

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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



**“NO WAR
ECONOMY”
GENERAL
STRIKE
ITALY
NOVEMBER
28
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COMMUNIST REVOLUTION WILL CLEAR OUT ALL IMPERIALISTS AND CLEAR THE AIR

NEW DELHI (India), December 5— “When Putin arrives in India tomorrow, there won’t be green fabric along the highways,” said a bus driver as he took the latest issue of *Red Flag*. “They did it two years ago during the G20 summit to hide the millions of people living in sprawling squalor. Today, the smog is so severe that the toxic brown cloud will engulf the streets.”

This worker has read *Red Flag* since 2023. The air quality is so bad that when he drives his bus, even in the daytime, the streets disappear from his vision and he misses turns.

Our ICWP collective has been distributing *Red Flag* in this area for four years. It’s near the largest gathering point where workers go to the Maruti/Suzuki auto factory.

We are concentrating on this area because more than 35,000 workers are employed there. [See NEW DELHI AIR POLLUTION, page 3](#)

Next year, they will add 15,000 more autoworkers. This neighbourhood has thousands of other workers. Most live in slums.

Every person we meet while distributing *Red Flag* has experienced the devastating effects of air pollution. Constant cough, breathing difficulty, and asthma are present in every family. Manju said, “*Red Flag* is the only newspaper that talks about how communism will end deadly air pollution, climate change, and other capitalist-created disasters.”

Manju added that “India was getting discounted oil from Russia, but today, the petrol prices have almost doubled. Food prices are skyrocketing. The rupee is falling.”

Another long-time reader agreed. “Putin gave cheap oil to Adani and Ambani. Common people in India

Resolving Internal Contradictions in the Maquilas

ADVANCING THE COMMUNIST STRUGGLE IS OUR PRIORITY

EL SALVADOR, December 22— The communist collective of garment workers recently discussed the constant labor abuses and psychological pressure suffered by workers. The political ideas expressed are useful for the work of the International Communist Workers’ Party worldwide.

The discussion included the situation in the garment factory, its relationship with the advance of the international crisis, and the internal contradictions of the capitalist system.

“The main problem is the fear of employer attacks, by union leaders. They want to make workers believe that they don’t have to defend themselves collectively. That does not prevent ICWP from raising our voices. We organize to defend each other when they yell at a coworker and when

they kidnap workers for the boardroom forcing them to sign their resignations,” said a maquila worker.

“There are more of us, and we must take care of each other. It does not matter whether or not a worker is organized in a union. We are communists, we fight for the entire working class. We must overcome our internal contradictions and save ourselves,” he concluded.

Another mentioned that “governments want to change our vision of reality to make us believe that we are fine.”

The problem is caused by the bosses and their lackey union leaders. They pressure workers to increase production in the maquila modules. That’s hundreds of dozens of garments a day for a

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**THIS IS A
4-WEEK
ISSUE**

Industrial Worker's Report

MOBILISE FOR COMMUNISM TO DEFEAT ATTACKS ON OUR INTERNATIONAL WORKING CLASS

GQEBERHA (South Africa), November 30—All over the world, the working class is under attack from capitalist imperialists. They use different methods of violence to kill, maim, and contain the working class, to subdue it and lock it in endless exploitation.

As the internal contradictions of capitalism intensify, the falling rate of profit forces capitalists to fight and compete for those profits. As the intensity of imperialist rivalry grows, the capitalists increase their attacks on the working class from Palestine to Sudan to El Salvador, South Africa and the USA, Ukraine, and Russia.

In Gaza, the US imperialists and their Israeli partners are committing genocide, killing tens of thousands and displacing millions. Hunger and starvation are used for Israeli-US domination to continue to control the Middle East's natural resources and gain the upper hand in their rivalries.

In Sudan, hundreds are killed as imperialist and aspiring capitalist factions fight for domination. Millions have been displaced in a civil war over the control of Sudan and its natural resources.

In South Africa, crime is unleashed against the working class. Poverty and drugs subjugate the working class to keep it passive.

In the USA, ICE agents attack immigrant workers. The massive decline in quality of life is explained through the prism of nationalism and racism. Job losses result from major US companies moving production to other regions where cheap labour can easily be exploited. This is hidden as a factor in mass unemployment of US workers. Rather, immigrants are used as scapegoats, as a tool for fascist capitalists to gain support from the masses.

Despite the unprecedented attacks, the working class is fighting back. Massive demonstrations and defiant struggles are taking

place across the globe. The masses are seeking unity and want change.

We communists must stand shoulder to shoulder with our class siblings. We must not fight for socialism or reform but for the total uprooting of the capitalist economic and social system. We must mobilise the masses, and in particular the industrial workers, to fight for communism. And with it a future free of exploitation and segregation.

We must have a communist world view. We must defeat capitalist nationalist propaganda that divides the working class and allows for fascist attacks on immigrants and allows genocide in Gaza. We must refute nationalist propaganda and stand against xenophobic nationalism in South Africa. Our collective must struggle worldwide to dismiss the notions of immigrants "stealing jobs" when they are our class siblings at the forefront of exploitation.

The imperialist balance of forces is narrowing. Chinese imperialists and their allies want to ascend to a dominant position while the US and its allies plan to cling to their dominance. Their proxy wars and economic wars are escalating. This will lead to world war and immense destruction. However, the working class can rise in its ruins and emerge with a new communist world and organise society to meet our needs.

Preparation of that starts now. The process will not be mechanical. If we don't organise workers, fascists and other evils will take the opportunity, which will doom the working class.

I work in the tapestry industry. I organise workers in our factory to join the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP). We have workers who regularly receive our Red Flags. The next step is to have them join the party and become committed members who also organise where they live.

We organise industrial workers

in different areas to win them in the struggle for communism. We have a presence at Volkswagen, where we are forming a collective to recruit workers to fight for our cause overtly and covertly. In the pastry industrial factories in Gqeberha, we have comrades who are mobilising the workers to join the ICWP.

We have started developing young ICWP leaders in high schools who, one day, will become industrial workers and recruit inside to lead a communist revolution. Many young comrades will work at plants like VW. We encourage those comrades to build relationships with the comrades that work there already.

To sit at home and do nothing is to be complicit in the violence against the international working

class. Our collectives must see ourselves as the international working class so much that what happens in Gaza or Sudan is not something isolated but rather an attack on us.

We struggle against nationalism. We should not be defined by our borders but by our class. Before we are "South Africans" we are workers who happen to live in South Africa. Our enemies are not immigrants from other demarcated borders but the capitalist class that seeks to divide and exploit us and conquer us.

We are embarking on the struggle to fight back by recruiting as many industrial workers and young people as possible in order to fight and destroy capitalist exploitation and all the ills that come with it.



GQEBERHA (South Africa), December 8—A new young comrade and her friends organized a community meeting with food for the neighbourhood. "The meeting was great," she reported. "We had some really engaged new members who were curious about communism and what it could mean for our society."

"We had a great discussion about the principles of communism and how it could bring about positive change. New members had some really thoughtful questions, and it was great to see everyone so interested in learning more. We talked about how communism aims to create a more equal society, where everyone has access to the same opportunities and resources. We also discussed how it could help address some of the social and economic challenges we face, like inequality and poverty."

"Overall, it was a really productive and inspiring meeting, and it was my first meeting without older comrades at my side. It was challenging but it was great to experience."

ON THE WEB:

We have a lot more than we can print this issue. See www.icwpredflag.org for::

Answering Questions About Political Economy

Defeating Xenophobia: Industrial Workers Lead

Language is a Class Question

Ending Drug Addiction Requires a Society Based on Collectivity and Human Connection

Mexico: Exploitation, Imperialism & Class Struggle

Los Angeles: Between the Hammer and the Rock

CHECK OUT THE ICWPEDIA: the online communist mini-encyclopedia. at the QR code to the right






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MASSES FOR
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INDUSTRIAL WORKERS LEARN MORE ABOUT COMMUNISM IN DISCUSSION AND CLASS STRUGGLE

SEATTLE (USA), November 23— “What brought you to becoming a communist?” Boeing worker F asked a comrade at an ICWP potluck. F had recently returned from supporting Boeing strikers in St. Louis.

“I’m not afraid to consider communism, especially in these times of racism and fascism,” he continued.

The comrade replied, “I became a communist when I realized that the only way to end the horror that is capitalism is to continue to fight for a communist collective society based on the needs of the international working class.”

A tech worker also wanted to know why our comrade and other party members embraced communism. A comrade walked him to the train, continuing to discuss the necessity of building communist collectives.

Industrial Workers’ Meeting

The next day was the regular meeting of a committee of industrial workers to discuss what is happening on the job. Comrades have built some relationships in this group. Now our party must underscore the contradictions between socialism, which preserves capitalism, and communism, which ends the capitalist terrors our class is forced to suffer under all around the world.

“It is a good thing when friends start asking how our comrades became communists,” remarked a Boeing worker.

Industrial workers are not limited to action in the factory. They can begin to unleash the power of the international working class. Some of these workers have invited our party members to help them in fighting ICE (immigration police) attacks on immigrants. “Fights against ICE detentions will be part of our union obligation,” vowed another Boeing worker.

These fights are already part of our party work. Teachers and their students, caregivers and healthcare workers, friends and comrades organizing rapid response networks, are taking on more responsibility in this fight for our class.

We are inspired by these industrial worker friends, whether they are discussing and debating at the potluck or fighting back on the streets. Their strength and integrity underscore that the international working class has the potential to build a new future based on the end of wage slavery, profits, and ultimately the end of fascism and war.

Communism is the Answer

Communism is a system in which the working class collectively runs society and production for use. Discussion about the necessity of spreading international com-



SEATTLE (USA), December 7—A multiracial group protested at Othello Station on December 3, where, on the previous day, cops had fired twenty-four bullets, killing a Black man. Comrades of the International Communist Workers’ Party participated. Two days later, ICE kidnapped a migrant worker nearby. By Sunday, ICE had stationed at least four cars of masked men in Othello Park. They eventually had to leave as community members began to arrive with gas masks, helmets, and a megaphone. Friends, comrades, and Boeing workers joined two rapid-response networks in this very integrated working-class neighborhood.

munist ideas and recruiting new young leaders continued at the potluck.

F made a point of welcoming communist ideas. Especially those that focus on production for the needs of the worldwide working class in a new communist society. Now and in the future, we will rely on collective work of the masses to meet the masses’ needs.

F is working collectively with other friends and comrades on an article about his experiences in St. Louis.

He is eager for the next potluck. “I’m interested in learning more about communism,” he told a comrade. We will be sure that he does!

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are working harder than ever and finding it more difficult to survive. Putin and Modi are plotting to expand their exploitation of people like us.”

Comments like these give us the opportunity to explain the geopolitics of Putin’s visit. As we have often said, the entire capitalist system is in crisis like never before. The capitalist bosses survive only by making more money. But there are too many capitalists trying to make money.

Take the example of the auto factory.

India has the third largest automobile industry in the world. After the Ukraine-Russia war began, the Indian auto industry grew rapidly. It is expected to be number one by 2030. This was mostly fuelled by cheap Russian oil that formerly propelled European industry.

However, 70% of India’s automobile components come from China. Indian automobile companies use Chinese EV manufacturing, lithium batteries, computer chips, and robotics. Indian imperialists need Chinese imperialists, but they are also in competition with them.

In a recent brief conflict between India and Pakistan, India was hu-

miliated when the Chinese-made fighter jets and missiles destroyed Indian fighter jets on the ground, even before they could take off. Indian capitalists quietly accepted defeat by expanding the auto industry supply chain to India.

The Russian imperialists see that both the Indian and Chinese imperialists need their enormous energy resources. They propose strengthening Russia-India-China ties to boost the BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa) alliance. Putin has offered an unlimited energy supply. He opened Russia’s Arctic routes to India and provided the latest missile technology.

However, Indian rulers also depend on exporting cheap goods to the USA. The Trump administration wants to increase tariffs to dissuade Russia from selling oil to India. They are offering F-35 fighter jets to India as a counterbalance to the contradiction between India and China. These are all signs of World War.

The thick, toxic clouds in India won’t be lifted by Putin, Modi, or Trump. Only the working class, led by ICWP, fighting for communism to end the wage system, will pave the way for clearer air. We don’t need millions of cheap cars that



New Delhi (India), 2023— Fascist Prime Minister Modi had green fabric barriers erected to hide vast areas of working-class housing. That way, imperialist leaders attending the G20 Summit didn’t have to confront the grinding poverty their system creates.

clog freeways and lungs. We will build an efficient transport system based on the needs of the working class, and not on capitalist profit.

We made a strategic decision to concentrate our ICWP forces in industrial areas. With our comrades in

Chennai, we are establishing a foothold in the auto industry. We greet our South African comrades in the Volkswagen plants. Let us expand our base by preparing for communist revolution.

At garment factory gates today

ENVISIONING THE COMMUNIST FACTORY OF THE FUTURE

LOS ANGELES (USA), December 3— “In El Salvador, they already tried communism,” said a Salvadoran worker. He was picking up cut or pre-woven and bagged fabric from a clothing factory where we distribute *Red Flag*. “And look at how people are doing now,” he said to the comrade.

“Well, the truth is, communism wasn’t tried,” replied the comrade. “Before the Salvadoran civil war, US capitalists dominated the Salvadoran economy through military dictatorships. The Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) was formed to liberate the nation and establish socialism.”

“Look,” he said, pointing to an article written by comrades in El Salvador, “there and in many other places, we are fighting for true communism.”

The comrade previously had several short conversations with this *Red Flag* reader.

Another young man approached the factory entrance pushing a wheelbarrow with a heavy yellow machine. He stopped and called for help on his radio. He was a mechanic, and the machine needed repairs.

“What’s that?” he asked the comrade.

“It’s a revolutionary communist newspaper. It talks about how we are organizing and fighting for a communist world.”

The worker’s eyes lit up. He asked, “How so?”

“In a communist world we will

all work to meet the needs of all workers, not to enrich bosses.” The comrade touched the machine. “You see this machine? Workers built it. Now that it needs repairs, you must fix it.”

He continued, “You see this enormous factory? It was built by workers. Everything, the streets, the hospitals, the cars, is built by workers. And the bosses own everything. They get rich off our labor. They need us; without us, they cannot exist. We don’t need them.”

Two workers arrived to unload the machine, and the conversation ended. The mechanic took *Red Flag*.

Capitalist Versus Communist Factories

With communism, factories and machines will function differently than with capitalism. The Peruvian communist poet Cesar Vallejo visited the Soviet Union and wrote *Russia in 1931: At the Foot of the Kremlin*. The masses believed then that they were on their way to building a new workers’ state.

In the book, Vallejo says that the factory had become a new home. “In Russia, the home is no longer comprised of parents and children, but of all workers. It is a single home, made up of millions of parents and millions of children. Its emotional machinery has multiplied, been liberated, and amplified”.

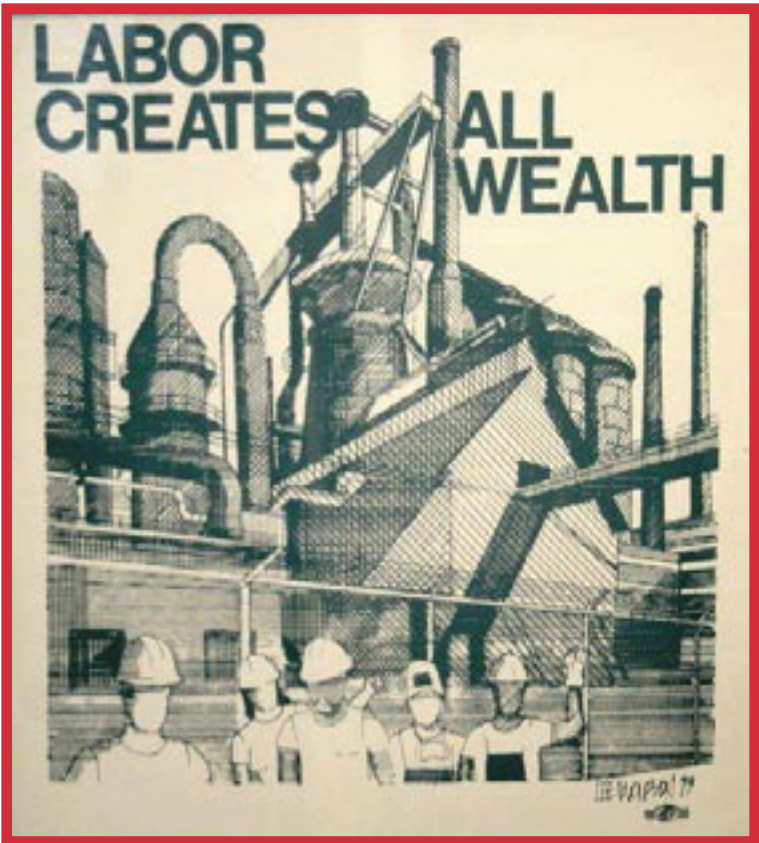
Vallejo adds that the new Russian factory family has given its emotional values “a new foundation in

history: work. Love inspired and founded on work! The kinship of work! Hence, the factory has become the matrix source of all relationships, feelings, interests, and ideas of every individual.”

Communists saw factories as the key place to build communist social relations. They wanted to change the focus from individual competition, inequality and exploitation to collectivity, equity, and the wellbeing of every human being.

In the early 1930s, over 42 thousand foreign workers worked in Soviet factories.

The Soviet masses, too, believed that they were working toward communism. This was their vision. But the Communist Party thought the path was through socialism. Factories still had to produce goods for markets and to turn a profit. Workers got wages and people could only buy what they could afford.



Socialism had a very sharp and poignant internal contradiction. They were fighting for communism, but they maintained capitalist social relations of production (wages, markets). The result was capitalism, not communism. We’ve learned both from the vision and from their failure.

The same contradiction arose in El Salvador and many other places. The masses were fighting for a communist future. Tragically, it didn’t turn out like that. But the International Communist Workers’ Party continues the fight for a communist world. Let’s embrace the vision and learn from the mistakes. We have a world to win!

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miserable salary and less than \$2.00 USD (₡180 or R34) per extra hour.

The selling price of each garment ranges from \$40 to \$60 USD (₡3600-5400 or R680-1020). The grand theft from workers occurs at the point of production within the factory and ends in stores.

The objective of increasing production is to maximize employer profits (surplus value) at the expense of exploited labor. Workdays of more than twelve hours, unpaid overtime, digestive and lung diseases, musculoskeletal diseases including chronic and acute low back pain, serious spinal in-

juries, and psychological disorders are some results.

The fall in the purchasing power of wages worldwide is due to the competition of capitalists from different continents. Greater production is sought at the lowest cost. And what workers earn in every fortnight is barely enough to eat.

The imposition of fascist policies due to the capitalist economic crisis and the confrontation of imperialist governments such as the US, Russia, India, and China is another result.

The bosses enslave us with money, our wages. Unions, whether or not run by employers, lie to workers. They tell them that they “help the

company,” that the bosses “don’t have money.” But for every extra hour worked, each module of workers produces thousands of dollars of product, more than \$60,000 per hour of overtime.

“For a month now, the number of colleagues who go out in wheelchairs due to health complications after marathon days producing clothes in the maquila has increased,” denounced a worker.

Let’s Break the Chains of Slavery! Let’s organize the working class globally!

The way to defeat the capitalists is with workers’ unity, with communist class consciousness, building more ICWP collectives. Workers organized in ICWP give light and support to their comrades in the factories.

“Each of our comrades in the factories has reached political maturity thanks to the collective work

in the ICWP. It allows us to act with strength and in a timely manner in every struggle we carry out inside the factory,” said a comrade, a worker leader.

“We understand that long hours and poorly paid overtime have the objective that the worker does not have time to organize,” he said during the discussion.

Only the working class saves the working class. We call as a collective on all readers to encourage political discussion within each communist cell, family, friends, and worksite to promote class consciousness.

Workers’ organization, political and armed struggle, is fundamental to winning communism globally. This is achieved by building more communist cells and distributing and discussing our *Red Flag* newspaper. Join our party! Fight for and build Communism!



Genoa (Italy), November 28— Workers join a nationwide general strike against fascist Prime Minister Meloni’s war budget and the Italian government’s complicity in the continuing genocide in Gaza. This is the third general strike in Italy in three months. Italian workers are showing how industrial workers can go beyond narrow trade-unionism. They are fighting for the international working class. Our party’s task is to enlist them in mobilizing masses for communist revolution.

Communism or Anarchism? (Part II)

LESSONS OF THE 1871 PARIS COMMUNE: MARX VERSUS KROPOTKIN

USA, November 12— “What do you know about the Paris Commune?” a comrade asked a *Red Flag* reader at a Palestine vigil.

“Nothing!” he replied.

“That’s gotta change,” said the comrade.

The Paris Commune of 1871 was the first time (after the Haitian Revolution of 1804) that workers took power and used it to organize society in their own interest. (See box)

The Communards had stormed heaven, Marx and Engels declared. The Commune “was the positive form of a republic.” It would “not only supersede the monarchical form of class rule, but class rule itself.” It started to show how “the proletariat organized as the ruling class” could begin to “end capitalist property relations.”

Communists and anarchists drew some of the same lessons from the Commune. The absolute necessity of internationalism. Workers must destroy the institutions of capitalist class rule. “The working class cannot simply lay hold of the ready-made state machinery, and wield it for its own purposes,” Marx and Engels wrote.

But what should replace it?

Marx on the Commune

While resisting the German invasion, Paris workers had replaced the French army with a mainly working-class National Guard. “This fact was now to be transformed into an institution,” said Marx.

That institution was “a working, not a parliamentary body.” Its member received workers’ wages, not privileges. They could be recalled. With no police or standing army, the Commune – the workers’ state

– would not repress the masses.

A new draft Communal Constitution called the Paris Commune the model for every French municipality. A national militia “with an extremely short term of service” would replace the army. District assemblies would elect representatives to a National Delegation in Paris.

“The merely repressive organs of the old governmental power were to be amputated,” Marx wrote. Any of the old government’s legitimate functions would be “wrested from an authority usurping pre-eminence over society itself.” Such functions would be conducted by “the responsible agents of society.”

The Commune was “a working class government.” It was “the product of the struggle of the producing against the appropriating class.” It was “the political form under which to work out the economical emancipation of labor.” It would “serve as a lever” for destroying the economic basis of class society, “and therefore of class rule.”

“If co-operative production is to supersede the capitalist system,” Marx declared, “What else would it be but communism?”

Kropotkin on the Commune

The anarchist Kropotkin disagreed. He admired the Communards’ spirit but thought they were mistaken in simply replacing one government with another.

Kropotkin credited Marx’s International for clarifying that “The existing development of industry will force a great economic revolution upon our society; this revolution will abolish private property, will



put in common all the capital piled up by previous generations.”

The problem, he said, was its political form.

“German socialists,” he said, advocated “the popular state.” It would “organize production and exchange and generally watch over the life and activities of society.”

Italian and French socialists, he said, doubted “if such a state could ever exist; but if it could, it would surely be the worst of tyrannies.” Instead they proposed anarchy: “the total abolition of the state, and social organization from the simple to the complex by means of the free federation of popular groups of producers and consumers.”

Socialists agreed on this as a long-term goal, but not an immediate program. Kropotkin admitted that the anarchists lacked a clear, practical plan supported by existing workers’ organizations. The theory needed to be rooted in some practice. But how could this exist “with-

out laying hands upon property?” Without winning over the masses?

With the Commune, “the people of Paris proclaimed an essential anarchist principle, which was the breakdown of the state.” But they then proposed a needless national government. And, Kropotkin added, “There is no more reason for a government inside the commune than for a government outside.” Everything could be left to the “free initiative” of producers’ and consumers’ groups.

Marx and Engels saw the Paris Commune as a material starting point for theorizing the form of workers’ power. And then putting that theory into practice. Kropotkin didn’t.

We’ll return to Kropotkin’s questions. But we agree with Lenin that, despite its errors, “the Commune taught the European proletariat to pose concretely the tasks of the socialist revolution.”

THE 1871 PARIS COMMUNE: A VERY BRIEF INTRODUCTION

The Commune arose amid the French army’s defeat in the Franco-Prussian War (1870-71). Paris masses rejoiced at the fall of the hated Emperor Napoleon III. They refused to submit to the new German Empire.

Workers and soldiers made up the Paris National Guard. They mobilized armed masses to defend

Paris against both the Prussian siege and the French capitalists’ new republic. In a fierce battle, the masses forced the capitalists’ troops and their whole state apparatus to retreat to Versailles.

The Central Committee of the National Guard organized each district to elect a representative to the Commune Council. Most were

workers. About one third belonged to the International Workingmen’s Association (IWA). Marx and others had founded the IWA in 1864. Its members, all radicals, had different and often contradictory politics.

During the Commune’s brief existence, IWA members worked with previously non-political workers and allies. They reorganized public

social reforms. These included free public education and the distribution of necessities.

The Commune’s errors included military missteps, hesitation, and weak ties to the countryside. These allowed the French and German capitalists to drown the Commune in blood after only two months. Political disputes inside and out of the IWA sharpened as surviving activists reflected on the Commune’s victories and defeats.

There is so much to learn from this world-historic struggle! The QR codes below lead to articles in *Red Flag* about the Paris Commune.



REMEMBERING COMRADES PAT RYLE AND TOM WESTON



Son of the Working Class

Pat Ryle was someone you would be attracted to almost immediately.

He came from a working-class Irish family and grew up in Manchester, England.... a tough industrial city in the North.

He knew a lot of great stories about workers (mostly factory workers) there and all over the world. He would draw you into these stories with his firsthand knowledge of class struggle.

He talked about the harsh reality of life under capitalism, and the tremendous resilience of our class. Some things made you laugh, but humor is also necessary during struggle!

I loved the way Pat shared his knowledge of working-class history through these stories. And I noticed that young people around the party were interested in them too.

We are all going to miss him so very much.

—Comrade C in Seattle (USA)

Communist Study and Struggle

“We will finish the book discussion in his memory,” said Ana, when she heard of Pat’s death.

Five of us in Los Angeles have just started reading *Blood in the Machine*. We are three comrades in their 30s, an older former tech bro, and myself, a comrade of Pat’s generation. The book is about the Luddites, who smashed machines in the first revolt against the capitalist use of technology. Bay Area comrades had found the book to be useful and inspiring, and Pat recommended it to us.

I discussed the book with Pat the week before he died. We talked about the need to focus on relations of production and class struggle, rather than rejection of technology. In his characteristically insightful manner, he said that the legacy of the Luddite revolt can be seen in Marx’s *Capital* and in Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*, the first science fiction novel. I shared those insights in the study group and reported that

Pat was unwell. The young people, who loved and respected Pat, found his comments helpful. They wished him well.

The next day, Pat called to ask how the study group had gone. We agreed that I should have emphasized the role of class struggle in setting the preconditions for Marx’s analysis. Like an article from El Salvador said: Practice, Theory, Practice. I said I’d do that next time and report back.

The following Monday, Pat was gone. We will continue to learn from his example, and from the fight of the international working class. We will carry the red flag on to victory.

Pat Ryle, Presente!
—Comrade in Los Angeles (USA)

Communism Is a Living Practice

Love and respect for our older Comrades!

By their example, they forge the path that the communist youth must follow. In times where capitalism disguises itself with new masks. Their constancy reminds us that the class struggle does not end, that the enemy remains the same. That progress is only made when the masses rise up with class consciousness and communist organization.

Their experience of struggle in years of militancy teaches us that communism is not a distant utopia, but a daily work. A living practice that is built with discipline, dedication, commitment, and love. Our ICWP party is not just a name, but the instrument of struggle of all of us for a communist society. Tearing down the chains of exploitation.

We know that capitalism wants us to be docile, individualistic, and hopeless. But the example of all our experienced comrades teaches us that history belongs to those who fight, not to those who resign themselves.

We, the young people of the new generation, take their example as a banner. We will not be spectators of the system that destroys the earth and steals human dignity. We will be an active part of the revolution from El Salvador to India, South Africa, Mexico, Spain, Costa Rica, all internationally united by our communist struggle.

Comrades present, and those of us who will always carry ourselves engraved with your example of struggle. So thank you for guiding us, for not giving up, for continuing to believe in the organized strength of the working class. We will follow your example. We will not back down. We commit ourselves to our collective struggle. The future will be communist.

Remembering Comrade Tom Weston (1944 - 2025)

Sadly, we report that comrade Tom Weston passed away on December 3 after a courageous battle with lung cancer. He was a beloved comrade who dedicated his life to the fight for communism.

Tom was passionate about introducing all workers and youth interested in revolution to the communist philosophy of dialectical materialism. “He opened up doors for other peoples’ lives,” said a comrade in South Africa.

He was stalwart in his commitment to the collective. He built and conscientiously maintained our party’s website and drove for hours to attend meetings. He organized students to distribute *Red Flag* to workers and carried communist placards in mass demonstrations. In his forty-five year role as a philosophy professor, he studied, taught, and wrote about dialectical and historical materialism.

He is remembered as a devoted husband and father and as very good at fixing things around the house. We extend our deep condolences to Tom’s widow, his four surviving sons and daughters, eight grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

We pledge to honor Comrade Tom’s lifelong commitment to communism by sharpening the struggle for communist theory and practice among workers, students, and soldiers and sailors worldwide.

A fuller memorial will appear in the next issue of *Red Flag*. Tom Weston, presente!



Until victory always! For revolution and workers' power!
—A young comrade who is learning

Remembering Comrade Pat Ryle and a Favorite Song

Pat had a unique way of explaining complicated political/economic ideas. I remember the time he gave an exposition on Marx’s theory (the truth) of the inevitability of capitalism’s law of declining profit. In his own melodious baritone, he could make complex ideas not just or even simple, but clear and relevant. It was his passion to eliminate the secondary, less important, and go to the heart, the unambiguous essence. It came with years of struggle and compassion for his fellow workers.

The other thing I remember, like it was yesterday, was him passionately singing this song. It’s ringing in my ears now. I’m smiling with joy and camaraderie.

Walking around with my mates one night
We got in a little fight
Geezer coming at me with a knife in his fist
I gots cut along the wrist

[Chorus]
A.C.A.B.
A.C.A.B.
A.C.A.B.
All coppers are bastards

Had to go to court to plead my

case
Judge didn't like the look of my face
He said "I'm gonna put you away"
Last thing that I had to say, I said
[Chorus]
Don't got much to say to you
Now you'll see what we 'gon do
Next thing I was put in a cell
All my mates in here as well
[Chorus]
A.C.A.B.
A.C.A.B.
A.C.A.B.
All coppers are bastards!
—Old comrade

Comrade Pat Ryle: A True Communist

I want to first acknowledge the wonderful work and dedication comrade Pat has done for the party. How he carried himself, consistently showing everyone how true communists carry themselves. His warmth, teachings, and dedication shall live with us forever. We will continue with the struggle in fighting for communism. Long live comrade Pat!
—Comrade in Despatch (South Africa)

There are more articles and letters remembering comrade Pat Ryle, who passed away on October 13, 2025, in Volume 16, Numbers 15 and 16.

MASSSES IN REBELLION AGAINST ICE RAIDS OPEN TO COMMUNIST IDEAS



DES MOINES, IOWA



NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA



LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

USA— Fascist immigration enforcement is spreading racist terror to cities and towns across the USA. A law passed last summer gave federal agencies \$170 billion (₹15 Arab 152.6 crore or R28.8 billion) for masked agents to assault, hunt down, kidnap, and deport people based on their color, language, or workplace. But the masses' anger is spreading even faster. Community groups organize patrols to warn neighbors when ICE is near. Legal assistance, food, and other support. In New Orleans, protesters disrupted a City Council meeting. Comrades involved in such groups find that many new activists like *Red Flag* and take it seriously. They understand that we can't rely on laws and courts. They are learning to organize and lead. We need to help them see that only communism can tear down all walls, erase all borders, and allow us to build a new world where all workers are welcome everywhere.



ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

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Mamdani as Mayor: Let's Not Be Fooled Again

Zohran Kwame Mamdani, a Uganda-born, South Asian, Muslim man, was elected mayor of New York City. Perhaps the most diverse and famous city in America.

From the beginning of his campaign as a Democratic Socialist, he was targeted by Islamophobic hatred. Some claimed New Yorkers have forgotten about 9/11. They warned that Sharia Law would befall New York and that Jewish people should fear for their lives.

Mamdani's sympathy for Palestine shook Democrats and Republicans alike. Many claimed that is what brought him so much support. Zionists use this to portray him as antisemitic, which seems to be a consistently failing argument.

A large crowd of people throughout the USA supported him for his promises to make NYC affordable. With about 20% of New Yorkers on food stamps, his promises of subsidized childcare, government-owned grocery stores, stricter rent control, and higher rent forgiveness, appealed to many.

Nine of us, communists and friends, discussed this over dinner recently. There were different opinions.

Some saw Mamdani's win as a beacon of hope as we cope with ongoing fascist takeovers worldwide. There were celebrations across the globe. As a reminder that on a local level, there are still possibilities for improvement in living conditions.

However, comrades mentioned that we have seen his type before. Charismatic, appealing to marginalized groups. Obama, Alexandria Ocasio Cortez (AOC), Sanders. They all were quick to turn on

those who supported their campaigns and hoped to benefit from their promises. They trapped many young activists into the Democratic Party.

According to an anti-war comrade veteran, Obama ended up crushing many people's hope and trust in electoral politics. While he touted himself to be a man of principle, who values peace and civility, he authorized 542 drone strikes and provided an 87% increase of funding to ICE.

Later, I and many younger comrades fell for AOC. I recall, back in high school, claiming I couldn't wait to vote for her as president. What a naive mindset I find that now! After we've watched her "two-side" a genocide and vote against her fellow progressives (Rashida Tlaib and Ilhan Omar).

Some of us concluded that while we can be excited that New York City may see reforms that make life more affordable, now that Mamdani will take office, we must keep him accountable to his promises. If he plans to take his career in politics further, he must prove himself a man of the people.

Identity politics have blinded people in the past and none of us are immune to bias. So it's important that we investigate Mamdani's actions and ensure he upholds his promises.

We can't be blinded by one "win." We must take it as fuel to fight for a better life for all of us, where we can all live free of systemic bias, of the violence necessary to fuel the capitalist machine.

At the end of the day, this is no more or less a step in the right direction than a reason to continue the work of re-educating westerners on communism and socialism to destigmatize the ideology.

—Sunflower

Honduras: No Electoral Process Will Free Us from Capitalism

The recent presidential elections in Honduras constitute a threatening political scenario for the working class without borders. The Honduran masses suffer the same onslaught as many others in the region. This is in the face of Trump's foreign "policy" based on consolidating his control at the continental level. It is based on extortion, coercion, and threats typical of an imperialist/expansionist state.

This international logic is expressed in what happened in Argentina with the "democratic" imposition of Javier Milei. And in threats to blockade against Cuba and sanctions against Brazil, Colombia, Mexico. And intervention in Venezuela. Because these governments express, at least in their discourse, an anti-imperialist sense. Although limited to the "North" leaving out any reference to China and Russia.

Brazenly, days before the elections, Trump pardons former President Juan Orlando Hernández, convicted by the New York Court for drug trafficking crimes. Imperialist strategy to legitimize his National Party, whose candidate Nasry Asfura represents the ultra-right and narco-dictatorship of Honduras. And in the face of a possible victory of the other right-wing candidate Nasralla, Trump publicly warns the Honduran people that they will suffer "hell to pay" if Asfura does not win.

Political-economic and ideological elements intervene in this scenario. There is a whole machinery orchestrated by the elites who historically have economic control as an employers' bloc. They subject the working class to misery, repression, persecution, and torture.

The church and the media also

play a decisive role. They systematically unleash an ideological bombardment. It's an anti-communist narrative, in defense of supposed "democratic/conservative values" against the government of the Liberty and Refoundation Party. This self-styled democratic socialist party's candidate Rixi Moncada is electorally diminishing to third place.

There is social discontent because this government does not guarantee the conditions to satisfy basic economic needs. It promotes erroneous policies far from the interests of the working class.

In a climate of 50% abstention from voting, the population that has voted for right-wing governments is conditioned to be part of this game of democracies. They make believe that "choosing" is analogous to sovereignty. But it only implies validating the bosses' bloc and feeding narco-dictatorial, corrupt, patriarchal, and colonialist capitalism.

It is urgent to learn from this adverse and complex context. To build tools for a critical reading and historical memory, through debate and dialectical reflection.

It is really disconcerting that the "new" governments of the "left" – as in Honduras – do not learn from the consequences of the mistakes made by counterpart governments. This further enhances the ideological, military, and political-economic power of imperialism at the international level.

Capitalism will fall only with the strengthening of alliances free of any trace of inequality and discrimination!

No practice, no system, such as the electoral systems of the so-called "democracies," will ever be an option for liberation and justice, much less for revolution!

—Comrade activist in Costa Rica

INTER-IMPERIALIST WAR IN LATIN AMERICA OPENS DOOR TO MOBILIZE WORKERS FOR COMMUNISM

EL SALVADOR, December 7—”It is definitely possible that the United States will attack Venezuela,” said M at a meeting of the International Communist Workers’ Party.

“Of course it will not be the same as Grenada or Panama,” she added. “The interest of US imperialism is not only the pursuit of Nicolas Maduro. There are other powerful interests. Obtaining Venezuela’s sources of wealth are the true interests of any empire, whether the USA, China or Russia.”

“Many people think they are going to attack Venezuela so that democracy returns and the people are free. Those people do not have an accurate notion of reality,” said a teacher comrade.

“Venezuela has the largest oil reserves, even above Saudi Arabia,” she continued. “It has natural gas, gold, diamonds, iron, bauxite, and coltan, a key mineral for technology. And it has biodiversity and natural resources. It’s location is a key point in the Caribbean and South America, with direct access to the Atlantic.”

F, a health worker, said: “What is the real threat to the Venezuelan working class? The military invasion creates tension, insecurity, hu-

manitarian crisis, collapses in services including health and food, in addition to the economic impact. It is known that the soldiers of these imperialists are not the children of millionaires, but of the working class.”

Trump is looking at what US millionaires and billionaires consider their backyard. His administration calls its policy a “Trump Corollary” to the Monroe Doctrine. They want to restore US dominance in Latin America.

China is South America’s top trading partner and a major source of foreign direct investment and lending for energy and infrastructure. Russia is also rapidly advancing in the region. The US rulers intend to stop this at any cost, including the lives of American workers or workers of any nation.

Drug trafficking, migration of Venezuelans, and even diplomatic conflicts are pretexts. They mask capitalism’s real reasons. Venezuela has provoked the imperialists of the United States, China, and Russia to dispute every centimeter of the wealth generated not only by Venezuelan workers but by those of all Latin America.

Capitalists everywhere seek to

seize all the wealth. Nowhere do they want to share it. Each imperialist’s goal is to own all the wealth in these countries. Today they want to strengthen control in Venezuela. It is not in any way for the common good. Those most affected are the workers, with job loss, insecurity, migration, and greater poverty.

Many workers, including ex-FMLN fighters, are anxious about the situation. They feel it is an attack on the whole working class and feel powerless to affect it.

No imperialists think of abolishing wage slavery or even of providing decent housing and health for all. No current leader guarantees a difference in the quality of life of the population. They only act to favor and maintain capitalism.

Only communism can provide a quality life for workers. The only group that guarantees to fight for this radical change is the ICWP.

Workers, military personnel, and youth must continue to organize the communist struggle against Fascism. We must continue to distrib-



SOLDIERS, SAILORS, MARINES: CRUCIAL FOR COMMUNIST WORKERS’ REVOLUTION



ute *Red Flag* as widely as possible, especially in centers of exploitation. Turn imperialist profit wars into communist revolution! Organize the soldiers and sailors to turn their weapons on the oppressor and fight for the working class!

A YEAR IN REVIEW: GAZA GENOCIDE SHARPENS CONTRADICTIONS AND OPENS DOORS FOR PARTY GROWTH

With this issue, we close a momentous year for the international working class and our International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP).

Some moments are highlights.

In March, our small Tel Aviv collective gathered its courage. It brought communism to masses protesting the continuing Gaza genocide. Now meetings overflow with new friends and recruits who are spreading *Red Flag* further.

A high school student in Kariega (South Africa) organized 250 classmates to fight for a math teacher. She brought 18 of them to ICWP’s May Day event. She joined the party and continues to give powerful leadership to our work.

The ICWP garment collective in Bengaluru (India) mobilized Hindu and Muslim workers, including undocumented Bangladeshi workers, to join the May Day celebration. Defying the ruling party’s anti-Muslim fascists, they wore red Sari and red Hijab to show that “the colour of communism unites people of different cultures.”

Younger comrades took charge of the ICWP website. New friends in Los Angeles are gathering with us to discuss communism. Some write for *Red Flag* and help with articles.

We happily welcomed comrades’ babies into our global communist

community. **Other moments have been profoundly sad.**

We have lost so many class siblings to imperialist bombs, bullets, disease, and starvation in Palestine, the Caribbean, Sudan, Congo. So many lost to floods, fires, poisoned air, and other environmental disasters caused by capitalism’s ruthless drive for maximum profits.

Over a thousand migrants died crossing the central Mediterranean this year. Two hundred fifty died in Latin America from January to June, trying to reach the US. In the USA we see neighbors kidnapped and deported. Dozens have died in custody.

Many of us are mourning the deaths of treasured ICWP comrades and friends in Gqeberha (South Africa), California (USA), and elsewhere.

How can we best characterize this momentous year?

One aspect is the rapid intensification and consolidation of international fascism. We call it “fascism” when rotten, decaying capitalist governments expose their system’s true nature as a violently racist and viciously sexist class dictatorship.

Previous US presidents, from Obama to Biden, implemented fascist policies on the downlow. Mass deportations, drone strikes, expanded executive power, and more.

Trump does more of the same, but loudly and proudly, to build a mass fascist base.

Trump embraces open fascists like the Zionist Netanyahu, Argentina’s Milei, Hungary’s Orban, India’s Modi, and Russia’s Putin. His administration eggs on western Europe’s most racist neo-Nazi parties in the name of “preserving [white] European culture.” He rants appallingly against African workers. He mocks white workers with populist rhetoric while slashing benefits they need like food stamps and health insurance.

But it is in apartheid Occupied Palestine that the stark reality of genocide has most exposed the essentially fascist character of capitalism and imperialism. It’s the “Gaza Effect.” What we see in Gaza is what capitalists are prepared to do to us all.

Because the main aspect of 2025 was a massive upsurge of outrage against that genocide. In Great Britain and Europe, in Asia and Africa and the Americas. On college campuses and in the streets. Most significantly, the Gaza genocide galvanized large groups of industrial workers into political strikes. These sparked general strikes with political and economic demands and slogans.

In Great Britain, older workers were arrested for opposing geno-

cide by holding signs supporting Palestine Action. That kind of repression exposed more capitalist rulers and stimulated broader protests. The “Gaza Effect” has politicized many workers and youth who hadn’t previously paid much attention.

Inter-imperialist conflicts continue to intensify. The war in Ukraine is increasingly deadly. One third of the US Navy is in the Caribbean. Trump threatens all-out war on Venezuela. Armed conflicts still rage in Myanmar, Kashmir, Ethiopia, Syria, and more.

When the masses are in motion, what communists do (or fail to do) matters more than ever. Our party made modest advances this year. We must prepare to do even better in fighting for communism in 2026, especially among industrial workers and soldiers.

GENOCIDE IN PALESTINE DEMANDS COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

