

# RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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



**POWER TO THE INTERNATIONAL WORKING CLASS!  
MARCH ON MAY DAY!**

## USA: Solidarity in Growing Mass Struggle

### **ANSWER FASCIST DEPORTATIONS BY ORGANIZING FOR A COMMUNIST WORLD WITHOUT BORDERS**

LOS ANGELES (USA), April 1— “For big problems, big solutions,” said a garment worker as he was leaving the factory. We talked about the Trump administration’s current racist deportations as he gladly took *Red Flag*.

Another worker from the same factory stopped and started reading the front page of the newspaper. It showed demonstrations of high school students against deportations. “Are those street protests any good?” she asked.

“Sure thing, they’re a great lesson. Those boys and girls are future workers and soldiers. Their leader-

ship will be key to a communist future,” we responded.

“I’ll take it to my daughter,” she said.

There is uncertainty and fear but also anger and openness to discussing the need for a new world.

Apart from the students’ actions, there have been other actions at the national level against these bosses’ attacks.

The recent arrest of Alfredo “Lelo” Juárez, a pro-farm worker and union activist in Washington State, has sparked new demonstrations against deportations. Lelo is a member of the Mixteca indigenous

See FIGHT FOR A WORLD WITHOUT BORDERS page 3



## Massive Anti-War Protests Rock Israel

### **CROWDS WELCOME COMMUNIST PAPERS, ICWP COLLECTIVE GROWS**

TEL AVIV (Palestine/Israel), March 31— “The masses in Israel are disgusted, horrified, and ready to do anything to change the system,” said a comrade after marching among hundreds of thousands in cities across Israel. The Zionist police are no match for the anger of the masses, he reported. We are openly distributing *Red Flag*.

Ten Tel Aviv comrades are distributing *Red Flag* while participating nonstop in the almost daily marches here. The numbers are growing. Anger in the streets has reached a crescendo that sends shivers to the Netanyahu regime.

“When we reach out to the street crowds, they grab *Red Flag*, giving us massive thumbs up,” the comrade reports. They shout, “Communist revolution!” “Hang Netanyahu!”

To the masses in Gaza they cry, “You will never be forgotten!” And to Netanyahu and Hamas, “Dictators, thieves must be in prisons!”

The demonstrations are no longer limited to college students. Families come with children. People in their 80s bravely confront exhausted police trying desperately to aim a water cannon. It backfires. Mounted police try to control the

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**Fifty Years after Saigon “Fell”**

**WORKERS, SOLDIERS, YOUTH WILL END THE “AMERICAN CENTURY” BY STARTING THE COMMUNIST REVOLUTION**

LOS ANGELES (USA), April 2025—Fifty years ago, the world’s most powerful imperialist scrambled frantically to evacuate its last troops from a Saigon rooftop. The humiliating US defeat in Vietnam was the beginning of the end of a so-called “American Century.”

The end of that process unfolds today in intensifying fascism and preparations for another world war.

“People have to be brave,” an activist told a comrade at a weekly vigil against the Palestine genocide.

“Many are angry. Some talk about revolution,” she replied. “But most still feel they have a stake in the system. Their illusion is that we’ll be able to hold onto the little we have. The reality is that communist revolution is our best hope. Knowing that makes us braver.”

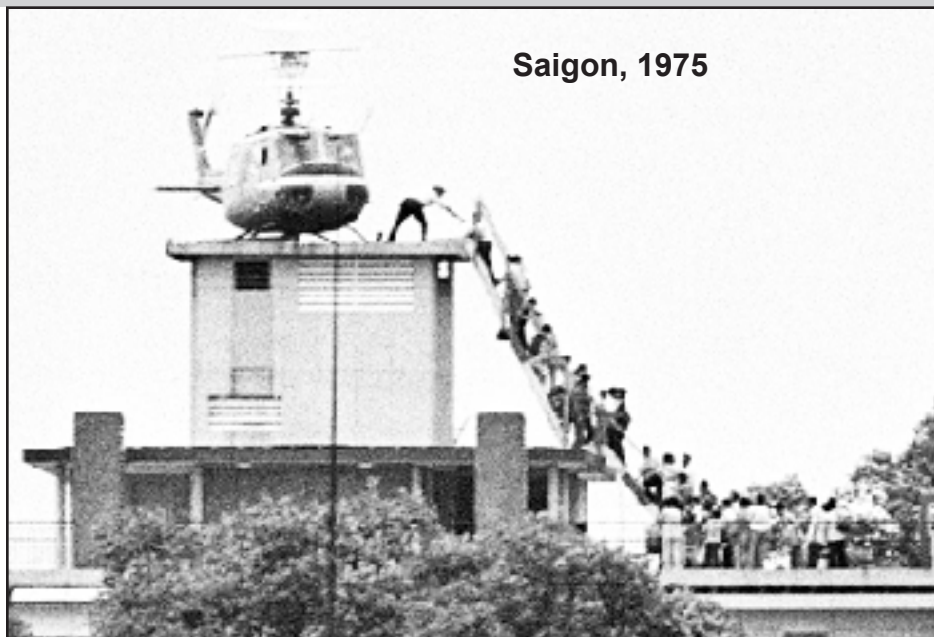
By 1975, US workers had suffered two years of double-digit inflation. That included the 1973 oil embargo. Gasoline was rationed and US drivers waited in long lines.

Many US workers were losing confidence in what the future held for their children. Households needed more wage-earners just to stay afloat. Today, most households already have multiple wage-earners and are drowning anyway.

**Capitalist Contradictions Push Workers to the Wall**

In 1975, US capitalism was in “stagflation.” Inflation and unemployment were both rising. Amidst a recession, capitalists found ways to make workers pay. The largest companies came out ahead. Soon they launched the neoliberal union-busting policies of the 1980s.

Today, Trump’s tariffs could again push US capitalism into stagflation and recession. Workers’ buying power will shrink further. Fourteen million kids in the US already go hungry. There will be more.



Saigon, 1975

The reason is the falling rate of profit. It fell 30% from 1946-2015 and continues to drop. Manufacturers automate to produce goods more competitively. But profit comes only from paying workers less than the value they produce. So companies must increase sales to maintain the volume of profit and attract the capital needed to stay in business. Tariffs are meant to increase sales. They won’t if workers can’t afford to buy.

Competition drives increased production and thus mechanization in a vicious cycle. The organic composition of capital (a measure of mechanization) rose 46% from 1946-2015. Since 1975, workers’ productivity has increased dramatically while real hourly wages stayed almost flat. Good for business, bad for the working class.

**Soldiers, Sailors, Marines: Side with Workers**

“With so much repression, is revolution even possible?” some Palestine activists wondered.

“Yes, if we get soldiers on our side,” a comrade answered. “Why do people join the military?”

“To get an education or a job,” one activist – a veteran with active-duty friends – quickly responded. Not to fight for bosses’ profits.

During the US war on Vietnam, its military was hamstrung by massive GI rebellions in country and on Navy warships. Black soldiers and sailors took the lead. Over 700 officers were “fraggged” (killed). Rebels imprisoned in Long Binh Jail burned it down.

On April 30, 1975, Saigon rose. The heroic and dedicated Vietnamese masses drove the US imperialists and their puppets out of Vietnam.

Today, the US imperialists seem to agree on cutting government jobs and workers’ services to increase military spending. But the Trump administration is raising the risk (for them) and the possibility (for us) of rank-and-file military rebellions.

Attacks on “diversity” tell Black, Latinx, and women soldiers that they are considered “less than” although the military couldn’t function without them. Now there’s

“Signalgate” – the high-level war planning conversation on unsecured phones. Military personnel see how little the rulers care about their safety.

**Be Brave, Be Bold, Be Communist Revolutionaries!**

Like Trump today, Richard Nixon, US president from 1969-1974, was a lying, foul-mouthed, bigot determined to wreak vengeance on his “enemies list.” He resigned just ahead of impeachment in the Watergate scandal.

Trump’s fascism today is qualitatively worse than Nixon’s. Why? Because US imperialism is far more isolated and desperate now. Especially since October 2023. The US is widely reviled for enabling Israel’s genocide in Palestine. Globally, declining US imperialism confronts a rising Chinese-led imperialist bloc.

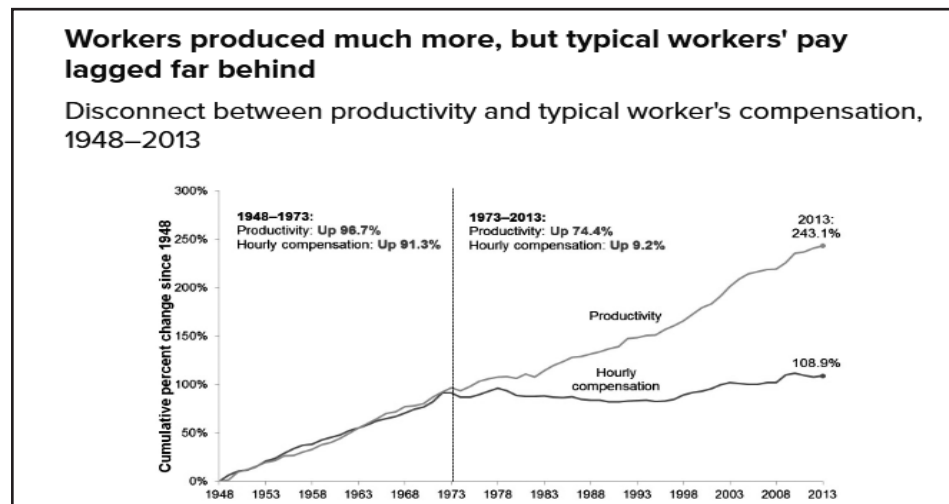
It’s the endgame for the “American Century.”

Workers and youth are increasingly brave. The kidnappings and deportations of student and worker activists have provoked massive protests from Somerville (Massachusetts) to Tacoma (Washington). Confronting Trump/Musk attacks and Democratic Party complicity, hundreds of thousands are marching, picketing, walking out, and more.

Spread *Red Flag* and join ICWP to help masses see that communism is a real possibility and our only hope!

**ON THE WEB:**

More on AI, Capitalist Crisis, and Communist Class Struggle



Read our pamphlet:  
**Soldiers, Sailors, Marines: Crucial for Communist Workers’ Revolution**



**MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM**  
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## COMMUNIST SOCIAL RELATIONS: KEY TO GROWTH OF ICWP

EL SALVADOR, March 25—In 2011 we established contact with workers in the maquilas. This greatly changed the dynamics of the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP).

It boosted the comrades' morale and gave us confidence to organize more workers under the slogan of "Fight Directly for Communism." It showed us that the working class was open to communist ideas.

"The situation has always been difficult in the factory. Workers face bosses' layoffs and union leaders who work in favor of the bosses," said D, a leading worker. Growing fascism systematically attacks the working class. The government has militarized streets and communities, intimidating those who have different opinions.

Strengthening bonds with the workers' comrades is important for the growth of the party. This has occurred through social and political meetings. To this end, the comrades meet regularly near the maquila, taking advantage of the time after the end of their working day. In these groups we make plans, fight-

ing to make them concrete. One of them is the growth of the party, which will allow us to have a broad base of communists in the factory.

Frequency has been key. We want to stay focused on recruitment and the interest of carrying out the fight for a better world. We talk about writing letters and articles to be published in *Red Flag*. This has allowed us to move forward and better understand some aspects of the line.

Inside the factory it is difficult to communicate because we are watched by the supervisors, but we always find a way to do it to call for collective activities.

### Red Flag Strengthens Communist Social Relations

By reading *Red Flag*, we get closer to the comrades who write from other countries, showing that we live far away, but we are together in the revolutionary struggle for Communism.

Reading *Red Flag* collectively with comrades has helped us. It has allowed us to be closer and get to know aspects of their lives, which is not possible without that approach is not possible. Those are aspects of

daily life that are not talked about in meetings. They often affect active participation in the party.

It happened with G, a young worker, who began participating in the party meetings and then was not attending. We decided to approach her and have a conversation with her

family, because she was going through a very difficult family situation. This helped us to understand and support her as much as possible.

"Being in the party and understanding what Communism is in practice has given meaning to my life, as well as the need to fight to bring about change. They took me as part of the communist family that we are. It has also helped me to improve my family relationship," said G.

"We try to be in solidarity at times when someone needs support. Of course there are limitations, but as far as possible it is done," said D, a worker leader.

We also set up extended meetings

in which folks bring their families, broadening the relationship to the family group.

At the last meeting we celebrated the birthdays of several comrades.

The comrades in the factory and others participate in each other's important family moments.

Each ICWP member must expand their network of friends, as well as the distribution of *Red Flag*.

For a long time, we have been organizing friends, farm workers, and comrades in struggle who we believed could relate to communist ideas. Many of them do a great job organizing and recruiting other friends to ICWP.



## FIGHT FOR A WORLD WITHOUT BORDERS from page 1

community (Mexico). He has been an activist since he was fourteen years old, when farmworkers in his area went on strike over the death of a farmworker due to mistreatment and intense heat.

Also, Lewelyn Dixon, Washington State University worker of Filipino origin, was arrested. She has legal residency and has lived in the US for fifty years.

These arrests have mobilized many workers to protest and stand in solidarity with undocumented and documented immigrant workers.

At the same time, arrests of people with visas or permanent residency who have been anti-genocide activists have attracted attention. Rumeysa Ozturk, a Turkish student, was arrested for co-authoring a school newspaper article that called for withdrawing investments from Israel and for the university administration to oppose Israel's genocide in Palestine. Activist Mahmoud Khalil and others have also been arrested by ICE because they oppose the genocide in Gaza.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the State Department has revoked about three hundred visas and threatened to do so with more foreign student activists.

There is also the threat of deportation of 500,000 people from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela who have work permits. Tens of thousands of Marias and Josés have been deported and are not mentioned in the bosses' press.

This means returning thousands of families to poverty and war cre-

ated by the capitalist system itself.

**The capitalists, led by the Trump administration, want to create division and terror throughout the working class.**

After the Russian revolution, thousands of immigrants from Europe, trade union activists, communists and anarchists, were arrested in the US and deported. The US bosses wanted to stop the labor struggles against the super-exploitation of that time, fearing a workers' revolution. That only increased the union struggle. Unfortunately, the then Communist Party USA concentrated on forming unions, not on the struggle for communism. Today the ICWP is fighting directly for communism.

Capitalism has always been violent and murderous. It has never been benevolent to workers. US capitalism, from its inception, was founded on the genocide of Indigenous people and the enslavement of Africans. The current attacks are part of fascism in the desperate fight of US imperialists to regain their place as the number one imperialist, in the face of the Chinese and Russian imperialists.

Student demonstrations, workers' protests, and neighborhood defense groups are clear examples of the working class not standing idly by. They show that much bigger struggles are coming.

But the main thing, as the first worker mentioned above said, is that we need big solutions. Stopping some deportations or reforming the immigration system will not solve the problem. What we need is



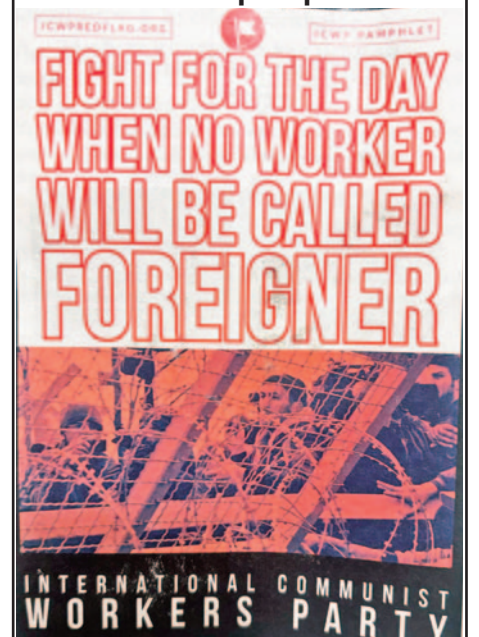
Somerville, Massachusetts (USA)  
March 2024

a world without exploitation, without borders: a communist world.

Communism will eliminate exploitation, creating conditions in which people will not have to risk their lives in long and dangerous journeys. Nor will they have to separate from their families. Now is the time to fight for this new communist world without borders.

ICWP calls on members, friends, and other *Red Flag* readers to participate in demonstrations, walkouts, strikes, and other protests against ICE terror. Let's aggressively seek out contacts among the antifascist masses and build communist relationships with them. Comrades who have already made contact with young demonstrators are now building the communist relationships necessary to recruit them to the Party.

Read our pamphlet:





## SOUTH AFRICA: NEED ENERGY, CONSISTENCY, AND LOYALTY TO THE PARTY

GQEBERHA (South Africa), March 29—Comrades, I want to share a little bit of how we are planning to organize the masses and build strong collectives in the next two months when Comrade Lucas and Comrade Paula visit South Africa. We did amazing work last year. We managed to build a new collective. A lot of those comrades know a lot of other comrades who work at the VW plant. That is going to be an advantage for the Party.

The Comrades are very energetic, loyal, and consistent. Despite our challenges of not being able to meet as much as we'd hoped, the Comrades are still hungry to learn more about the party.

In the next two months, when the comrades visit, and even after they have left, we are planning to have a camp, Dialectical Materialism classes, and learn the history of the party. So that a lot of comrades, older as well as new ones, can have the political background of the party.

We would like to meet at least every other weekend and distribute *Red Flag* at least two to three times

a week. We want to maintain that consistency even after the Comrades have left South Africa. I believe that after the camp, we'll all be unstoppable. It will be easy for other comrades to engage with the masses and have the confidence to invite more people to the meetings without having fear of being asked what ICWP is and what it's about. We will all be on the same page.

The pictures and the videos of how Gaza looks now are pushing me to reach out to more people and to fight this evil system. The trauma and tragedy that the people of Gaza are going through really cut deep. I feel like distributing the *Red Flag* is not enough. I feel like I have to do more.

But because of the circumstances we all face, we can only spread the word and build the party among the masses for now. And fight for people of Gaza and fight for everyone.

We need to put a stop to this evil system. We need to put it down and we need to act now. In order for us to do that, we have to build the masses. We have to have bonds with each other. We have to create



unity, loyalty, and consistency. That way we will have stronger and stronger collectives all over South Africa, all over the world—in the US, in India, El Salvador and all other provinces, cities and countries. It will be easy to fight the evil system.

What we can do now is to be consistent and show loyalty to the Party. To learn to read and be up to date with the news, with *Red Flag*, to write for *Red Flag*, and to engage with everyone. So that we can build more friendships, more bonds, more masses, and create more collectives.

Because we aim not just to have collectives in Port Elizabeth (Gqe-

berha). We want collectives all over South Africa. In order for us to do that we have to be consistent.

We hope that even after the comrades have left, we won't have those challenges about transport. We hope that we will be able to meet every other weekend. Because the people of the VW plant have been asking for the *Red Flag*, but we couldn't distribute because we don't have any. It's a struggle for us.

We can resolve those issues by being consistent and loyal to the Party. We need to fight the evil system, and we need to fight it now.

Red Salute, Comrades! A luta continua!



SERBIA, March 2025 -- Hundreds of thousands continue to rally against government corruption that led to deaths of 17 people in a railway station collapse in November 2024

Read our Manifesto:

### MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM



## COMRADES ORGANIZING IN TEL AVIV PROTESTS from page 1

situation. The masses surge, young and old. This is happening every day as the "Israeli Occupation Force" brutally murders children, women, and men taking refuge in temporary shelters.

ICWP comrades go to the masses and make tons of contacts. "When we see banners saying, 'Release Hostages Now,'" they say, "our refrain is 'Communism Now!'"

The comrades meet in a small apartment in Tel Aviv. Meetings used to have six to eight comrades. Now, the room is full of people. All came from the demonstrations. Their spirits are high. Each person talks and gives their opinions. Meetings can last nonstop for more than six hours.

A comrade said that in 1871 a revolutionary workers' government seized power in Paris. If we organize for Communism now, we can

have the Paris Commune in dozens of cities around the world. The masses reject capitalism from Tehran to Paris, Tel Aviv to Los Angeles. We must fight and build our party to give a clear alternative and vision of Communism. We have to be confident that we will win. That means winning our friends, neighbors, and the masses in motion.

We see that the masses in Israel's streets are just like the masses in Paris, London, Berlin, Sana'a, Tehran, and Goma. We are united in our desire for change. More and more of us are realizing that the real change will come from ending the horrors of capitalism.

When comrades in Gaza can pick up the banner of Communism in the most brutalized part of the world, we rise, we get confidence. Comrades in South Africa have embraced Communism. That inspires

us beyond imagination.

As a comrade there said, "We might be a drop in the ocean today, but tomorrow we will be the ocean of Communism." These small drops are expanding to become lakes, rivers, and oceans of Communism.



Jerusalem: Protestors confront police outside home of Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu.



## COMMUNIST WORKERS' STRUGGLE, NOT A POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN, CAN DEFEAT FASCISM

LOS ANGELES (US), March 29— We're facing the grim realities of fascism and genocide. An antiracist book group has been meeting since before the pandemic to learn how the world got to be this way and how to change it. Last week we discussed Rev. William Barber's *White Poverty*.

Poverty in the US is a huge hidden problem. Barber writes that for 140 million people in the US (43%) a \$400 trip to the emergency room or another emergency expense would be catastrophic. White people make up the largest section of the poor.

Omar pointed out that the ruling class media have defined "working-class" as white and "poor" as black. Jim summarized the argument: "Poor white people have more in common with other poor people than they do with the white elite."

Barber's Poor People's Cam-

paign strategy is a "moral fusion" in which poor people are the swing voters who can defeat the fascist MAGA agenda.

It didn't work in the last elections. As Eileen said, the Democrats claimed that everything was fine, showing their disconnect from ordinary people. Many poor and disaffected voted for Trump.

Focusing on "poor people" rather than the working class robs us of our power.

"Social class is not about where you fall on an imaginary line between \$0 (or negative) net worth and whatever obscene wealth Musk has," Lucy said.

"Social class is a relationship. There's us—the working people, who have to sell our labor power to survive, and there's the bosses who profit from our labor.

"What's good for them is bad for us—low wages for us means higher profits for them; high pay for us means less profits for them."

Richard said that on-the-job exploitation is just one aspect of how poor people are robbed. There's high rent in slum housing, unequal social services, taxes for war, pay day lenders, and more.

**That's true. But what's the main thing?**

Workers are forced to sell their labor power. That's all we have, and the necessities of life have price tags. We compete in the labor market and get paid the going rate, influenced by skills and training, class struggle, and sexist and racist divisions.

Labor transforms cloth into

shirts, flour into bread, a hole in the ground into coal, cadmium, iron, or petroleum. The labor invested in that process is the source of all economic wealth. Work transforms raw materials into commodities.

The difference between wages and the value added in the production process is the source of all economic value in capitalism. That surplus value is where profits come from. The exploitation of labor at the point of production, and the fact that those who own the means of production get rich off our sweat is the fundamental contradiction in capitalist society and the basis of their political power.

Eileen and Charlie nodded in agreement as Lucy said that everyone who works for a living knows they do something valuable, and they don't get paid what it's worth. Organizing the working class is powerful and inspiring.

Langston Hughes wrote: "We are like the bees. We work, and our work is stolen from us. We are like the bees, but it won't last forever." Cindy said that instead of the Poor People's Campaign's victim mentality, we should organize a party of worker bees.

Charlie had said earlier that he



had always been a liberal not a radical. He didn't want the disruption, danger, and chaos of a revolution. But the disruption has been brought to us. Radical change, he said, may be unavoidable.

Eileen quoted Musk: "Empathy is the downfall of Western Civilization." She declared that empathy and a commitment to the common good are essential. Everyone agreed.

"My understanding of communism is a society organized around collectivity and empathy," said Lucy.

We can't get to communism by "moral fusion" or voting for Democrats or Greens. We have to seize the means of production and build a society where we produce for the common good, not for profits. That will take armed revolution, and a party with a strategy to win. Join us in building that in the International Communist Workers' Party.

Read more about  
**Communist  
Political  
Economy**  
here



## STUDYING COMMUNIST PHILOSOPHY HELPS US UNDERSTAND THE CLASS STRUGGLE

LOS ANGELES (USA), March 29— Our collective met to begin our study of Dialectical Materialism. As communists we understand the importance of having a scientific understanding of our world and how to change it. Dialectical Materialism is the scientific study of how things change, so we started our meeting series with a discussion on the difference between idealism and materialism. We read and discussed a *Red Flag* article (see link) that said that "Hegel maintained that contradictions could be resolved in ways that preserved both opposite sides in a 'higher unity,' a synthesis that made them no longer contradictory."

The next day, a friend who participated in the meeting told me he was still thinking about our discussion and said he finally understood why capitalism cannot be reformed.

Hegel said it was possible for a legislature to keep the contradiction between a king and the population he ruled from breaking out into a

fight. Marx rejected this idea. He said that contradictions can only end by one or both sides being destroyed. Marx later realized that most of the time Hegel looked at contradictions that way, too, but Hegel was an intellectual defender of the monarchy.

My friend realized that the belief that two opposing forces could work in harmony if balance was maintained would also lead workers to think they didn't have to resolve the contradiction between workers and bosses. Rather, they could learn to balance out their differences through reform struggles. While this was not typical of Hegel's view on contradiction, Marx pointing out and correcting Hegel's inaccuracy was crucial.

This friend recognized that capitalism, by design, is not a sustainable system for the workers. He more fully understood that democrats and republicans in the USA are not actually in contradiction. Both are defenders of capitalism. He un-

derstood that the increased concentration of wealth and the super-exploitation of workers was the nature of capitalism.

It's not that some capitalists are greedy or not being nice, but that the bosses are in dog-eat-dog competition to produce as cheaply as possible while trying to make the most profits possible, leaving the workers with only breadcrumbs.

Capitalist production for profit destroys the environment due to overproduction and limited earth resources. For bosses, it doesn't make sense to produce something that will last a lifetime. If an iPhone was produced to last thirty years it would be less profitable than if the iPhone had to be upgraded or replaced within three years. What's good for the bosses is bad for the workers and vice versa. The contradiction is constant and apparent harmony is temporary.

Communism will eliminate the contradiction between exploiters and exploited by ending the exis-

tence of social classes. As new contradictions emerge, it seems that the primary contradiction will become humanity vs nature. We will be challenged to overcome things such as disease and global warming.

Our small study group learned a lot by discussing and then writing about these ideas. At our next meeting we'll look closer at the main Marx-Hegel disagreement, which was about idealism vs materialism.

**Dialectics Before  
Marxism**  
From *Red Flag*,  
November 14, 2013





## THEN AND NOW: WORKERS FIGHT BACK AS CAPITALIST USE TECHNOLOGY TO ATTACK OUR CLASS



RICHMOND (USA), March 30 — Our book club reads history because it helps us understand the world today. The Luddites, a workers' movement that arose in Britain at the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, helps us understand the current debate about Artificial Intelligence.

Today the word "Luddite" is an insult aimed at a dull wit who stands in the way of technological advance.

Brian Merchant's book *Blood in the Machine* demolishes that myth. "Imagine millions of people," it argues, "plagued by the fear that technology is accelerating out of control. This could be today. It could also be in the early days of the Industrial Revolution when the story of the rebellion against ... the first tech titans began."

Two characters are at the center of the story. General Ned Ludd,

who wrote lots of letters to factory owners. Ned "lived" in Sherwood Forest, once the home of Robin Hood.

Alongside Ned was Enoch—the manufacturer's brand name of a heavy hammer. Wherever Ned went, Enoch went too.

"One thing about a mythical leader," Dave commented, "is they can never be caught!"

This is how Merchant describes Britain in 1811:

"Fiery speeches broke out... Some blasted the Crown (The King and Parliament) for the war against Napoleon... Others yelled at shop owners for setting food prices too high; children were going for days without eating. Still others called for political reform....

(In Huddersfield) fully half the town's 30,000 were listed on the poor rolls... The situation was so dire that hopeless framework knitters (a type of weaver) were committing suicide."

"Sounds like today's *Deaths of Despair*," Minnie said.

"Or the price of eggs," Dave added.

"Or DOGE," Alice suggested.

Far from being unskilled, the weavers were among the high-tech workers of their age. The loom was a complicated piece of machinery. First powered by water and then the steam engine, the power loom replaced the hand loom.

In his day, the weaver and his family lived comfortably, working a thirty-hour week at home. As steam powered looms began to dominate and more inventions deskilled the work, a child or destitute woman worked sixty hours for subsistence in the "dark Satanic" factories.

These stories give background to the movement. Here's part of one of Gen Ludd's letters.

"Whereas it hath been represented to us ... That Charles Lacy, a British Lace Manufacturer... has reduced to poverty and Misery 700 of our beloved Brethren [by using machinery that was] hurtful to our commonality." Unless he changed his ways, they would break the machines that were "stealing our bread."

The Luddites were not attacking innovation and technological advance. They were attacking technological advances that benefitted capitalists but impoverished the masses.

Eventually they were defeated militarily. The victors write history and so the Luddites come to us as ignorant roadblocks to social advances. However, the scale of their thirty-year guerilla warfare can be gleaned from one statistic.

The British Empire during this period was fighting Napoleon in Europe, the United States, and conquering India with a private army.

It actually stationed more troops in the North of England to fight the Luddites!

Imperialist and colonial terror begins at home!

Merchant also shows how this struggle influenced major writers of the period from Shelley to Byron and, of course, Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein," a monster forged out of the reckless use of technology.

"Wow! I never realized Ned Ludd was related to Frankenstein!" Dave joked.

The Luddites lost because they looked back. They wanted to restore the prosperous old days.

In the long run they won. Out of their defeat, a mightier movement arose, the Chartists. That movement published the first English translation of *The Communist Manifesto*. But that's another book!



## CAPITALIST CRISIS: SCIENTIFIC MISINFORMATION AND DISEASE

USA, April 1— The plague that is late-stage capitalism is spreading its havoc more than ever. As always, the working class finds itself on the frontlines dealing with the consequences.

The resurgence of preventable diseases and the widespread rejection of scientific truth in the United States is not a coincidence. Rather, it is a symptom of the contradictions inherent in capitalism. The need to continually produce profits versus the needs of the worker.

Vaccine hesitancy, the return of diseases like measles and polio, and the suppression of scientific truth. These are all consequences of a system that prioritizes private profit over collective well-being.

The spread of vaccine misinformation is not simply the result of ignorance. It is a direct product of capitalist institutions manipulating the people.

Pharmaceutical giants, which hold patents on life-saving vaccines, have long prioritized profits over universal access to healthcare. They don't ensure that vaccines are freely available to all. Instead, large corporations benefit from a system that allows wealth to dictate health outcomes.

Meanwhile, the capitalist media landscape thrives on sensationalism. This allows social media platforms to serve as breeding grounds for conspiracy theories.

Misinformation is an unfortunate byproduct of modern technology. It is a feature of an economic system that benefits from keeping the working class divided and distracted. By fostering distrust in science, the ruling elites weaken the solidarity needed for collective action against systemic injustices. Those include healthcare inequality and worker exploitation.

The resurgence of preventable diseases in the United States is a glaring example of capitalism's failure. Measles was eradicated in the US in 2000. But it has recently returned as vaccination rates have declined because of rampant vaccine misinformation.

The same is true for polio. This disease had been nearly eliminated. But it is now spreading in impoverished and war-torn communities such as Gaza. These outbreaks are not simply the result of individual choices. Rather, they are the predictable outcome of a system that refuses to guarantee healthcare.

In communist society, public

health will be prioritized, and profits won't exist. Vaccine distribution and education will be handled as collective responsibilities.

The capitalist United States, in contrast, has allowed private corporations to dictate healthcare policy. This ensures that only those who can afford medical care will receive it.

The anti-vaccine movement is a tool used by a system that does not care to invest in scientific literacy but willfully allows misinformation to flourish unregulated.

Beyond vaccine misinformation, the broader attack on science in the US is fueled by capitalist interests. These seek to maintain economic and ideological control over the population. Climate change denial is a prime example. Fossil fuel corporations spend billions to suppress scientific consensus to continue their destructive, profit-driven industries.

Similarly, during the COVID-19 pandemic, corporate interests actively resisted public health measures that would have limited



"Barefoot doctors" brought health care to rural China during the Cultural Revolution of the 1960s

business operations. They prioritized short-term economic gain over millions of lives.

This suppression of science is deeply political. A well-informed, scientifically literate population would be less susceptible to exploitation. It would be more likely to demand systemic change. By keeping workers misinformed and skeptical of scientific institutions, the ruling class ensures the continuation of a system that benefits the few at the expense of the many.

The only solution lies in dismantling the capitalist system. Capitalism only knows how to perpetuate inequality and uses science as a weapon of exploitation. Only in communism will science truly serve the masses as a tool of liberation.



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

## Reality Is the Best Lesson

In 2009, I graduated from the University of California – Santa Cruz (UCSC). Although I was born in Idaho, my parents were from Kenya. I had never been to Kenya. Everyone in my school days assumed I was a black kid, and I was teased and bullied. I had an intense desire to visit Kenya.

I came to UCSC to study sustainable agriculture. During my student days, I met a comrade who worked on a communist newspaper. We participated in many campus struggles. He was particularly interested in life as an immigrant student. He gave me a book called *The Lords of Poverty* in my final year.

The book is a collection of stories of people from the US and Europe who got assignments to do relief work in countries devastated by famine, drought, or wars. These bureaucrats and technocrats would triple their salaries compared to the assignments in NY or Washington, D.C. The extravagant salary was justified because they were undertaking ‘dangerous’ tasks.

Those with these ‘dangerous’ tasks ended up living in luxurious

villas in the affected countries, with chauffeur-driven cars, security personnel, chefs, and several household staff working around the clock.

After I graduated from UCSC, I worked in a non-profit organization that was trying to mitigate the effects of climate change. While it sounded like a noble cause, I discovered that their goal was not to change capitalism but to soften the effect of climate change. I said to myself, “I don’t want to be one of the lords of poverty.”

I left my job. The first opportunity I got to live in Kenya, I grabbed it. I was a field officer in charge of USAID in Kenya. I still thought I would not be what the book said: a corrupt, sell-out bureaucrat.

My assignment was very challenging. I met lots of people from around the world. Most importantly, I lived with a modest Kenyan family. I also saw huge demonstrations in Nairobi against US imperialism. There were rumors that USAID was a CIA front.

I looked at my assignment in Kenya with a myopic vision. But reality is the best lesson in life. People in the streets were furious at the US-sponsored entities. I was also



KENYA, June 2024-- Mass protests against government economic policies continued even after proposed tax hikes were rescinded

getting the communist literature from my friend from UCSC. I lived with this split personality by justifying that I gave up lucrative assignments, opting to do the fieldwork.

Fast forward to February 2025. I was fired, along with thousands of USAID workers, around the world. After the initial shock, I started reading *Red Flag* seriously. What caught my attention were the stories from Gaza and Israel. There is a sizable Muslim community in Kenya and many public demon-

strations.

I have another opportunity to shift to Johannesburg. We are living in interesting times. This opportunity is not another bureaucratic job. Over the years, I have known a good deal about the work of ICWP comrades in South Africa. I have a vast network of people from all over Africa. I look forward to meeting you soon.

—No Longer a Lord of Poverty

## MYANMAR EARTHQUAKE: ANOTHER CAPITALIST DISASTER

March 31— A magnitude 7.7 earthquake struck the city of Mandalay, Myanmar on March 28. It released energy equivalent to three hundred atomic bombs. A government building in faraway Bangkok, the capital of Thailand, collapsed.

The death toll is estimated to be at least three thousand people, probably many more. The military junta is paying lip service to the dead by organizing a minute of silence on Tuesday, coincidentally April Fool’s Day. Meanwhile it continues bombing rebel areas and has ignored calls for a ceasefire.

Earthquakes are natural, but this disaster is not. This region has a history of powerful earthquakes. Yet almost no buildings in Mandalay were built or retrofitted to withstand them. Residents were left on their own to fend for themselves and rescue survivors in the critical first days. Government troops blocked volunteers from coming to help.

Myanmar was already ravaged by civil war and ruled by a brutal military junta that seized power in a 2021 coup. It has brutally suppressed armed rebellions since then. It has killed over 50,000 people, thousands of them civilians, including hundreds of children. More than 25,000 have been arrested, including many doctors and nurses who were thus unable to help earthquake victims.

Despite international sanctions, the military junta continues to buy arms from Russia and China, and probably from other countries like Israel, India, Thailand and Singapore.

Meanwhile, the Myanmar economy is in shambles. Inflation is around 25%. Almost half of the population lives in poverty, with the majority hanging by a thread.

The mainly Muslim Rohingya minority had to flee Bangladesh in 2017 to escape a genocide. Their situation has worsened. They are

threatened by both sides in the Myanmar civil war.

Some Rohingya now living in refugee camps have taken up arms. Others have filed a complaint to the US Securities and Exchange Commission.

Meta (formerly Facebook) is one of the US corporations named in the complaint. Meta violated its own “community standards” and inflamed anti-Rohingya propaganda, which contributed to the genocide. Meta’s algorithms are invasive, and its priority is targeted advertising to keep users “engaged.” If that means spreading propaganda which could cost lives, then so be it.

This is a key feature of capitalism – nothing should come in the way of profits. Even if it takes a genocide to profit. From South America to Africa to Vietnam to Ukraine, atrocities are the way of doing business and the loss of human life is called “collateral damage”.

The working class is who suffers the most. They are the ones dying in substandard housing during earthquakes. The ones fighting and being killed in capitalist wars. Living in poverty while producing food, building houses, cars, planes, trains, and running the planet. Meanwhile the capitalists lie that wealth is just about to trickle down and this is the only possible system.

It’s not. Communism is possible. Workers had to save themselves from collapsed buildings and earthquake-ravaged cities. We can also save ourselves from capitalism itself and its constant wars. We can organize ourselves to build and rebuild, to produce for and care for each other without money or profit.

Let’s organize the International Communist Workers’ Party to seize power and create a good, sustainable life for all living beings.

## TRADE WARS LEAD TO SHOOTING WARS from page 8

rising energy prices and supply chain disruptions have contributed to inflation, eroding workers’ purchasing power.

The escalating US-China trade war will make life even more unbearable for tens of millions of workers in the US and worldwide.

The goal of capitalism-imperialism is profits for the capitalists at the expense of the world’s workers. Capitalism means endless competi-

tion, profit accumulation, and terror. While billionaires live in luxury, impoverished workers in war-torn regions have been uprooted from their homes. They are forced to live without adequate food and water. Many refugees seek a better life elsewhere, only to get deported.

Only a humane egalitarian social system, communism, will end all profit-motivated wars and meet the masses’ needs everywhere. The new

system will do away with nations, borders, money, and the wage system.

Communist masses will collectively re-distribute food, water, and other resources to impoverished regions. We will eliminate the wealth gap and social classes. All workers will live freely without fear of imperialist invasions.

Communism will be achieved only through armed communist revolution to wipe out all capitalist im-

perialists everywhere. To do this, we must recruit more youth, workers, and soldiers to the International Communist Workers’ Party.

Anti-fascist workers who recognize that their interests are with the workers of the world, and not with the capitalist governments, will join forces with the international communist masses in overthrowing the capitalist imperialist system. We invite them to join ICWP.



## US Has Long History of Betraying Veterans

# SOLDIERS, NATIONAL GUARD TROOPS, SAILORS, MARINES: JOIN ICWP AND FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM

SEATTLE (US), March 25—“This is just what I need to show how capitalism is the enemy of workers and soldiers,” said a friend about the *Red Flag* article about attacks on the Veterans’ Administration (VA). She works with high school students and will use the article at their next meeting.

Recent cutbacks at the VA have further devastated an already inadequate system. The current administration threatens to fire an additional 80,000 VA workers and medical personnel by June.

The US ruling class needs to recruit young people into the army. They will use their military might against nations who are gaining world dominance while the US is losing it.

Millions of workers and soldiers have died or been wounded fighting in the bosses’ bloody wars. When they return home, they are denied the health care they need, as well as losing jobs and housing.

ICWP says the international working class can defeat the capitalist system, but only if we fight for communism. We cannot win a revolution without the soldiers. We must understand their important

role and win our friends and family members in the military to become communist fighters.

### Veterans Fight Back

The Veterans’ Bonus March and encampments after World War I show how the capitalist system discards veterans. Trump and Musk are fascists, but the ultimate responsibility lies with capitalism.

After World War I, returning soldiers were offered a \$60 bonus, but they demanded more. In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge signed a bill that would give each soldier who served overseas a certificate that would not pay out until 1945.

By 1932, hundreds of thousands were out of work. The unemployment rate hovered around 30%.

Veterans of World War I organized themselves into the Bonus Expeditionary Force (BEF or Bonus Army) to demand that the bonuses be paid out early so they could feed their families. In the spring, 17,000 veterans, their families, and supporters traveled to Washington, DC and set up camp near the Capitol.

The veterans organized themselves into a shanty town on the banks of the Anacostia River. They were not leaving until those bonuses were paid. They built structures from waste at a nearby dump. They laid out streets, built sanitation facilities, a library, a religious tent, and a post office for sending



Black and white veterans fought attacks by cops and soldiers on Bonus March encampments.

letters home. Every day they organized a march.

The House of Representatives passed a bill to give the soldiers their bonuses, but the Senate rejected it.

When Ben Shepherd, a leader of the Bonus Army, had marched off to war in 1917, an older veteran had warned him, “You are all heroes now. But some day they’ll treat you like dogs.”

The communist *Daily Worker* had a more optimistic outlook. “Come the revolution, the marchers would be the ‘shock troops’ of America’s unemployed masses.”

The communist international insisted that the US party send more veterans to the encampments. The left-wing won hundreds at the conventions at Fort Hunt but could never say that they led the bonus march.

The generals worried that Marines living close to the camp would join the veterans in their struggle. Black and white vets stood together to fight the armed troops. Army and Navy intelligence continued to report frantically that the protest was a communist plot.

On July 28, 1932, President Herbert Hoover pressured the local police chief to attack the camp. The veterans fought back. Two were killed by police.

The next day, General Douglas MacArthur—a diehard anti-communist who would become infamous for his brutality in the Pacific during World War II—ordered the regular Army to crush the camps.

George Patton, also later a World War II general, led the attack on the veterans and their families. They attacked with cavalry and infantry, led by six tanks and using fixed bayonets, tear gas, and other chemical weapons. A twelve-year-old boy was killed. The regular army soldiers set fire to the camp, forcing everyone to flee.

Capitalism has been the enemy for centuries. The imperialist armed forces continue to sacrifice soldiers and veterans on an altar of profits draped with a flag.

Only communist revolution can end the carnage. Preparing young comrades to build communist collectives in the armed forces is vital. Let’s “turn the guns around!”



Detroit (USA), February 2025: Veterans’ Administration workers protest job cuts.

## Trade Wars Lead to Shooting Wars

# COMMUNIST REVOLUTION IS THE ONLY WAY FORWARD

“We’re prepared,” US Defense Secretary Hegseth said on TV. “Those who long for peace should prepare for war That’s why we’re rebuilding our military. We live in a dangerous world with powerful, ascendant countries with a different ideology.” He spoke soon after Trump imposed an additional 10% tariff on Chinese goods.

“If war is what the US wants, be it a tariff war, a trade war, or any other type of war, we’re ready to fight until the end,” answered a Chinese Embassy spokesperson in the US. China retaliated quickly with its own tariffs. It placed 25 US firms under export and investment restrictions, citing national security threats.

The inter-imperialist rivalry between China and the US is intensifying with no end in sight. The rulers’ bellicose rhetoric aims to win the masses to war.

China’s capitalist-imperialist rulers have the world’s biggest, most modern navy. They are building “the mother of all aircraft carriers,” with more firepower than the whole UK military. They have conducted unannounced live-fire exercises off Taiwan’s southwest coast.

Seizing Taiwan would allow them to deploy their submarines worldwide by accessing the deep waters of the Pacific. They would avoid US underwater sensors in the straits of the First Island Chain (Japan, Philippines, Indonesia, and Taiwan).

US imperialists disagree over whether to defend the Taiwanese government during a Chinese invasion. Some US rulers arrogantly think they can successfully confront China in Taiwan. Others fear this is not true. They would rather confront Chinese imperialists elsewhere. But they favor encouraging Taiwanese nationalists to confront Chinese imperialism anyway.

Meanwhile, the US government has quietly unfrozen \$870 million in security assistance programs for Taiwanese capitalists. Chinese imperialist rulers criticized the resumed funding for violating their interests in Taiwan. The Chinese Defense Military spokesperson threatened

Taiwan, “We will come get you sooner or later.”

A “reunification” war will bring disastrous consequences to the working class. Thousands of workers in both Mainland China and Taiwan, and potentially the US, will die fighting each other for the interests of the ruling elite. The most impoverished sectors of the working class will become even poorer.

We are already feeling the effects of the Russia-NATO proxy war and genocides in Ukraine and Palestine. These fascist regional wars have massacred hundreds of thousands of workers. They have already worsened the global energy crisis, leading to higher energy prices. In turn,

See TRADE WARS LEAD TO SHOOTING WARS, page 7