

ESPAÑOL ADENTRO

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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



EGYPT: ABOLISH WAGE SLAVERY BY SMASHING ALL BORDERS

I have participated in daily demonstrations against the fascist war in Gaza. It is perhaps hard for you to imagine the roaring masses who kept saying “Open the border!” “We are millions, and we will join you with our guns.”

Egypt has very high unemployment. I can safely say that almost every unemployed person in Egypt is in the streets expressing their desire to join in urban warfare against the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF). The anger of the masses is spilling into all the countries in the Middle East. All these rulers have nothing in common with the suffering of the workers in Gaza. Their interests are in making opportunist alliances to make sure the oil flows uninterrupted to China.

I really appreciate your analysis in the pages of *Red Flag*. I agree that only communism will end wage slavery by smashing all the borders. I am talking to all my neighbors about *Red Flag*. Many don't understand English, but I can translate it for them. The comrades' mood changes when we say, “communism is the only solution.”

I want to formally recruit them to ICWP. Please print more pages of *Red Flag* in Arabic. We also know many other comrades in Jordan. Our ideas are going to change the face of the earth.

“Open the border” rings in my ears.

—Comrade in Egypt

Mass Anger and the No-to-APEC Actions

END GENOCIDE AND IMPERIALIST WAR WITH COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

SEATTLE (USA), October 23— “I can't stand this propaganda anymore,” shouted a Boeing retiree comrade. “When people demonstrated and pointed out that the residents in the Gaza Strip were trapped and being slaughtered by the Israeli army, they were attacked by the media and the US government,” he raged. “Our government has helped entrap these people for decades now.”

Masses are furious. So are we. Our response must be to build the International Communist Workers' Party and destroy capitalism.

Masses will protest the APEC trade bloc meeting in San Francisco on November 11-12. The imperialist rulers have organized themselves into competing trade blocs. These alliances only result in greater exploitation of our class.

Demonstrators from up and down the US West Coast care about more than this one issue. Imperialist powers like China and the United States use these trade blocs for organizing allies for global war.

Many thousands have rejected imperialist propaganda. The angry masses at the No-to-APEC rallies need to hear our communist call to action.

The ICWP prepares for the masses to end capitalist exploitation and war everywhere. That means revolution for a true communist society. This is the only way to eliminate super-exploitation and global war.

In communism, comradely relations, not money, will bind us together without nations or borders. We fight directly for communism, not socialism. Socialism kept money, wages, and production for sale. In communism, the mighty working class will share resources. We'll produce only to meet human needs.

National Liberation... or Communism?

Some have trouble rejecting nationalism and self-determination. Embracing national liberation makes sense to many working-class [See NO-TO-APEC ACTIONS, page 2](#)

SEE INSIDE

ISRAEL-GAZA: END GENOCIDE WITH COMMUNIST REVOLUTION, PAGE 8

BRING COMMUNISM TO THE ANGRY MASSES, PAGES 2, 3, 4, 6, 7

MYTHS OF DEMOCRACY: US RULERS IN CRISIS, PAGE 4

COMMUNIST PHILOSOPHY AND CLASS STRUGGLE, PAGE 7

FIGHTING FOR COMMUNISM IN THE MOVEMENT AGAINST GENOCIDE IN GAZA

From Kurdistan to Palestine: Need Class Perspective, Not Nationalism

A friend in London is an undocumented worker from the Kurdish part of Turkey. We have been in regular contact around *Red Flag* for years. When the Gaza war started, we began talking about the demonstrations planned for London.

My friend did not agree with our position on Kurdistan. He thought it should become a nation. We had a long conversation about what the two-nation theory did to South Africa and India. It has created havens for the multi-billionaires.

I explained that Adani of India is investing massively in an oil pipeline from Turkey to the Kurdistan areas of both Iraq and Turkey. Just a week before the start of the Gaza war, Erdogan of Turkey had started negotiations on that pipeline. Adani benefits from the two-nation theory and now he is going to occupy Kurdistan for oil. I also gave the example of South Africa, where Apartheid created many Black millionaires, including Ramaphosa. The masses of Black people are still very poor.

My friend took the ICWP leaflet to the London demonstrations. He reported that almost everybody was talking about 'free Palestine.' But our conversation affected what he did at the demonstration, where he engaged with other Kurdish people who came with him. They all took the leaflet and said they would read it. It was very nice to see him struggling with other friends, and we asked all of them to join our party.

— International Comrade

An Injury to One is an Injury to All!

The events in Gaza are not isolated. They are the result of imperialism.

It is easy to view them in isolation and think they have nothing to do with us in South Africa. But that's not the case. We must grasp that in order to show the need for an international communist Revolution rather than national movements.

How does it relate to us?

One example would be the US president Joe Biden saying, "Israel is the greatest investment we've made to protect our [economic] interests in the Middle East. If there was no Israel, we would have to invent an Israel".

This shows that capitalist economic interests are at the core of this conflict on both sides. It is just old-fashioned capitalists trying to profit from the suffering and the slaughter of the working class and the masses. In this case it's in Palestine. But it happens at varying degrees all over the world.

Secondly, gas prices go up when such a conflict occurs. This threatens to become a regional war, especially after the latest Israeli war crimes: bombing the hospital and the civilian population. Such wars greatly affect the world, including South Africa.

We get most of our oil from Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Nigeria. When oil prices go up, petrol goes up as has happened recently. And food prices go up, energy goes up, and production costs and logistics costs go up. To maximise profits, bosses retrench workers and over-work them with extended hours.

Usually, we are more alert and concerned when retrenchments and overworking with reduced pay occurs. However, as communists, we must understand the root cause and the interconnectedness of events that might seem separate and isolated.

That's why we must pay attention to what is happening in the world. We discuss it and intensify our struggles here using the *Red Flag*. We are recruiting more workers. We must not think of our struggle as limited to what happens immediately here in South Africa or Port Elizabeth. We must view ourselves as international comrades interested in the international working class and advancing communism and communist solutions everywhere through our collectives in every corner of the world.

Aluta!

—Comrade in South Africa

NO-TO-APEC ACTIONS, from page 1

people who have not experienced international working-class solidarity. They might not have a deep understanding of capitalism. They might not have had the opportunity to study the history of national liberation movements.

They believe that a national liberation movement will address the oppression of poor and working-class people. But these movements have always kept capitalism. They remained dependent upon imperialist nations.

History shows that even courageous mass fights for national liberation and self-determination have not improved workers' lives. Brave and committed masses were defeated because

their struggles stayed within the limits of capitalism. A new group becomes the capitalist

exploiters, reaping profit from workers' labor. The South African masses fought long and courageously against apartheid. They "won." Pass laws were abolished. The African National Congress was elected to power. Now Ramaphosa, a Black billionaire exploiter, is President. Ramaphosa ordered police to shoot striking miners in Marikana in 2012. Some ANC leaders got rich. The masses are still wage slaves—or unemployed.

Ismail Haniyeh, a senior Hamas leader, is said to have ordered the October 7 attack on Israel. Haniyeh is a billionaire. He lives in luxury in Qatar. He collects a 20% tax on all goods going

from Egypt to Gaza!

Haniyeh wants to lead a Palestinian state created by Hamas, Fatah, and the Palestinian Authority. They would then, supported by the Qatari and Iranian rulers, reap super profits from exploiting Palestinian workers.

Struggling for a Communist Solution

A Filipino activist in the US isn't sure that national liberation and self-determination are futile. "Is it really a waste of our time to build these kinds of movements?" he asks. "What else

can the Palestinians do?" But he is open to discussing international working-class consciousness.

Internationally, many workers and students believe that China is a more benevolent imperialist supporter of "liberation." But China is now a leading capitalist, imperialist power. It exploits workers from Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) to El Salvador to Myanmar.

Ideological struggles like these require "the development of relationships and trust beforehand," said a comrade teacher. We can nurture such communist relations now, and especially in San Francisco in November. That will build an indestructible foundation for worldwide communist revolution.

Only communist revolution will free us!

Amidst widening imperialist wars, the ICWP is reaching out to more workers from South Africa to India, from El Salvador to the US. There are new members and *Red Flag* readers in Israel, Egypt, and Iran. We build one party worldwide. We fight to turn the rulers' wars into revolution for communism.

We must understand always that our primary identity is as members of our working class. We have more in common with other workers—no matter what "race," ethnicity, nationality, or gender—than we do with any bosses.

The bosses' nationalism, racism, and fascism will be no match for a united working class fighting for communist workers' power. Together, we will win!



Chinese-owned shoe factory in Ethiopia



Volume 14, Number 14, October 25 to November 15, 2023

Join the International Communist Workers' Party
www.icwpredflag.org — Twitter @RedFlagBandera
E-mail: icwp@nym.hush.com
Instagram: @icwprf Facebook: icwpredflag
Phone: (323) 315-8884
Write to: P.M.B. 362
3006 S. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90007, USA

EL SALVADOR: "COULD THIS BE THE START OF WORLD WAR III?"

"Worker comrades are asking what the Party thinks about the war between Palestine and Israel," said the comrade worker leaders of ICWP.

In the factories, workers are asking "Could this be the beginning of the third world war?" "And what does ICWP with Red Flag think?"

A comrade answered that Israel and Palestine correspond to two groups. One, formed by the United States and NATO, supports Israel. The other, supported by Russia and China, are supporting Palestine through Iran and Syria. Clearly, they are fighting over every penny of profits and every drop of oil in all parts of the world.

This weekend's ICWP leadership meeting here discussed the fundamental role of the Party's organizers in the face of these events and other such events around the world.

"Our task is to show the factory workers that all these war scenarios are due to the inter-imperialist struggle," a comrade began. "All of these groups, whether fundamentalist, religious, or nationalist, are nothing more than representatives of capitalism."

The comrades read the ICWP leaflet "Let's Answer Imperialism, Nationalism and Genocide in Israel/Palestine by Organizing for Communist Revolution." ICWP sent it to the workers so we can understand a little more about the real situation of this conflict. We talked about what the daily struggle of the communist leaders of the Party should be with factory workers and among other groups of workers.

"What is Hamas?" asked a worker, "Are they terrorists?"

This group has been prepared and financed by imperialist groups. They never respond to workers' struggles or needs. They respond to the guidelines and needs of the imperialist powers that sponsor them economically.

And the Israeli government is not some "people of God." It is a capitalist state that was recognized by the UN in 1949. It is a United States military base in that region of the world to guard the assets and oil profits of rich American bankers.

President Nayib Bukele of El Salvador is a declared follower of the Palestinian cause. His

father was a Muslim leader. In the face of the Hamas attacks, his family came out to vindicate them. However, Bukele tweeted his hatred of this group, comparing it to the MS13 gang here.

In both Palestine and Israel, poverty continues to affect millions of workers who don't see themselves represented by either of the two warring sides. For these masses, the only solution is the alternative of fighting for a communist society led by ICWP.

Workers around the world must not fall into following fundamentalist and nationalist or racist groups. We concluded that our main goal is to organize more workers into collectives of the International Communist Workers Party, and, where they exist, to expand them.

We must be self-critical about the need to broaden the collective discussion about the Gaza crisis among more factory workers.

We concluded the meeting by sharing a delicious lunch of chicken and rice with the family of the comrade who hosted us.

—Comrades in El Salvador

FIGHTING FOR WORKING-CLASS UNITY IN GAZA PROTESTS

LOS ANGELES (USA), October 24—ICWP comrades took *Red Flag* and our communist leaflet to the coalition demonstrations organized to protest the genocidal attacks on the Gaza masses.

"On October 14, I emphasized that the gravity of the situation shows the utter necessity of working-class unity in the fight for communism," said comrade Nancy. "The only way to stop the killings is the unity of Palestinians and Israelis against their rulers.

"Communists around the world and in other countries of the Middle East have overcome historic racial and ethnic divisions. This is happening with Arabs and Jews in Israel as well. But the solution to the ongoing disaster is to build an international party, ICWP."

"One incident shaped how I then offered the paper to others," reported comrade Clarisse. "I showed *Red Flag* to a young Palestinian man and explained that the front-page picture showed our comrades in South Africa in a protest with the banner 'Abolish Wage Slavery with Communist Revolution.'"

"THAT was the original apartheid," he said excitedly, pointing at the picture.

"Exactly," continued Clarisse. "And they fought a courageous mass struggle against it. Now they live the same as before, but they have billionaire Black bosses, as well as billionaire white bosses. These people (in the picture) are fighting to get rid of all bosses. For communism."

He gladly took the paper and leaflet. He

agreed that the masses don't need Israeli fascist bosses or Hamas capitalist bosses.

"At first I was taken aback by the wave of Palestinian flags," said George, an immigrant comrade from El Salvador. "I would have reacted the same way to a wave of Salvadoran flags. But then I reached out to people from my own experience as a US soldier in Iraq. I told people that the rulers make war and working people die. I urged people to join together to fight against the rulers."

"The next day," said Nancy, "I shared in church what comrade George had said. I also posted the international leaflet in the chat. 'Most of the people in the congregation were advocating 'peace.' I know most of my friends at church think that communist revolution is unrealistic. I said that I thought that what was truly unrealistic was hoping for 'peace' while the capitalist rulers still have weapons of mass destruction.'"

We were able to organize for an even more effective collective presence, with a banner, at a larger demonstration on October 21.

We distributed more than 700 leaflets and 500



Jerusalem, October 10: Activists from the Jewish-Arab peace movement Standing Together, posting signs that say, "Jews and Arabs, we will get through this together." Two of them, a Jew and an Arab, were arrested and their signs confiscated.

Red Flags. Distributing literature close to the banner allowed us to multiply our efforts.

One middle-aged Palestinian woman standing on the sidewalk was taking a picture of our banner. A comrade gave her the paper and the leaflet and said she was with the group carrying that banner. The woman embraced the comrade and gave her contact information. She was not the only one.

We hope these experiences will inspire more comrades to do this communist work among masses in the streets, as well as on the job.

PLEASE SEND YOUR LETTERS, RESPONSES AND SUGGESTIONS
TO ICWPREDFLAG@NYM.HUSH.COM

Blame Capitalist Rulers for Deaths in Israel-Palestine

I talked to two individuals about the Israeli-Palestinian war. One relative said, "It's obvious that Hamas was to blame, and Israel is only responding." A high school teacher said that it's sad, but both sides are to blame.

I responded that this war shows how ruling classes use nationalism to divide workers. Workers on both sides are dying. The rulers foment a fight for control of lands that only benefits those in power. They use religion and nationalism for control. They control the weapons. This is why we must reject any flag

that only represents the nationalist capitalists.

The teacher friend was saddened. Yes, it is sad to witness the violence and the civilians dying on both sides. However, these events also make me angry.

As a communist, I hold both ruling classes responsible for what has occurred, what is occurring, and what will occur as long as we allow these capitalists to run our lives. I always ask: What if civilians on both sides unite to overthrow the rulers that are responsible for making Israelis and Palestinians kill each other? How about they unite in an international communist movement to overthrow all the capitalists

everywhere?

Friends and family understand the need for unity. They understand that we must reject any notion of homelands or any nationalist or religious side that only serves to divide us. We must focus our anger on the rulers.

We must organize in their militaries and turn guns around. Our party, ICWP, is the only party in the world organizing such a movement. We must strengthen our international solution: organize a massive international communist workers' party to end capitalism once and for all.

—Teacher comrade in the USA

US Democracy: Death of an Illusion

MASSES EVERYWHERE NEED COMMUNIST WORKERS' POWER

October 21— “Why is the Pax Americana in decline?” asked US capitalist pundit Paul Krugman a few days ago. “The world no longer trusts US promises, and perhaps no longer fears US threats, the way it used to.”

Krugman blames the Republican Party, which blames Democratic President Biden for everything. He’s partly right. As we’ve said before, Trump and his openly fascist supporters are both a symptom and a further cause of the US decline.

The Israel/Palestine crisis could explode into regional war at any moment. Together with Ukraine, even into world war. And the US Congress has been paralyzed since October 4. Why? Because the fractured Republican Party can’t agree on a House Speaker.

It can’t approve funds for its Israeli partners. Or for Ukraine. Or even keep the government open past November 17 unless something changes fast.

“To many watching at home and abroad, the American way no longer seems to offer a case study in effective representative democracy,” wrote New York Times columnist Peter Baker. “Instead, it has become an example of disarray and discord.

The US capitalist rulers aren’t the only ones in trouble. The Council of Europe met in May to discuss “Elections in Times of Crisis.” Europe is in disarray, and China is making huge gains there.

The leading capitalist party in Israel picked a fight with a key centrist party over the role of the judiciary and the occupation of the West Bank. Mass protests exploded for months—including among military reservists. Hamas saw and

seized its opportunity.

Joe Biden’s embrace of Bibi Netanyahu was a watershed moment. After Modi snubbed Biden publicly at the G20 meeting in India, the US is doubling down on its few loyal allies. Its global isolation is in full view.

We could go on. Pakistan. Ecuador. Iran. Niger. And more.

Workers worldwide must see and seize these capitalist crises as opportunities for communist revolution.

Democracy: Not As Advertised

Democracy is supposed to mean “popular rule” or “people power.” We’re told, “Your vote is your voice.” Well, very few of us have any voice on how our workplace runs!

As for government, a September Pew Research study documented that most people in the US think that big donors, lobbyists, and large companies have “too much” influence on Congress. They think that “people in their district” have “too little” influence. No kidding! Over a quarter have no use for either party.

Reformers call US democracy “imperfect.” They want us to make “our government” better. This is a dangerous illusion.

It’s not “our” government. The ancient Greek enslavers invented democracy to manage their system that exploited masses of slaves. It oppressed “free” people (including almost all women). The US “founding fathers” adopted this democracy to manage their system that..... did the same!

Protest marchers chant “This is what democracy looks like!” They are right, but not in the way they mean. We get to yell in the streets

(sometimes) while the capitalists and their politicians make decisions from their corner offices high above us (always).

In class societies, there is no “the people.” There are exploiters and exploited. Either the exploiters hold power, or the exploited make a revolution to take it away from them. That’s what we’re preparing to do.

Communist workers’ power won’t be a “better democracy.”

Instead, the International Communist Workers’ Party will mobilize masses in workplaces, neighborhoods, and everywhere else into decision-making collectives. For local matters, we’ll use our voices directly. We’ll debate and decide what to do to meet the masses’ needs, and how. We’ll carry out and later evaluate those decisions.

But these collectives can’t be “autonomous” when it comes to big issues like water and food supplies or the environmental crisis. We need to communicate with each other through the Party center. That way, decisions can respond to the short-term and long-term needs of the masses everywhere. We work to spread revolution and abolish borders.

We prepare for communist workers’ power by building the ICWP today. Party members must be immersed among the masses. That way, we can respond to their material and political needs. We must participate actively in our ICWP collectives.

If you’re sick of capitalist politics – if you are a communist or like communist ideas – please talk to us about joining or building an ICWP collective wherever you are.

PLEASE SEND YOUR LETTERS, RESPONSES AND SUGGESTIONS TO
ICWPREDFLAG@NYM.HUSH.COM

Mobilizing Masses for Communism: Solution to Israel-Palestine Conflict

Following what is happening in the Middle East closely, I’ve seen the images of children. Half the population of Gaza is children. They are the ones who are actually feeling the wrath. I’ve listened carefully to some of the commentators, celebrities and politicians and their justifications. Hearing them, you get angry because there seems to be little regard for Palestinian lives. This is the problem.

There’s a comrade in our college chat group. We met him when we were distributing *Red Flag*. Yesterday, he was driving the transport I took leaving school. We talked about what’s happening in Israel. I wanted to get his view because I think he was part of the Economic Freedom Fighters. He is pro-Palestine. He asked me what the Party’s position is.

I referred him to our pamphlet *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* (MMC). To resolve the

Palestinian question, borders must be eradicated. The capitalist class must be overthrown because capitalism drives conflicts around the world. There are many examples, like the China-India border dispute.

The starting point is to eliminate capitalism. Capitalists have interests in perpetual conflict. They profit from maintaining the status quo. We need to establish communism. In doing so, we eliminate borders worldwide, money and profit. That will change society.

In communism, people will come and go anywhere they wish without restrictions, without wars. We will be able to eradicate all these conflicts and problems.

British imperialists caused the Palestinian Israeli conflict. They drew the borders in the Middle East after the fall of the Ottoman empire. After World War II, they granted the Jews the “right of return” to what was then Palestinian land. As long as there are borders and nations, we will continue to see this conflict.

We are giving this message to those who want to know about it. We are not just giving out general information. As members of ICWP, we need to reflect the party’s position. That’s why I used MMC as the primary source for the solution for the Middle East.

My friend mentioned that he’s more fearful now, not only about what’s happening in the Middle East, but also in Europe. He thinks that the Middle East threatens to overshadow the conflict in Europe. Therefore, Zelenskyy will want to escalate something to bring attention to the conflict in Ukraine. Recently, they have used US long-range missiles to fight behind Russian defensive lines.

Who knows what they might do in the weeks or months to come? This also has the potential to escalate into a regional or world war.

It was important to talk to this friend.

— Comrade in South Africa



BARBIE THE MOVIE: OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNIST DISCUSSION OF SEXISM AND CAPITALIST CULTURE

Millions worldwide have watched the Barbie movie. People like that it criticizes patriarchy and prevailing gender norms. It's fun and colorful. Clearly it doesn't call for communist revolution. However, could it be useful as a springboard for conversations with others about our communist ideas and the kind of society we need to build?

We first see little girls playing with baby dolls and mimicking domestic chores. Their play is disrupted by the appearance of a giant Barbie doll. They see her as a glamorous adult. They begin smashing their baby dolls and toy ironing boards.

This signified that Barbie ushered in a new world of possibilities for women beyond the limits of motherhood and domesticity. This scene could be useful in discussing how people are conditioned to fill societal roles from a young age. We can talk about whose interests these roles serve. It should lead to how communists must resolve these gender contradictions so we can build a new world where everyone is valued equally.

When introduced to Barbie's world, we see that it is superficial. No one has real feelings or cultivates meaningful relationships. However, during a dance party, Barbie begins having troubling feelings. These are unacceptable in Barbie Land, and she travels to the Real World to fix it, with Ken in tow.

There, she meets Gloria, the Latina assistant



LEARN FROM THE BOLSHEVIK REVOLUTION IN RUSSIA

This issue of *Red Flag* marks the anniversary of the 1917 communist-led revolution in Russia (October 25 Old Style/November 7 New Style).

As we said in *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*, it was the second great victory for our class after the Paris Commune of 1871. The Bolsheviks mobilized masses of workers and soldiers to overthrow the liberal Kerensky government. They established the Soviet republic. However, they retreated from the goal of building communism. Instead, they built a socialist society with wages, money, and markets.

We have so much to learn from its successes, its shortcomings, and its fatal errors. Articles we published for the centennial of the Bolshevik Revolution are available at this link:

<https://icwpredflag.org/wp/wordpress/pamphlets-and-article-series/history-of-the-bolshevik-revolution-of-1917/>

to the CEO of Mattel (which makes Barbie). In the Real World, Barbie is immediately sexualized and harassed. Ken marvels when he discovers patriarchy. This system of beliefs, values, and relationships pervades the social, political, and economic spheres to sow gender inequality.

Gloria describes contradictory notions of proper female appearance and conduct. "It's impossible to be a woman," she says. She lists things women are expected to be...and not be and expected to do...or never do. "Never forget that the system is rigged," Gloria says. "So find a way to acknowledge that but also (we're told) always be grateful."

Everyone knows that the capitalist system is rigged. *Red Flag* reports how the masses fight against it all over the world. By speaking openly and critically about the ideas and expectations that inform gender norms, and other contradictions of capitalism, we can help the masses better understand the system we live under. More importantly, doing so will help us all understand the world we need and how to get there.

Mattel's Barbie Promotes Consumerism

The doll may have had a positive effect on some girls' and women's self-concept and sense of agency. But it also promotes conspicuous consumption. "Lawyer Barbie," "Surgeon Barbie," and every other doll comes with countless accessories (clothing, jewelry, vehicles). Consumerism is not criticized in the film, but the filmmakers depict the corporation that makes Barbie as singularly driven by profit.

We should be critical of this liberal take. We should elevate the conversation with questions such as "Where does profit come from?" "Why do we need money?" "What would a world without it look like?"

Ken sneaks back to Barbie Land and rallies the other Kens to spread patriarchy there. The men take power and flip the gender roles, with

the Barbies also internalizing the ideas. Barbie, Gloria, and Gloria's daughter Sasha discover the change. They embark on a mission to de-program all the Barbies. They can accomplish this by distracting the Kens, using their egos to start a war among themselves.

We can talk here about the many ways the capitalist ruling class sows division between genders with sexism. We should also open this discussion to include how the bosses use racism, nationalism, homophobia, and more to divide the international working class. Do we know people who have internalized anti-working-class ideas? What role can we play in their de-programming? What has the working class accomplished while the bosses were distracted by war with their class rivals? How can we do it again?

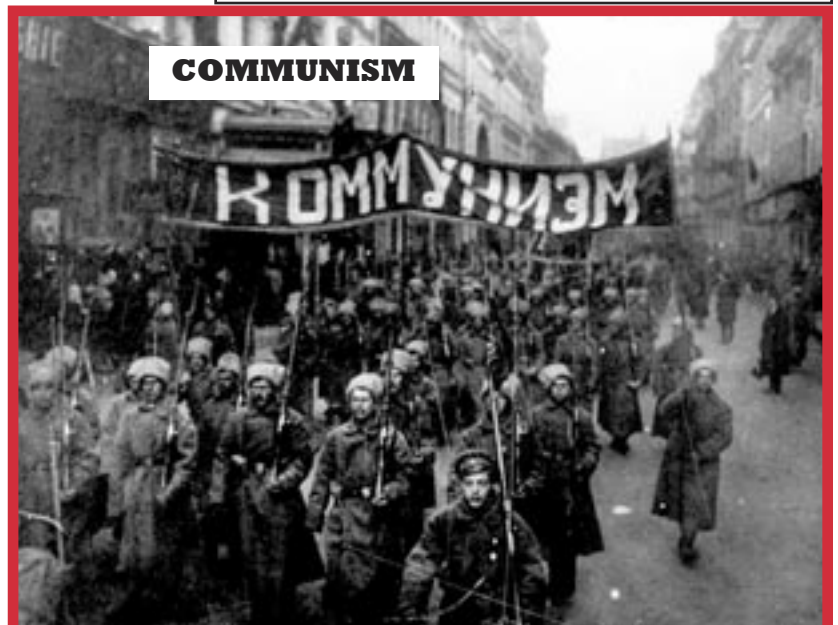
The Barbies learn that they must share society with the men – though not equally – and that they must consider their needs and feelings. The narrator says, "...and the Kens grew to have as much power as women do in the real world". How much power do women have in the real world? How do they challenge the power dynamic?

What kind of positive culture can we have in communism? The culture of sexism is pervasive in capitalism. We need to struggle for the message that "equal rights" is not the same as an egalitarian communist society. The working class needs meaningful work, to feel valued for their creativity. This can only be achieved in communism.

Read our pamphlet:

THE COMMUNIST FIGHT AGAINST SEXISM

Available at icwpredflag.org/sxse.pdf



PLEASE SEND YOUR LETTERS, RESPONSES AND SUGGESTIONS TO
ICWPREDFLAG@NYM.HUSH.COM

Dearest *Red Flag*,

I have only one real criticism of "The History of the Earth and the Future of Communism." (*Red Flag*, Volume 14, Number 12). It is the use of the term "Anthropocene" to describe the environmental consequences of the white colonial sickness alone.

Humans cannot be said to all have the same relationship with their environments. The article associates bleak imagery with the term. This serves to further cement the idea that the well-being of humans is fundamentally at odds with that of nonhuman life. This erases indigenous

ways of life that worked with, rather than against, their environments for thousands of years. That was systematically made impossible by colonizers.

Further, this is alienation from (re: "invention of") Nature in the mind of the white colonizer. It is actually what excuses and inspires the same environmental abuse, neglect, and destruction that this article points to.

This is only one manifestation of the startlingly deep connection between social and ecological health. It serves as one of nine guiding principles for the work of Climate Alliance of

the South Sound.

As part of our continuous study practice, we are currently reading "A History of the World in Seven Cheap Things." This suggests instead calling this epoch the "Capitalocene" to describe the profit-driven maladies of our world today. This recognizes the respectful relationships held with the environment by indigenous peoples past and present.

Thanks for holding space!

—Shapes

PLEASE SEND YOUR LETTERS, RESPONSES AND SUGGESTIONS TO
ICWPREDFLAG@NYM.HUSH.COM

Post Toyi-Toyi Zoom Meeting Advances the Struggle

This morning we had a very good Zoom meeting with the people who participated in toyi-toyi. They are enthusiastically thinking about toyi-toyi at the gate of another big factory and leading up to the May Day March.

They are thinking big. Now that they have 50 or 60 members at different levels, they are expanding the struggle with a goal of a thousand people. The struggle is just starting. They repeatedly say they have learned so much from the Party. I said, "We are learning from you. It's one party and one fight."

Comrade A responds: "Thank you. Having a zoom meeting with you makes us explore many more things that we need to do, especially with the workers here on our side."

"Tomorrow, we have another meeting to address the report. We will do everything we can to involve the people I met in the streets. We would like to continue having meetings with you so we can be on the same platform."

Comrade B adds: "Thank you for opening everything to us and always waking us up to everything. Please send me all the dialectics. Most of the time we are sitting together, and we can study dialectics, so that we can learn more, know more, each and every corner of ICWP. I thank all the comrades all over the world."

—Comrade in South Africa

Talking about Communism with a Co-worker

"These things happen very often in Mexico," said a co-worker in Los Angeles (USA). "The culprit is the state. Those of us who are indigenous people are nothing to them."

He was referring to the fact that September 26th was the 9th anniversary of the capture, kidnapping, and disappearance of 43 students from Ayotzinapa, Mexico.

I told him, "It's not only in Mexico. It is something that capitalism does worldwide to stop the masses from rising up against their system. But that is something they will not be able to avoid. As this continues, the masses are changing their way of seeing the world and are blaming capitalism directly."

"But that will continue to happen. It will never end. There will always be deaths and disappearances at the hands of governments," my co-worker answered.



Toyi Toyi
September,
2023

I said, "The only way that all the evils of capitalism will end is by organizing and fighting for communism."

Laughing and joking, he said, "You're going to talk about communism again."

Other co-workers also knew about the 43 disappeared students. But they were not interested in talking about it, except for this friend, with whom I had a good discussion.

I invited him to the next meeting of our collective where we will watch a movie, eat, and talk about our political ideas.

—Young Comrade

In Communism We Will Live for the Common Good

"Each new edition of *Red Flag* teaches us and opens our minds to the harsh reality that we live as a working class," commented R.

It always leads us to discussions that drive us to see the necessity of change. The political economy article "Whose Time?" and the cartoon with it together with the caricature made us think about capitalism's vicious circle of exploitation. The capitalist bosses keep growing and oppressing the most vulnerable.

Capitalist greed dehumanizes workers. The ruling class is a cancer on the working class. Let's think about how much the life of a worker is worth to a boss? What happens when we are no longer productive for them?

"This made me think about all the time I have worked, giving my life to my bosses. Going without time for my family, without being able to rest and much less for sick leave when I am sick," added B. "Otherwise, I risk losing my job, the livelihood of my family."

"There are many of us who live the same thing," B continued. "If we are no longer functional or productive, they throw us away. We are disposable. They always threaten that we are not indispensable."

We all come to the same conclusion: we must fight for ourselves, for the working class. The boss is the one who needs us most. We are the ones who generate and multiply their income. Thanks to us, they become richer.

We know well that capitalist bosses,

to continue enriching themselves, fight among themselves. Therefore they exploit, bankrupt, and kill the essence of each worker's human life by making them work exhausting hours, poorly paid and without rest.

In a communist society everything will change. Profits will be eliminated. We will not be wage slaves. We will work collectively for what we need. We will live for the common good.

That is why we will continue meeting, reading *Red Flag*, and fighting

for a communist revolution.

—*Red Flag* readers in El Salvador

"Free Palestine" Won't Free Palestinian Workers

Hundreds of students gathered at the University of California – Santa Cruz on October 18 to protest the Gaza massacre. I spoke to about fifty of them. Some faculty and staff also joined. Everyone was outraged by the barbaric ongoing war.

The posters were all for "Free Palestine". When I asked students about what they meant by "Free Palestine", they said that they were fighting the racist Israelis and there wouldn't be racism if the Palestinians came to power.

We started looking at the leadership of Palestinians now, who would become 'free' if they got a country just like Israel. I said that Hamas was created by Israel and took money from Israel to create the foundation of the most right-wing religious extremists. Then it took money from Qatar and Iran. Some of the top Hamas leaders are billionaires living a life of luxury in Qatar. How can they do anything to change things for the better for the working class when they make money from them?

Many students listened intently. It became like a small forum. We gave examples of the two-nation theory in India and South Africa. Several billionaires who emerged from so-called 'free' India have created the most vile, racist, anti-Muslim regime. We also gave examples from South Africa, including Mandela, and the billionaire Ramaphosa who was instrumental in killing striking miners.

Many students were stunned to hear that their 'heroes' were nothing but capitalist bloodsuckers, the result of the two-nation theory. We need communism to build our party. The students took the leaflet and *Red Flag*. Some gave numbers to be contacted regularly.

Giving speeches is the easy part. Now comes the real work of keeping in touch and building relationships so we can recruit young new Party members.

—California comrade

LOS ANGELES (USA), October 6—"We do everything, they do nothing. We keep this thing running," a young Kaiser Health striker told others on the picket line.

A comrade who was distributing *Red Flag* said to him, "That's right, look at this article."

The worker took the paper, and said, "Right on!" He read the headline aloud: "Kaiser Strike: The capitalists unite to oppress us, and we must unite for revolution!" He told his friends, "This is true, are you listening?" Some who were listening took the *Red Flag* newspaper and passed it to other workers who were next to them.

Comrades went to three hospitals and passed out over 560 copies of *Red Flag* on the picket lines. Workers enthusiastically took the paper. Some donated money, and there were very good discussions about communism.

Idealism and Materialism Part I:

WHAT DO COMMUNISTS MEAN BY MATERIALISM?

Materialism is central to communist philosophy. Communists use the theory of materialism to understand how capitalism works and how to defeat it. Like many words used in philosophy, “materialism” has an ordinary meaning and a different, philosophical one. The ordinary meaning of materialism is greed or the desire to possess things beyond all practical need. Obviously, communists reject this.

To explain the communist concept of materialism, we must look at the relation of matter to its opposite. That opposite is thought, or more exactly, it is what human thought produces. The product of thought is called the “ideal.”

Like materialism, “ideal” has an ordinary meaning which is different from its meaning in philosophy. Ordinarily, something is called ideal if it is perfect, or an ideal is a goal that people try to live up to. In philosophy, the ideal means thought or what thought creates.

The lyrics of a song are something ideal that a songwriter thinks up. A theory of chemistry is something ideal whether or not it is correct.

Political ideas are something ideal, whether

they express communist politics that will free the working class, or fascist politics that enslave the working class. Racist and sexist ideas are part of the ideal, created and spread by the material force of capitalist propaganda.

The relation between the ideal and the material has been a hot topic in philosophy as long as philosophy has existed. It is also an issue of critical importance for the communist movement.

Are ideas built into the universe or do they fall from the sky? Philosophical materialism says “no,” the ideal is produced by the material. The ideal is a result of thinking, but thinking is a material process taking place in human bodies. Marx put it this way: “the ideal is nothing else but the material, transplanted into the human head and transformed in it.”

Philosophical idealism claims that the ideal can exist on its own and does not depend on anything material. Materialism says that the ideal cannot exist on its own but must always be expressed in something material. It must be written down, spoken, thought in a brain, shown in a picture, etc. So, the ideal cannot even exist with-

out the material. The material and the ideal are opposites, however, and like all pairs of opposites do, each one can affect the other.

People learn the most about something material by acting on it, like building a house. When people learn, knowledge is created, which is something ideal. Once the knowledge has been created, they can use it to make changes in the material thing they know about. They can build a better house.

If we actually do make a change in something material, it must be guided by a plan, by something ideal. Our actions can be guided by a theory we believe. This was Marx’s point when he wrote: “theory also becomes a material force as soon as it has gripped the masses.” A theory does not become a material force just because people understand it, but only when it grips them, that is, moves them into action.

Part II will discuss: How communist ideas can come to grip the masses struggling against capitalism and imperialism.

PLEASE SEND YOUR LETTERS, RESPONSES AND SUGGESTIONS TO
ICWPREDFLAG@NYM.HUSH.COM



Tel Aviv: Jews and Arabs Unite for a Common Future

Jews and Arabs met on October 25 in Tel Aviv to talk about the injuries and crimes, the expectations, and about the Jewish-Arab partnership in the fight for the future of this place, despite all its challenges.

At the end of the conversation, we went out to the street together, to call for an immediate ceasefire.

Our hearts are with all the families of the murdered, the kidnapped, the countless victims of both nations.

We will march into the protest and bring with us the call to end the occupation and apartheid and drive a real democracy, as it has never been here before.

Our slogan should be the venerable slogan: "No War but the Class War!" "Neither Bibi nor Hamas but a Communist Revolution!"

--Red Flag Reader in Palestine/Israel

Red Flag responds: This is inspiring! We applaud your unity and courage in confronting the fascist government. The future that we all need is to eliminate capitalism and replace it with a share-and-share-alike communist society. Forward, comrades! We are with you!

GENOCIDE AND IMPERIALIST WAR IN GAZA from page 8

proxy, has shelled Israeli military targets and has 150,000 missiles aimed at Israel ready to fire if Israel launches a ground invasion of Gaza. The US might then decide to go after Iran.

French president Macron calls for the anti-ISIS coalition (US, Canada, Europe) to go to Israel to fight Hamas. Like Ukraine, this is still a proxy war of US-NATO vs. Russia-China-Iran. But that can change quickly.

They are fighting over which imperialist will rule the world. US imperialism has held this position since 1945, based on its control of Middle Eastern oil.

In 1973, US rulers got Saudi Arabia to sell their oil only in dollars. The whole world followed. The dollar became the world’s primary reserve currency, further securing US world domination.

US imperialists armed Israel and the Shah of Iran to protect this oil. But they soon started to lose their grip on it. They lost Iran in 1979, when the Shah was overthrown.

Now Saudi Arabia is allying with Russia and China. Saudi oil is on the market in Chinese yuan. This is the death knell of the petrodollar

and US world domination.

Hamas, Hezbollah, Islamic Fundamentalism: No solution for Arab Workers

A wave of nationalism, anti-monarchism, anti-imperialism, and socialism gripped the Arab masses in 1952. Egypt’s king was overthrown, and a republic declared.

Arab monarchs and Western imperialists saw this as a threat. They responded by spreading Wahhabism, a form of Islamic fundamentalism, through hundreds of Saudi-funded Madrassas (schools). US imperialists supported these schools. They produced the Taliban, Hamas, Hezbollah, and Osama bin Laden.

The Saudi rulers funded Hamas in the 1980s, with US and Israeli support. Their goal was to divide the secular nationalist movement fighting for a Palestinian state. But Hamas betrayed its sponsors. It became an Iranian client.

Communism Not Nationalism Will Liberate Us

Zionist forces “ethnically cleansed” villages in southern Palestine in 1948. They corralled Palestinians into the Gaza strip prison camp. For 75 years, Gaza has been carved into ever-shrinking parcels of bombarded and besieged

land.

Hamas leaders are capitalists, not revolutionaries. The “Free Palestine” they fight for is a capitalist Palestine. The Palestinian masses are, and will still be, racistly exploited. Hamas will participate in making them wage slaves of the capitalists-imperialists in the China-Russia-Iran bloc.

Our working class is one class. Arab and Jewish workers have united in the past, even in the face of attacks from Zionists and Palestinian nationalists.

We see some of that unity today when thousands in Israel, Jewish and Palestinian, march against the Israeli government’s war crimes. Women are in the lead.

Many thousands are marching in Egypt, Turkey, the UK, the USA, and around the world against Israeli government genocide. We find many open to communism and our party. Our International Communist Workers’ Party has taken small initial steps toward building a collective of Arab and Jewish comrades in the region.

Arab and Jewish workers, who are all exploited, will unite again. Workers worldwide will unite. This time, for communism.

Answer Imperialism, Nationalism, and Genocide in Israel/Palestine

ORGANIZE INTERNATIONALLY FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

October 24— “Here in Israel/Palestine we have the horrible price of nationalism and its failure to offer anything positive to workers,” said a comrade in Israel. Four of his relatives died in the Hamas assault. “Nationalism leads to slaughter.”

The well-coordinated Hamas attack on twelve Israeli villages took Israel’s intelligence agency by surprise. Hamas soldiers captured sophisticated tanks and paralyzed Israel’s panicked army. Most Hamas forces retreated with hostages for negotiations.

Hamas is no friend of any workers. Iran, Turkey, and Qatar finance its militia, which terrorizes the Gaza working class. Only a small part of the money goes to Gaza’s most impoverished workers. Hamas invited massive retaliation from the fascist Israeli government — and got it.

The Israeli air force is conducting genocide, bombing buildings to ruins, and killing terrified adults and children. The Israeli rulers have not spared hospitals. They completely cut off food, fuel, electricity, and water. They ordered the northern half of Gaza to move south and then bombed them when they did. These are war crimes! The Israeli rulers have massacred close to six thousand civilians, forty percent of them children.

Hamas is willing to sacrifice two million Gazans to draw the Israeli army, already demoralized, into bloody urban war. It wants to draw Syria, Jordan, Egypt, and Hezbollah in Lebanon into war against Israel. Its main purpose is to neutralize US influence and weaken the Israeli



army that serves as the US police force in the region. That would change the imperialist balance of power.

Iran, China, Russia Benefit from Genocidal War

Saudi Arabia recently joined the China-led BRICS bloc, another sign of the diminished US role. The US proposed to build a rail system linking Europe to India via Israel and Saudi Arabia. It was supposed to be an alternative to China’s Belt and Road Initiative. Hamas has destroyed that dream. Meanwhile, Iran has signed a huge oil deal with China. Qatar has a lucrative natural gas deal with China.

“I hope this isn’t the start of World War III,” said an Israeli activist in the US. Garment workers in El Salvador say the same. It may well be.

The US imperialists are fighting Russia, China, and their proxies on many fronts. They are using Ukraine in eastern Europe as they use the Israeli rulers in the Middle East. The formidable Chinese military is challenging them in Taiwan.

The main section of the US ruling class wants to step up its support for its Israeli and Ukrainian clients. It’s limited, though, by its unprecedented political disarray. Meanwhile the \$billions spent on growing wars hit US workers, as inflation rises quickly there as well as in Israel.

The desperate, isolated US imperialists are as murderous as Israeli capitalists. They aren’t giving up the fight to regain their former global dominance. But “the Israel-Hamas war is tilting the global power balance in favor of Russia, China,” lamented the Wall Street Journal. From Ukraine to Israel to the Sahel in Africa, Taiwan, and beyond, all imperialists will slaughter endlessly for profit.

“Communism Now”

The alternative is to turn the bosses’ wars on the world’s workers into communist revolution to end the profit system. The International Communist Workers’ Party is in the beginning of the protracted process to recruit masses, especially industrial workers and soldiers, for this fight.

“There are hundreds of thousands of hungry people on the other side of the Gaza border,” said a comrade in Egypt. “They are willing to



fight.” We must transform their anger into class war to end capitalism.

“People are sick and tired of this nationalism,” said a comrade in Pakistan. “What we need is communism now.”

“Nobody trusts the Israeli army,” said a comrade in Israel. “That’s why many self-defense groups are formed.” It was obvious when thousands of reservists refused duty. Anti-fascist groups must learn to defend the international working class by fighting for communism.

Comrades in Iran want us to produce *Red Flag* in Farsi.

These comrades have been reading and discussing *Red Flag* for years. Other comrades have patiently struggled to help them overcome their former nationalist outlook. We must build more and stronger communist relationships internationally. We must answer the shock and awe of genocide with communist commitment and hope.

Communism: No borders, no nations, no imperialist wars. No wage slavery, profits, or even money. Workers everywhere will produce, share, and distribute what the masses need. That will create a lasting foundation for unity.

Comrades in South Africa are turning their outrage over the genocide in Palestine into more forceful recruiting to ICWP. We must do that everywhere.

Genocide and Imperialist War in Gaza:

MASSES NEED COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

October 25—We condemn the fascist Israeli rulers for their continuing genocidal bombing of the civilians, hospitals, and schools in Gaza. For telling Gazans to move south and bombing them when they did. For arresting Jews who show solidarity with Palestinians.

We condemn the fascist Israeli rulers for their ongoing genocidal siege that cuts off food, water, medicine, fuel, and power. Over six thousand have been killed—likely many more. At least 40% are children!

Condemnation is not enough. We—the international working class—must answer this genocidal attack on our family in Gaza by building ICWP everywhere. By organizing revolution worldwide to bury capitalism and its horrors forever!

All capitalists and imperialists are guilty of war crimes!

US and UK imperialists firebombed German cities during World War II. They reduced 126 cities to rubble and killed over 800,000 civilians. The US firebombed Tokyo and 60 other Japanese cities, killing over 900,000 civilians. That was before they dropped two atomic

bombs.

German and Japanese fascists committed hideous crimes. The Nazis killed over 6 million Jews, over 28 million Russian civilians and soldiers, and many others. Japanese imperialists slaughtered 35 million Chinese workers.

Since then, US imperialist bombs have killed millions of civilians from Korea to Vietnam to Iraq to Afghanistan.

In the 1990s, Russian imperialism massacred 144,000 Chechnyan civilians, mostly Muslims. They leveled its capital Grozny. The Russian proxy Assad devastated Syria.

The Chinese imperialist proxy Abiy Ahmed in Ethiopia conducted a war in the Tigray region in 2020-2022. Hundreds of thousands died from famine and war-related violence.



London, October 14

Only communist revolution can end this.

Capitalists and Imperialists Threaten World War III

The Israel-Hamas conflict can inflame the Middle East and the whole world. US carrier strike groups are offshore to warn the rulers of Iran, Syria, and Hezbollah (Lebanon) against intervening. Undeterred, Hezbollah, Iran’s

See GENOCIDE AND IMPERIALIST WAR IN GAZA, page 7