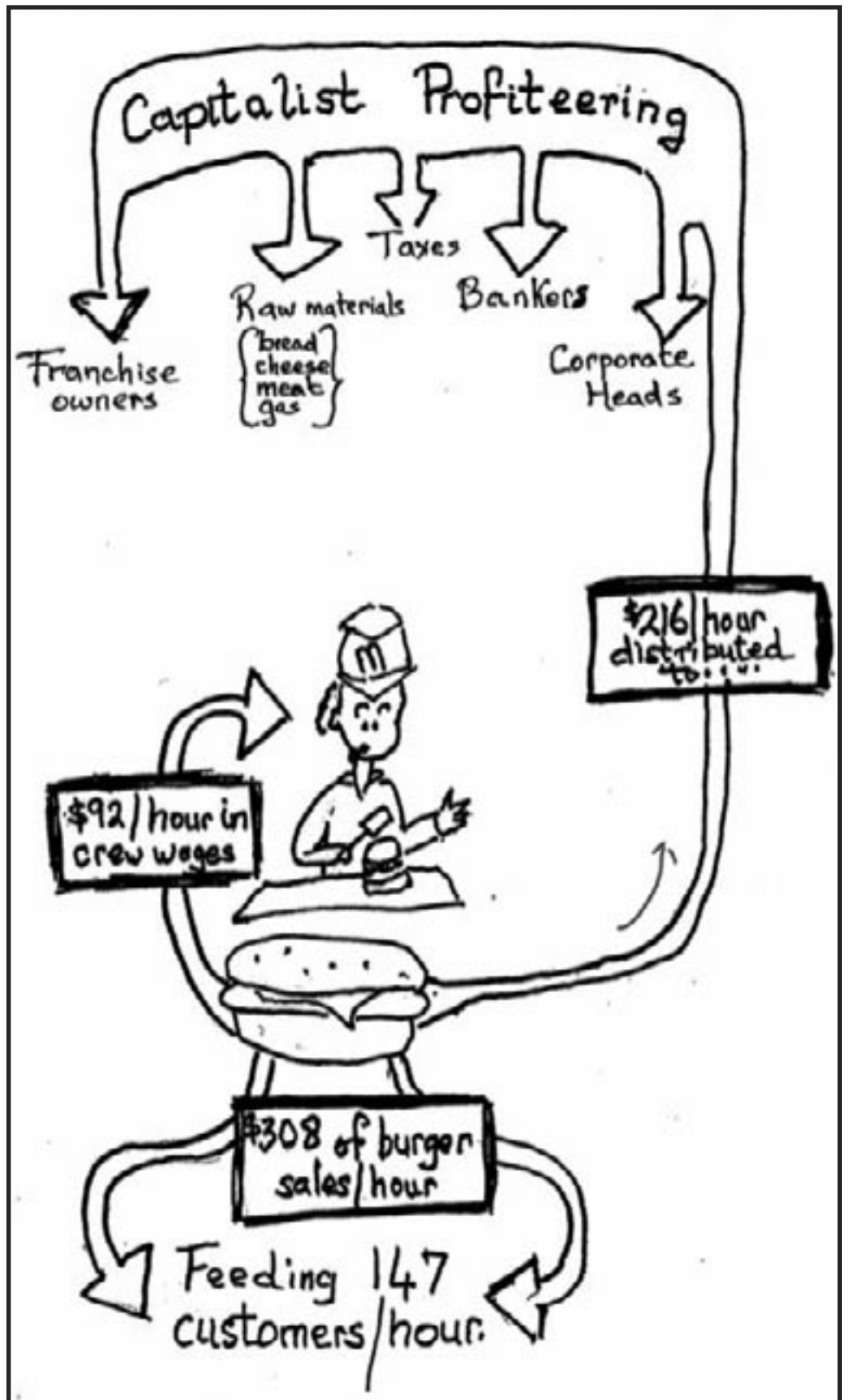
Marginal or central?

All this creates a picture where the worker isn’t marginal or unimportant. Seen through the lens of exploitation, the worker is central to the economy.

Unskilled, semi-skilled, and skilled wage workers create all the wealth in society. The bulk of that wealth goes to the capitalists and their elite managers. The workers get only the smaller part of that wealth in the form of their wages.

If the exploited (wage) workers create all the wealth and all the useful things in society, why don’t we run the society we build?

If we look at it as an individual, the bosses give us jobs so we can earn wages to live. From this point of view, we need the bosses. But looking at it as a collective, the wealth we create supports ourselves as well as all the bosses (and their capitalist system). The bosses need us. We don’t need the bosses!



The Perils of Uniting with “Lesser-Evil” Imperialists

LET’S BUILD INTERNATIONAL WORKING CLASS UNITY FOR COMMUNISM

A rising fascist wave engulfed the world in the 1930s. Western imperialist powers were arming Hitler to march to the East to destroy the Soviet Union.

Soviet leaders thought they couldn’t fight Nazi Germany alone. They led the Third Communist International to adopt the United Front Against Fascism (UFAF) line in 1934. This urged communists to unite with “anti-fascist” imperialists against German imperialism and its allies.

Signing a nonaggression pact with Hitler in 1939 didn’t buy the Soviets much time. But it dealt a blow to the anti-fascist resistance in occupied Europe.

Germany invaded Russia in 1941. That year, the US, UK, and the USSR formalized the alliance Stalin had sought before. Soviet leaders expected to receive major help from this alliance. That didn’t happen.

It was the commitment of the Russian masses and resistance fighters throughout Europe that defeated Hitler. Twenty-eight million Russians and hundreds of thousands of communist-led resistance fighters died to defeat fascism in Europe and the Philippines.

The Red Army defeated the Nazi army at Stalingrad in 1943. They marched triumphantly toward Berlin, liberating Eastern Europe. Berlin fell to the Soviets in 1944. Only then, to prevent the Soviets from taking all of Europe, did the

U.S. and Britain open the second front in Europe.

In 1945, the US bombed Hiroshima and Nagasaki, knowing Japan was ready to surrender—to threaten the Soviet Union. It was the opening shot of the Cold War.

This shows the bankruptcy of a united front with “lesser evil” imperialists who quickly became the “greater evil.” Our enemy is the whole capitalist imperialist system.

We cannot unite with any capitalist or imperialist exploiter, or with their social fascist agents in mass movements.

“United Front” Politics Dangerous Today

Open fascism and war are again engulfing the world. Many now support Russian and Chinese imperialists as “lesser evil” (or even good) alternatives to US/NATO imperialism. That includes reformist leaders like South Africa’s Ramaphosa and Malema.

For example, the Russian imperialists are fighting to control the resources and surplus value created by workers in Africa. In Niger, they exploit the masses’ justifiable hatred of French imperialism to gain support for Russian imperialism. The masses’ real interests lie in fighting for communist workers’ power and production for human need, not in changing imperialist masters.

The main contradiction driving events in Niger is the contradiction between French imperialism

(allied with the US) and Russian imperialism (allied with China). The fundamental contradiction is the masses versus all the capitalists and imperialists, who profit from our exploitation.

Build a Mass ICWP

The masses will defeat fascism only through communist revolution.

The main contradiction driving events everywhere is that between weakened US imperialism versus rising Chinese and Russian imperialism. Both sides fight for the allegiance of local capitalists and to win workers to fight and die for them. Each side vies to pay the lowest wages and to control markets and resources. It is driving wars from Ukraine to Syria. It drives the growth of the BRICS to challenge the G7.

This makes the world more unstable. It exposes the profit system as murderous. It is leading to World War III, possibly nuclear. Our near future is full of danger — and the opportunity to fight for communist revolution.

As ICWP and the fight for communism grow, the fundamental contradiction will become the main one: workers versus the capitalists and imperialists. The struggle for communist workers’ power will drive world events. Communist revolution will resolve both contradictions by eliminating capitalism and imperialism forever.

The communist masses will build a world based on collectivity to meet our needs.

Movie Review: “Oppenheimer”

IMPERIALISM: DEATH AND DESTROYER OF WORLDS

EL SALVADOR— “As the film develops, it shows the Manhattan Project as the manipulation of the destructive power and sadism of imperialism.” This was a *Red Flag* reader’s comment after a group watched and discussed it.

This film brings us face to face with the imperialist rivalry, the war, and the crisis that existed in 1945. Capitalism in its imperial stage had become a system of oppression and strangulation of the working class worldwide. This framed the confrontation between the Allies and the Central Powers in World War II.

The United States wanted to become the number one world power. It disguises the use of the atom bomb in 1945 as “necessary” to end the conflict and lay the foundations for peace.

Oppenheimer defends the use of the atomic bomb: “They will not fear it until they understand it, and they will not understand it until they have used it.” Oppenheimer is the film’s focus, not the atom bomb’s victims.

The movie does not show the full horror and devastation experienced in Japan after the bombing. 214,000 workers and family members were incinerated. Many survivors suffered radioactive effects, cancers, discrimination, and social rejection.

All this even though the United States knew that Japan was about to surrender. It was just an imperialist strategy, a direct threat to Russia to stop its imperialist expansion.

It forced other US allies to accept that the new world order would be led by US imperialism with its IMF and its World Bank.

The film also does not show the impact of the bomb elsewhere.

The Trinity test in New Mexico, on July 16, 1945, was the first-ever detonation of a nuclear weapon. The United States Army conducted it as part of the Manhattan Project of Los Alamos National Laboratory.

It released large-scale radiation over areas populated primarily by Hispanics and Native Americans. High levels of

radiation cause deaths and cancers to this day.

Later, the US exploded a hydrogen bomb a thousand times more powerful than the Hiroshima bomb over the Marshall Islands, a Pacific archipelago. Several islands were vaporized. Many people died. Others suffered birth defects and battled cancer. In total, 67 nuclear explosions occurred there between 1946 and 1958.

Capitalist imperialism has hidden the historical events on which the film is based. Obviously, the ruling class does not care about life or the environment, but only about its power.

Capitalism and Imperialism = Death and Destruction

Comrades and friends discussed and criticized the film. C concluded: “Capitalists only seek to maximize profits. They live by competing. They do what they do best: money for a few and the masses are still hungry. That is why they always need imperialist wars to remain the most powerful, thus defeating their enemies.”

“In the middle of a new European war, the Yankees (US) and NATO use Ukrainian people as cannon fodder. The UN is inert in the face of

ethnic cleansing by the Russians, threats of tactical nuclear bombs, thousands of civilians killed by cluster bombs, only to mention what is visible on the western side of this media war,” R added.

The capitalist class maintains control through violence. We said that only communist revolution can end imperialist wars, racism, sexism, borders, and exploitation. We encourage other readers to watch and discuss it as well.

Life Depends on a Communist World

The rulers use nuclear war as a threat against the communist revolution, to build pacifism, and to try to get people to accept a “lesser evil” imperialist. We will not be intimidated into passivity. Nor will we side with one imperialist over another. ICWP needs to mobilize masses of workers, youth, and soldiers to fight for communist workers’ power.

If the rulers threaten to use — or do use — nuclear weapons anywhere in the world, the workers of the world must and will mobilize to end their rule forever! Neither nuclear blackmail nor nuclear war will stop the communist-led working class from making revolution.



March 1, 2014: Marshall Islanders protest on 60th anniversary of US hydrogen bomb test that destroyed Bikini Atoll.

DIALECTICAL MATERIALISM: COMRADES DISCUSS “NEGATION OF THE NEGATION”

Comrades had a lively discussion during the third Zoom meeting of ICWP’s Dialectical Materialism summer project. Afterwards, comrades felt more confident in understanding, applying, and teaching the law of negation of negation.

This law states that development takes place in a three-stage cycle. (1) The original state of the object. (2) Its transformation into its opposite. (3) The transformation of the opposite into its own opposite.

Comrades presented a PowerPoint with good visuals. For example, we can see the law of the negation of the negation in the development of a barley seed. We begin with the original state of the seed. (2) The seed germinates, producing a plant. (3) The stalk dies, leaving as many as thirty seeds.

The brand-new seeds all seem identical to the original. But the new seeds can never be the exact same seed. Some characteristics are kept, and some characteristics are new.

Comrades generated more examples.

“The three laws of dialectics are intertwined. One leads to the other,” said comrade Leslie in El Salvador. “I think that the negation of the

negation are infinite processes, as well as the contradictions.”

Negation of the Negation: Human Society and the Goal of Communist Revolution

The earliest human societies used land in common with no private property. Next came the development of class societies that abolished common ownership and created private property. This is true of the capitalist society in which we now exist. The third stage is in the hands of the working class: to abolish all private property with communist revolution.

When we say processes are infinite, we mean they have no end. This sparked some thoughts in a new comrade in Los Angeles.

“Is the negation of the negation an infinite process?” Jancarlo asked. “And if so, will communism be negated?”

Leslie answered this excellent question. “There will always be contradictions and there will always be negations of the negation. They won’t be the same processes, but new ones will always arise.”

Another comrade chimed in that this is why it is important to consider all three laws of Dialectical

Materialism to better understand the negation of the negation.

“Quantitative changes lead into qualitative changes because of primary internal contradictions,” explained Perla. “The qualitative changes are the changes taking place in the negation of the negation.”

“When we achieve a communist society, we have completely new contradictions to deal with. With property ownership abolished, we will change society with more advanced use of natural resources without worrying about capitalist profit.”

The changes to come after we achieve communism will include changes that will transform human civilization into a far more advanced way of living for the entire working class of the world.

When it comes to dialectical materialism, and the negation of the negation, we preserve something and destroy something. In a genuine communist society, we will destroy private property and preserve our natural human behavior of caring for one another.