

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

COMMUNIST REVOLUTION IS THE ONLY ANSWER TO FASCISM AND WORLD WAR



TEL AVIV,
OCCUPIED PALESTINE
March 31, 2026

MARCH ON MAY DAY WITH ICWP

**SPAIN * EL SALVADOR * MEXICO * INDIA * SOUTH AFRICA
OCCUPIED PALESTINE * USA**

World War III is exploding. The US-Israeli genocide in Gaza has expanded to Iran and Lebanon. Masses face fuel shortages, layoffs, and hunger. Fascist governments are increasing repression, exploitation, racism, and xenophobia.

Workers, students, and soldiers around the world are taking to the streets in the millions to oppose this murderous onslaught against the working class. Many are beginning

to see that all these attacks stem from a decaying capitalist system in crisis.

A new world is struggling to be born out of the death and destruction of the old. We invite you to join with ICWP in our May Day mobilizations to bring communism to the angry masses.

Comrades in Occupied Palestine are growing in numbers and boldness as fury at the genocide in Gaza becomes opposition to the

Zionist state. They bring *Red Flag* to mass protests against the war on Iran and Lebanon. "The younger generation is turning to red ideas," wrote an older comrade. They will bring those ideas to the masses on May Day.

Comrades in South Africa organize in the streets against xenophobic attacks on immigrants and in solidarity with the people of Gaza. Their May Day rally will build on young comrades' enthusiasm, the

contacts they have made, and the work in factories, neighbourhoods, and barracks.

Comrades in Mexico have joined strikes of education workers fighting against the attacks by the bankers and the government. They make it clear that capitalism never benefits the working class, no matter who runs it. On May Day they will emphasize the need to mobilize

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SOUTH AFRICA: MARCH BUILDS INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY, OFFERS COMMUNIST SOLUTION

GQEBERHA (South Africa), March 28— "Hello, my name is Liyema. We received your paper today in Korsten. We would like to know more about this communism. We are studying at Midlands College, me and my friend, doing computer science".

This potential comrade received our *Red Flag* at our mobilisation/march today. It was a very successful day despite the fact that only half of our collective managed to come because of the death of a comrade in our collective.

The March was in solidarity with all the masses suffering genocide in Palestine, wars in the Middle East, immigrant attacks in the United States, and xenophobic attacks in South Africa.

We gave away at least one hundred copies of the *Red Flag* to the workers in town. They were very welcoming and eager to receive our paper and know more. We had young primary school students with us. They were energetic and excited to give out as many papers as they

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could.

We chose Korsten because it is not only an industrial town here in Gqeberha, but it is also a town full of immigrants. There are more immigrants than locals in this town. Immigrants from all of Africa and some countries in the Middle East, particularly Pakistan and Bangladesh.



KORSTEN SOUTH AFRICA, MARCH 28, 2026

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WHAT CAN WE DO AS WORLD WAR III UNFOLDS?

April 1— **As we go to press**, US President Trump is announcing that the war was a “major success” and “nearing completion” while claiming he would bring Iran “back to the Stone Age.” He has hinted he might pull the US out of NATO. But the war in the Persian Gulf has already shown that US imperialism is losing its global dominance. If it hasn’t already lost it. As it is losing the war.

Many around the world are cheering. That includes more than a few in the USA itself. We get it. The political scientist David Michael Smith estimated in 2023 that US imperialism had been responsible, wholly or in part, for close to 300 million deaths. It must be destroyed!

Trump claims the US is “winning” by raining destruction on Iranian civilians. But he and his bros were deluded by racist arrogance and egged on by the Zionist butcher Netanyahu. They seriously underestimated Iran’s military and strategic position.

They didn’t expect Iran to critically damage thirteen US military bases in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain. Or to rain its own destruction on Israel.

They disregarded the obvious fact that the Iranian military could close the Strait of Hormuz. One fifth of the world’s oil and liquified natural gas normally passes through the Strait. One third of the seaborne fertilizer, and chemicals crucial to production of fertilizer elsewhere.

Now only vessels approved by the Iranian rulers can pass through. And only after paying the equiva-

lent of millions of US dollars – in Chinese yuan. Iranian capitalists get richer. The Chinese imperialists get more powerful.

The Saudi capitalists’ East-West oil pipeline carries seven million barrels per day to Yanbu, on the Red Sea. But the Iran-backed Houthis in Yemen could block the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, cutting off the Red Sea.

Meanwhile, masses in India can’t cook because there’s no gas. Myanmar, Vietnam, and the Philippines could run out of oil by the end of April.

Fertilizer shortages are disrupting the planting season in much of the northern hemisphere. The threat to global food supplies will outlast the current war.

It’s too soon to cheer. For three reasons.

First, because so many of our working-class siblings are suffering and dying in this bosses’ war for power and profits. And more of us will.

Second, as an Arabic proverb says, “A cornered dog will jump over the wall.” The weakened US empire and the overstretched Zionist entity (“Israel”) are becoming more dangerous.

They have starved and demolished Gaza. Zionist settlers are driving Palestinians out of the West Bank. They are trying to extend land-grabbing genocide into Lebanon—and Iran. The Israeli Knesset voted to hang Palestinian political prisoners!

And both have nuclear weapons.



The US rulers are the only ones ever to have used them.

Third, it’s an illusion to think that the Iranian rulers are anything but capitalists. They and their Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps are the largest employers in Iran. Iranian workers have confronted them in massive strikes around industrial issues. Today, many (not all) among the Iranian masses have embraced nationalism in the face of the US assault. But the class struggle will re-emerge.

Iran’s Russian and Chinese backers are imperialist powers. Let’s understand: no capitalists or imperialists ever act for the interests of the international working class.

During World War II, many saw Britain as a “lesser-evil.” Even as it restricted Jewish immigrants from Nazi-occupied Europe. Orches-

trated the 1943 Bengal Famine. Prepared for the creation of “Israel” and the expulsion of 750,000 Palestinians. Got ready to partition the Indian subcontinent, instigating deadly communal violence.

The Russian and Chinese rulers are using the war on Iran to strengthen their position of dominance on the backs of the masses in the Middle East.

We workers must fight for the communist society we need. With no wage slavery chaining us and no nations dividing us. Just workers making the decisions that affect us and the goods we all need.

The time to cheer will come when masses, anywhere, rise up to destroy capitalism and imperialism with communist revolution.

We can hasten that day. By educating ourselves and others about communism. By critically reading and discussing *Red Flag*. Distributing it however possible.

But we can’t do it alone. We do it by building collectives of the International Communist Workers’ Party. Acting on and fighting for communist principles in the masses’ struggles and in our daily lives. Especially in industry and the military, both key to armed revolution.

As World War III expands, fascist terror escalates, and masses fight back – let’s make this May Day a clarion call for communism and nothing less!



LONDON (England), March 28- Hundreds of thousands march against the racist and fascist “Far Right.”

ON THE WEB:

1the website: www.icwpredflag.org has the following additional article and letters this issue:

What Causes World Wars? How Can We End Them?

Drug Wars in Mexico: Capitalists Fight Over Wealth Produced by Workers

Letters on Contradiction, Cesar Chavez, Racist and Sexist

CHECK OUT THE ICWPEDIA: the online communist mini-encyclopedia. .

Available through ICWPRedFlag.org or at icwpedia.org and the QR code to the right



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ORGANIZE FOR A COMMUNIST MAY DAY TO CONFRONT BOSSSES' ATTACKS AND IMPERIALIST WAR

EL SALVADOR, March 30—“I am a university student,” said a new comrade. “I recently joined the International Workers’ Communist Party during the end-of-year international conference, thanks to the influence of my mother, a factory worker who has been an ICWP comrade for several years.”

At the last meeting, three important points were discussed. The first was the situation of factory workers and the distribution of *Red Flag*. Second, the US/Israel war on Iran. Finally, organizing the upcoming May Day march among maquila workers.

The Situation Worsens in the Factories and More Workers Join the ICWP.

“The conference last December helped recruit more maquila workers. We have welcomed students and a worker who is already participating in the collectives. This encourages us and strengthens ICWP’s membership,” said P, a worker comrade.

“Currently, the factory faces the problem of unjustified firings every week. Under the pretext of tardiness. Absences due to medical leave,” said another worker.

“Many workers report the purchase of a ‘cleaning’ robot, which they claim is used to keep them under surveillance. Because this robot does not actually clean but merely roams the workspaces,” she continued.

“There was talk of the company hiring a lawyer. To intimidate the workers. To instill fear so they

won’t report the mistreatment they receive from their employers. They use every trick in the book against the workers.

“None of that makes us back down. We are more determined in our struggle. We make sure *Red Flag* reaches many workers and soldiers, who are also part of our class, and in this way we advance the organization,” she concluded.

Join the ICWP to Fight and End the Capitalists’ War Profit System

“The children of those who start wars do not go to the front lines. Those who die are the children of workers. Soldiers from all countries are children of the working class, and we must win them over to the communist ideas of the ICWP. At the end of inter-imperialist conflicts, the bosses pocket the economic profits from conquered territories or from the sale of weapons,” said a comrade.

“It is time to organize and fight for Communism. The inter-imperialist struggle is intensifying. And our struggle to mobilize the masses and soldiers for the revolution must grow stronger every day,” continued another comrade. “Criminal empires invade countries. They kill thousands of people, as in Gaza, and most recently in Iran. Children who just wanted to learn on a school day were bombed and murdered.”

All of this stems from US imperialism’s economic interests. Just as was the case with its intervention in Venezuela, where it sought to secure oil supplies, only to later attack



MAY DAY San Salvador, 2025
Workers’ Struggles Have No Borders

and attempt to invade Iran. Donald Trump is currently intervening in these countries to seize oil and other resources and gain control of trade routes. This has resulted in the deaths of innocent people. Furthermore, billions of dollars are being spent daily to fund this war.

There are many examples, such as Vietnam, where Red soldiers turned their weapons against their military leaders. Many US soldiers today are protesting against the wars of Trump and his clique of millionaires. Trump didn’t want to go to war in Vietnam. Today, his son hasn’t been sent to the Middle East either.

Organizing for May Day and Marching for the Working Class
“We are planning an expanded

meeting with workers, farmers, students, and healthcare workers to organize our participation in this momentous day with full responsibility and discipline,” emphasized a comrade.

“We are already inviting workers and their families to participate in the great May 1st march. We are organizing to take on every necessary task for this day of the working class—a mobilization to distribute our newspaper *Red Flag* and make new contacts. A collective effort to spread our communist line,” noted a worker.

Our *Red Flag* must illuminate the march of industrial workers and future Red soldiers, who are key to the Communist revolution. Unite, march, and fight with the ICWP for our Communist revolution!

ADVANCING COMMUNIST IDEAS AMONG ANTI-WAR INDUSTRIAL WORKERS AND STUDENTS

SEATTLE (USA), March 18—“I never realized the importance of soldiers and industrial workers,” admitted a young demonstrator from the University of Washington (UW). He was holding a banner protesting Boeing weapons manufacturing.

About a hundred activists came to the Seattle Convention Center to condemn the subcontractors who built arms, bombs, and weapons. This Boeing summit was attended by hundreds of weapons producers.

This UW student and his friends made a mistake. The focus of their demonstration was on weapons, not on recruiting soldiers and industrial workers who can change geopolitics and have done so in the past.

A comrade talked to the young protester, explaining how communists organized revolts during the US war on Vietnam. In the end, the US armed rank-and-file (and the Vietnamese fighters!) forced the US brass to give up the war.

US General Westmoreland, commander of the US forces during that

war, was forced to admit to President Johnson that he had been lying about the possibility of winning. In fact, he was afraid he would “lose the whole army.” At the time, at least one and a half million north Vietnamese fighters were women and tremendous communist combatants.

Today, the expanding Middle East war worries many industrial workers.

The student promised to talk with others in his group about recruiting soldiers and industrial workers. He took ten copies of *Red Flag* to supplement the discussion.

Industrial Workers Organize

A few days later, a comrade and friends in the Industrial Action Committee met. They took copies of *Red Flag* to read and distribute. One industrial worker said he often reads articles from the paper to his friends while discussing communist politics.

A young committee member said that he likes to learn from practice. For example, he is helping organize

a May Day demonstration in Tacoma (south of Seattle).

The meeting continued for two and a half hours. Another member told her story. She had given up on socialism. “It doesn’t work,” she told us all.

All of these people are willing to work with ICWP in one way or another.

The attendees agreed that both the fight against ICE and against war in the Middle East are key. We must connect these two capitalist horrors, building our communist revolution based on communist practice and theory.

There is a contradiction within the larger Action Committee between militant unionism versus focusing more on war. This is an ongoing struggle.

Recently, some points of unity were written into the Action Committee statements. The Committee is not talking only about fighting for Boeing workers. It now spotlights fighting for working class internationalism, against the

holocaust in Gaza, and for a worker-led society.

Imperialist war and ICE are threatening our comrades and friends. We are learning the necessity of mobilizing masses and exposing the lies that go along with war. The political battles in the factories and in these meetings are very useful in developing communist relationships with industrial workers. Sometimes it seems difficult, but now is the time to fight for communist recruits to the ICWP.



SEATTLE, USA, March 18, 2026

“NO KINGS”? – NO CAPITALISTS!

LOS ANGELES (USA), March 28— “I come here to see the communist signs,” said a young man at the “No Kings” march here. And that’s the contradiction. As a friend said, the massive protests across the US and around the world were “awesome but led by one wing of the US imperialists.”

The creativity, anger, solidarity, and sheer numbers of the protesters were impressively on display. But the political message was mainly one of “defeat Trump, elect Democrats, work within the system.”

In a friend’s words, “That is not a step forward for the working class and the oppressed.” A comrade replied to him: “It was only useful for us as an opportunity to raise a communist line.”

Comrades and friends distributed over five hundred communist papers at three different rallies. Two were doing that for the first time. “People were receptive,” one said happily. That included unionized teachers and janitors. With more help and a bigger supply of papers, many more marchers would have gotten copies. Thousands saw our communist signs, and many took pictures.

One story among many: A guy wearing a “Revolution!” t-shirt was part of a small army paid (or volunteering) to collect signatures on petitions for ballot initiatives. He approached two resting comrades. “How do those petitions advance the cause of revolution?” the more experienced comrade asked him. He didn’t have an answer. But he was happy to talk and eager to hear our reasons why they don’t. We gave him one of our last copies of *Red Flag* and he promised to read it.

The first-time distributor said she learned from that how to look for and sharpen the internal contradictions of people we approach. “A dialectical perspective is necessary,” another comrade explained. “The boss-led movement allows us an opportunity to unite with angry masses.



Above: Los Angeles

Below: Mexico City



MEXICO CITY, March 29 –The CNTE, a national union of education workers and teachers, held a 72-hour strike from March 18 to 20, 2026. Comrades from the International Communist Workers’ Party were present, distributing our communist literature.

In the midst of these days of struggle, four hundred flyers were distributed. School workers were invited to organize and join the party. Comrades emphasized the need for a communist struggle in the face of the crisis of capitalism and the false solution of reforms.

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ourselves for communism.

Comrades in the US organize among industrial workers, teachers, students, and in the consistent protests against the genocide in Gaza and fascist ICE raids. Liberal politicians work overtime to restrict the movement to fighting Trump, or ICE. ICWP proclaims on May Day that only communism – no reform, no capitalist politician, no electoral strategy– can address capitalism’s fascism, economic and environmental crises, and world war.

Comrades in the San Salvador maquilas will lead a communist contingent including combatants from the civil war, healthcare workers, and youth, in the mass May Day

march in the capital. Collective study of communist philosophy and a communist protest of a garment worker’s firing have strengthened the party. Their disciplined presence and mass distribution of *Red Flag* can lead to ICWP’s growth in Central America and worldwide.

Comrades in India, inspired by the masses in Gaza, will use May Day to solidify and expand ICWP collectives to prepare for communist revolution. ICWP comrades in Chennai auto factories, garment workers in Bengaluru, and New Delhi youth spread *Red Flag* by the hundreds under fascist conditions. They are learning from the violent industrial strikes in Surat and the re-

finery workers who crippled the entire capitalist system.

Comrades in the tents in Gaza, in Iran, Egypt, Spain, Costa Rica, and throughout the world will seize May Day as an opportunity to expose the disaster which is World War III and a global descent into fascism. They will put forward a vision and a plan for a communist world.

That communist world will be won by workers and soldiers who will overthrow capitalist rulers and establish liberated zones. In these zones we will all be comrades, not citizens or foreigners. We will begin to build a society where we work together for our mutual survival. Comradely cooperation and struggle,

work, and creativity will create bonds that replace capitalist money and markets.

This requires a mass communist party convinced to fight. Not for capitalist reforms, or national liberation, or “socialized” welfare-capitalism. But for a communist world without bosses and wage slavery, without nations or borders.

On May Day we muster the forces that will make that vision a reality. Wherever you are, we invite you to march with us! Attend our May Day rallies! Read, contribute to, and distribute Red Flag! And join the International Communist Workers’ Party.

SOUTH AFRICA SOLIDARITY MARCH, from page 1

Our plan was to show that we stand with them in the face of growing xenophobia in South Africa. And to offer communism as the solution to the capitalist dictatorship that forced them to migrate in the first place.

It was a great day, especially for new comrades who were not used to distributing the *Red Flag* and who were shy. However, the warm

welcome of all the people who received the paper made our comrades feel at ease.

One comrade said, “At first I was anxious and scared, but I got confident as we continued to distribute and I even took pictures with the people”. Another comrade said, “It was good. I won’t miss the next mobilisation and we should do more”.

More is what we will do as we continue to prepare for the May Day. We want to make it the biggest we have ever had here in South Africa. Our comrades are confident and they are determined to reach out to the masses on a regular basis through the distribution of the *Red Flag*.

We aim to meet and consolidate Liyema and his friend, who contacted us. We will make sure they attend the May Day and become committed members of the party.

We are fighting to end capitalism. The *Red Flag* is our potent tool of doing so. In the coming weeks,

we will use it by distributing hundreds more copies.

We say: The struggle continues!



KORSTEN, SOUTH AFRICA, MARCH 28, 2026

We mourn the passing of our comrade Bam Pondo in Kariega (Uitenhage), South Africa. She was a valued member of the ICWP collective there who came to meetings with her daughter. Our heartfelt condolences to her family and friends.

Cesar Chavez Sexual Assault Accusations: Tip of the Iceberg

COMMUNIST ORGANIZING REQUIRES COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP

CALIFORNIA (USA), March 25— The capitalist press has reported widely that Cesar Chavez sexually abused and raped women and girls in the 1960s and 70s. Chavez was a founder and former president of the United Farm Workers (UFW). He died in 1993.

Two women revealed that Chavez sexually abused them when they were twelve and thirteen years old. They were daughters of UFW organizers in the 1970s. He raped one when she was fifteen.

UFW co-founder Dolores Huerta also accused Chavez of assaulting her in 1960 and raping her in 1966.

Government agencies, politicians, schools, and community organizations quickly condemned Chavez. They removed his name from street signs, murals, holidays, and monuments.

Chavez deserves this public condemnation. But many who now denounce Chavez for sexual abuse have long ignored his anti-worker, racist, and pro-capitalist policies while he led the UFW.

As UFW president, Chavez rejected worker militancy and the critique of capitalism. Instead, he promoted the bankrupt political practices of pacifism, class collaboration, religious fanaticism, racism, and feeble reformism. He mobilized union members to campaign for Democratic Party politicians who were supporting the Vietnam War and the massacre of peasants and workers there.

He used religious mysticism and idealism to convince workers that praying and fasting were more effective than class-conscious militancy in fighting the growers, cops,

and scabs. He expelled any union member suspected of being a communist, or who fought against the bosses and the scabs militantly. That included ICWP member Epifanio Camacho.

Chavez's racism was on full display when he attacked undocumented workers. He accused them of being strikebreakers and reported them to the Migra. But many of the strikers themselves were undocumented.

In May 1968, the UFW paper *El Malcriado* published the names of forty-eight such individuals. In June 1974, Chavez and the UFW board approved their "Campaign Against Illegals." That summer, they reported over 5,000 undocumented workers to the Migra.

Chavez implemented a project near Yuma, Arizona from 1973 to 1975 racistly dubbed "the Wet Line". UFW goons camped on the border to beat undocumented immigrants trying to enter the US to work. They often turned them over to the Border Patrol.

The UFW proudly reported that "approximately 600 men and women, all former lemon pickers, have been transformed into a day and night border patrol . . . at least 50 times more effective than the US Border Patrol."

Chavez boasted that "soon the only thing that will cross that border without our knowledge will be the desert rats" (*El Malcriado* 10/18/74). Chavez's cousin Manuel Chavez commanded "the Wet Line." The "Wet Line" anticipated the right-wing, white supremacist Minutemen Project which conducted similar activities from 2005-

2010.

In 1977, Chavez betrayed Filipino farm workers when he visited the Philippines dictator Ferdinand Marcos. The Philippines was under martial law. The Marcos regime had tortured, murdered, and imprisoned labor organizers.

Chavez defended Marcos. He stated that conditions for workers in the Philippines were "a hell of a lot better now" than before Marcos imposed martial law.

The ICWP unconditionally condemns the sexual abuse of vulnerable people, including the rape of Dolores Huerta. But Huerta's situation is also contradictory. She was one of Chavez's victims of sexual abuse. But she promoted the same anti-worker, racist policies that Chavez did.

That included the racism against undocumented workers, the pro-capitalist unity with politicians, the defeatist pacifism, the religious mysticism, and the attack against communists and militant workers in the union. She remains as guilty as Chavez for doing so.

Under the corrupt leadership of Chavez and Huerta, all the reforms won by the mass militancy of farm workers during the 1960s and 70s



Delano, CA USA, 1965—Comrade Camacho calling out scabs

were later lost. Conditions in the fields today are in some ways worse than they were before the 1965 Delano Grape Strike.

Communist organizing requires a strong collective dedicated to the working-class struggle against capitalist exploitation. No "leader" should ever be exempt from criticism. Or placed on a pedestal and positioned to be coopted by capitalist politicians.

And even the most honest, anti-racist, and militant trade-unionists fight only to improve conditions of our wage slavery. The decline of US capitalism since the 1970s has made it even harder to win or maintain any such improvements. We must fight to end wage slavery and to build a "share and share alike" communist society with no bosses, borders, or profits.

The reformist history of the UFW proves that farm workers need to build a communist movement now more than ever.

YOUNG COMMUNISTS FIGHT ANTI-IMMIGRANT RACISM, EXPOSE CESAR CHAVEZ BEFORE IT WAS "POPULAR"

In 1971-1972, a small group of young communists in Los Angeles were active in CASA. It was a community organization whose leadership pretended to fight the racist Dixon-Arnett law. This California law made it illegal to employ undocumented workers.

We say "pretended" because their real interest was in attracting undocumented members. They lied that the CASA "carnet" would prevent their deportation and help them legalize their immigration status. They charged \$15 for the "carnet." Over thirty thousand workers joined.

Besides raking in all this money, the huge membership made CASA an important "community organization" for the US rulers. Their main agenda was pushing anti-communism and Chicano and Mexican nationalism. The goal was to prevent our Mexican brothers and sisters, immigrants and citizens, from uniting with our white, Black, and other

Latinx class siblings to organize to overthrow capitalism. For this they were handsomely rewarded to the tune of about \$50K a month.

Blinded by their deceitful propaganda, hundreds of immigrants attended weekly Friday night meetings. They hoped to hear about organizing a serious militant movement to oppose the fascist law. All they heard, however, were politicians' lies and Catholic Church priests who offered their churches as refuge if they became jobless.

In the face of CASA leadership's ferocious opposition, the young communists called upon the masses to organize to militantly march in downtown Los Angeles protesting this racist anti-immigrant legislation. The masses responded.

On a Friday night in 1972, instead of coming to the regular meeting, thousands of workers, mainly undocumented, met at Olympic and Broadway. They marched to City Hall. The young communists led

the first mass march of undocumented workers bravely defying the rulers' open fascist attacks.

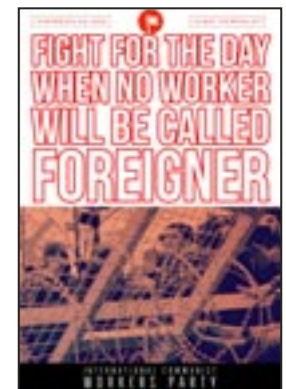
CASA leaders went out of their way to praise Cesar Chavez. He was the supposed leader of the growing mass movement of farmworkers in California against the growers' racist abuses. The young communists heard about a sign in the United Farm Workers (UFW) union hall. It said, "To apply for a job or become a union member, you must show your green card."

They made this known to the masses when they spoke at mass meetings, smaller meetings to organize the march, and other actions to defend undocumented workers who were under attack. They made clear that Chavez, in effect, supported the proposed Dixon-Arnett Bill and was already implementing it!

For this, they earned the workers' respect. And hatred by the pro-Democratic Party, pro-capitalist leadership. But CASA didn't last much

longer. Some of the young communists remained active and faithful to the working class and the fight for communism for life.

Read our pamphlet:



Available at:
icwpredflag.org/ffde.pdf



SINNERS: DON'T CONFUSE REPRESENTATION WITH LIBERATION

As a work of cinema, *Sinners* was stunning. Its setting within communities of color in the Jim Crow south, rich with blues culture and Black American folklore influence, was well-researched. That allowed for a refreshing take on the much-played vampire genre. Ryan Coogler's hit horror film was loved by audiences and critics alike.

Through a communist analysis another truth is revealed. While *Sinners* captivated audiences and became the most Oscar-nominated movie of all time, with a mostly Black cast, we must not confuse representation with liberation. The film contains some seeds of liberation. But its message falls short of a road to working-class solidarity.

The film follows protagonists Smoke and Stack, young Black men. They have returned to their hometown in Mississippi to start their own nightlife business serving their community. They face friction from local Klansmen.

Black-owned business has long been touted as a pathway to liberation under white supremacy. But can these brothers successfully join the owning classes without becoming vampires?

Even on their first night of operations, they face the contradictions inherent in their position as aspiring capitalist business owners. In their juke joint, they want to serve to Black community members. But they find that many can only pay with the wooden nickels given to them by plantation bosses. This currency was only accepted at company stores. It was designed to keep them dependent within the Jim Crow system.

The brothers are immediately in conflict with one another: They are forced on the first night to choose between prioritizing profit and

serving their community. This reveals the contradictions inherent in seeking liberation through ascending the capitalist hierarchy. Faced with this choice, the brothers decided not to turn anyone away.

When the vampire antagonists of the film are introduced, they try to convince the brothers to submit willingly to vampirization. The leader of the vampires is an Irish vampire named Remmick. He appeals to identity, operating from his own experience as an Irishman whose culture was marginalized under British imperialism.

Though white, Remmick offers the brothers a post-racial society through oneness with the vampire collective which operates as a hive mind. "I am your way out," he says. "This world already left you for dead. Won't let you build. Won't let you fellowship. We will do just that."

He offers them the power and growth potential they are craving, but at the cost of their humanity. This is a striking moment if read as an allegory for the false promises of class mobility.

By the end of the film, Smoke has died in a brave last-stand shootout with the KKK, and Stack survives as a vampire. One brother chose a revolutionary sacrifice for his community, showing us how resistance dies without collective organization. Without organization, the struggle fragments. Some fall resisting, others are absorbed by the system.

Throughout the film, we feel the impacts of racism as a force around them. From the conflict while they purchase their venue from a white man, to the segregation of the shops, to the KKK appearing to punish the characters for their attempt to become business owners.



Historically, capitalism has demanded white supremacy to maintain its machinery. Whether it was plantation owners profiting from the transatlantic slave trade or Jim Crow creating structures to keep Black folks in an exploited labor class. Even now, racism, the prison system, and capitalism maintain these practices through prison labor. The ills of capitalist exploitation shown in *Sinners* still exist today. But now they wear a different mask.

Celebrating our own and other cultures can be a beautiful thing. But class unity and organization are what all workers must remember. We cannot submit to the seduction of culture which promotes nationalist ideas that separate our class and keep us from revolution.

In the struggle we are only free if we are all free. And we can only reach that goal with strong political leadership and organization. In the face of this, the task is not to choose

between surviving or "ascending," but to build collective power. There is no liberation in any kind of capitalism. Only the organized struggle of the working class, conscious and united across the imposed divisions, can put an end to this system.

Read our pamphlet

TO END RACISM: MOBILIZE
THE MASSES
FOR COMMUNISM

Available at:
icwpredflag.org/rpe.pdf



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USING RED FLAG TO HELP RAISE MONEY WE NEED

I distributed about fifty copies of *Red Flag/Bandera Roja* at the March 28 "No Kings" protest in downtown Los Angeles. I was asking for a \$1 donation and received \$38 in donations. This also gave me an opportunity to have many good conversations with people. I usually distribute about one hundred copies at these protests, but I don't ask for a donation, and I don't have many conversations. Today's experience was significantly different.

I was not trying to profit, but rather building collective responsibility. Under capitalism, printing, distributing, and organizing all cost money. Pretending those costs don't exist doesn't challenge capitalism, but does weaken our ability to fight it. Asking for a dollar wasn't much, but when people contribute,

even a small amount, they're not just receiving the paper, they're helping produce it. I would thank them for this and let them know they were contributing to its publication.

Several gave more than a dollar.

A free paper is more easily ignored, but paying—even \$1—becomes something more likely to be read. We're building a movement and asking for a dollar shifts the relationship from passive consumption to active participation. It says: this is your party and it belongs to you too.

I grew up asking, but I was definitely out of this practice. At first, it was difficult to ask for a donation, but after people would stop and produce a dollar, even if it meant asking their partner or friend for a dollar, I knew I was doing something important.

Someone who took the paper without giving a donation asked,

"Why are you asking for a dollar, if you're a communist and say you're organizing for a world without money?"

I explained that we don't operate outside material reality and that while we're organizing against capitalism, we still currently exist within it.

Consciousness grows through

involvement, not passivity. Times are changing radically and people have become more radicalized politically. We can and should expect more from people we offer the paper to. That dollar isn't about buying a paper. It's about helping build the movement behind it.

—A communist in Los Angeles (USA)



Communism versus Anarchism (Part V)

SOVIET RUSSIA IN 1918: FAMINE AND “WAR COMMUNISM”

The last article described contradictions between and among anarchists and communists through the November 1917 Bolshevik revolution.

“Famine is a calamity which sweeps away all other questions,” Lenin declared in June 1918.

Wartime Russia suffered critical food shortages. The Czarist government prioritized sending food to the front. It drafted ten million peasants, creating a shortage of agricultural labor. Fertilizers and agricultural equipment were scarce.

Peasants understandably stored grain instead of selling it. Urban food supplies declined. Over 15% of the population lived in urban areas. But under 8% of grain reached the market. Results: High prices, profiteering, adulteration of foodstuffs. Hunger.

Masses took things into their own hands. Some formed political consumer co-operatives. Many participated in food riots, shouting anti-war and anti-government slogans. Twenty food riots in 1915. Two hundred eighty-eight in 1916. Too many to count in 1917. Soldiers joined. Police fled.

The Tsarist government fell in February 1917. Seven months later, communist-led workers, soldiers, and sailors took power. But the food crisis remained.

Class Struggle and Land Ownership

Traditionally, most Russian peasants farmed under the mir system of communal peasant landownership. Anarchists expected this to evolve into a federation of local free communes. But the mir had allocated plots of land to peasant families, rather than cultivating land collectively. That system, Lenin explained in 1908, had supported the power of serf-owning landlords and their heirs.

After the failed 1905 revolution, the bourgeois minister Stolypin advocated “Land Reform.” He intended to destroy feudal power while isolating peasants from the

Bolsheviks. Lenin described Stolypin’s method as “the forcible destruction of the village commune and the accelerated ruination and extermination of the mass of impoverished owners for the benefit of a handful of kulaks.”

Stolypin aimed to privatize communal peasant land, bringing peasants into the capitalist marketplace. This weakened the communes. But Russian peasants clung to communal land ownership. Stolypin’s reform was limited. Many peasants ended up worse off.

By 1917, 40% of peasants couldn’t survive on the land. As many as one third were wage laborers.

Socialist Revolution in the Countryside

“The first duty of the government of the workers’ and peasants’ revolution must be to settle the land question,” Lenin declared.

Left Socialist-Revolutionaries (not Bolsheviks) wrote the November 1917 “Decree on Land.” They based it on a “Peasant Mandate” drawn from 242 local peasant-written platforms.

The Decree abolished private property in land. It confiscated, without compensation, large private, crown, and church estates. Elected land committees and Soviets of Peasants’ Deputies would control the land. Bolsheviks hoped to establish socialist collective farms (kolkhozes).

But Lenin’s detailed February 1918 Decree on Land Socialization showed how complex land ownership was. And famine was compounded by civil war and the flu epidemic brought by Allied intervention. Industry was still in shambles.

Mobilizing Factory Workers to the Countryside

The Bolsheviks’ solution was



Industrial workers in Soviet Russia form Food Brigade

“war communism.” Its key was a state grain monopoly. It would requisition agricultural surplus from peasants and ration food for the urban population.

Industrial worker detachments mobilized to confiscate excess grain (with compensation) from well-to-do peasants (kulaks). But factories were producing war materiel, not consumer goods peasants could buy.

Worker detachments helped with planting, harvesting, and transporting foodstuffs to collection points. They mended and loaded carriages. They guarded transport routes and food stores.

Some helped organize poor peasants into communist-led komsobys. These bodies identified grain surpluses, organized grain collection, and redistributed grain. They stopped market transactions and speculation. Some food detachments joined local soviets and helped establish Bolshevik party cells.

By late 1918, there were about twelve thousand food supply detachment workers in the Volga region alone. This worked in places like Eletz, a major agricultural hub,

where there was already some class consciousness.

But other peasants – including local soviets – resisted massively. Many felt cheated and oppressed.

The Bolsheviks realized that they had overestimated the willingness of rural workers to join kolkhozes.

But the main problem – we now understand – was that the Bolsheviks did not mobilize those detachments to fight for actual communism. To take a sharp class line to the komsoby and rural wage laborers. To organize communist study as well as party cells.

Bolsheviks had fought for “peace, land, bread” and socialism, not for communism. Political leadership, not ideological leadership. “War communism” was not a classless society based on collective work and decision-making.

We have learned from Bolsheviks’ heroic struggles that to win that classless society we must mobilize masses for communism, nothing less.

Next: Anarchists saw in the peasant unrest an opportunity for their “third revolution.”

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Reflections on the Role of Youth Against Fascism

Fascism does not appear out of nowhere. It arises in times of crisis in the capitalist system, when the ruling classes attempt to maintain their power through repression, racism, extreme nationalism, and the destruction of workers’ organizations.

This is the ideal moment to rebel against exploitation, racism, authoritarianism, and this exploitative capitalist system. It is important to understand that fascism cannot be fought with indignation or reforms

alone, but with organization, solidarity, and political clarity.

Young people have always played a decisive role in this struggle. At many moments in history, young people have been at the forefront of resistance. They have organized protests, spread ideas, defended solidarity, and confronted the hatred promoted by fascism. But at the same time, without a clear line of organized struggle like that of our International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP).

Fascism advances when young people are disorganized. When we

allow fear to replace our consciousness. When hatred divides us, the main objective of this rotten system against our class.

It is necessary to build organization, consciousness, and collective struggle. That is why ICWP’s political and organizational work takes on fundamental importance. We must fight harder to win more young people to join our party.

The energy, creativity, and rebelliousness of youth can become a powerful force when organized collectively. With class consciousness. And our communist political line.

The newspaper *Red Flag* is a tool for this struggle. It is the voice of the entire working class that fights against the oppressive system. That fights for a communist society. Spreading these ideas, organizing, mobilizing, and winning over more comrades is our task.

The ICWP calls on young workers and students not to fall into the traps of hatred and division. The real way out of the crisis of capitalism is not fascism, but the organized struggle of the working class for a society without exploitation.

—Comrade in El Salvador

Soldiers, Sailors, Marines: Choose the Side of the International Working Class!

IMPERIALIST WORLD WAR III OPENS DOOR TO COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

Southern California (USA), March 30—A thousand members of the US Army's 82nd Airborne paratroopers have been deployed to the war on Iran. On top of the 2500 Marines sent from Camp Pendleton last week to reinforce those already there.

“Secretary of War” Hegseth says the US military has taken off all restraints and is winning. The first unrestrained attack in this war targeted (by intention or incompetence) a girls’ school in Minab, Iran, killing at least 165 children.

Iran has launched drone and rocket attacks on US bases and embassies and on US allies. It blocked the Strait of Hormuz. The working class around the world is paying for this in higher prices, and any ship which goes through the Strait is paying millions of dollars in yuan—the Chinese currency.

This is crucial in an unfolding third world war. The US, in spite of enormous fire power, is losing its international dominance.

It may be a coincidence that the US military announced this week that they are loosening Army eligibility requirements. They’ll now take recruits up to age 42 and folks



Read our pamphlet:
**SOLDIERS, SAILORS,
MARINES: CRUCIAL TO A
COMMUNIST WORKERS’
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available at:
icwpredflag.org/mpe.pdf



with one conviction for marijuana possession.

It is possible that the laundry room fire which sent the USS Gerald Ford to Crete for repairs and upgrades was not sabotage, but just the normal problems of an aging imperial navy.

But hundreds of soldiers are calling the Center on Conscience and War. Saying that the Minab girls’ school bombing was the catalyst that turned them against the war and the military as a whole. That’s not coincidence.

What’s the US rulers’ plan?

US Senator Lindsey Graham said (Fox News, March 22) that he was sure the 82nd could “liberate” Iran’s oil hub on Kharg Island in the Strait of Hormuz. “We did Iwo Jima,” he said. “We can do this.” In the battle for Iwo Jima in World War II, 70,000 US troops fought 18,000 Japanese soldiers. 7000 US troops were killed before the flag was raised.

Landing on Iranian territory is a high-risk operation. Iran’s drones make parachuting into a war zone much more dangerous.

Iwo Jima was justified as a strategic island in the South Pacific campaign leading towards an attack on the Japanese mainland. This genocidal attack included fire-bombing Tokyo, killing 100,000 people and leaving a million homeless. Then nuclear bombs at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, killing at least 200,000, mostly civilians.

The US strategic priority in the Strait of Hormuz is control of oil. This has been a mainstay of US policy in Iran since the CIA joined the British in Operation Ajax in 1953 to overthrow the democratically elected Mossadegh, because he threatened to nationalize the oil industry.

Nobody should die for oil profits. Not the thirteen US service members who have already died in the Iran War. And not the 4,500 military fatalities in the Iraq War (2003-

history books or consigned to footnotes. But many different ways of life are possible, and the capitalist empire benefits from our impoverishment of imagination.

One of the core missions of the International Communist Workers’ Party must be to ignite the fires of imagination in our disillusioned colleagues and loved ones. Our ability to dream up better worlds keeps us powerful. It gives us hope that keeps us in the fight.

We have been told to give up in advance, and we must do more than refuse that order. We must encourage and inspire others. We must uplift their imaginations. We



Soldiers, Marines Join workers and students for a communist world without borders!

LOS ANGELES, USA, June 2025—When National Guards troops were deployed to back up the ICE raids, comrades reached out to them with *Red Flag* and many were glad to read it.

2011). That was another war for oil that only toppled Saddam Hussein, created regional chaos, and empowered pro-Iranian forces within Iraq.

The US military plans to send the sons and daughters of the working class into combat to maintain US access to the Strait of Hormuz. They are willing to risk the lives of thousands of soldiers and Marines. To kill thousands more of our class siblings in Iran. To cause unprecedented pollution and black rain which will impact the lives of everyone in the region for decades. And to ally with the Zionist entity (Israel) in its plan to extend the genocide in Gaza to the whole region.

Hegseth is calling this a crusade to bring about the end times. We reject that genocidal vision.

History tells us what soldiers can actually do in time of war.

US soldiers who fragged their officers rather than follow orders in a genocidal war forced the US military to withdraw from Vietnam.

Soldiers in the Russian Army in World War I joined communist workers and overthrew that empire.

We call on *Red Flag* readers in Occupied Palestine (Israel), Iran,

DON'T BE A RACKETEER FOR CAPITALISM

Marine General Smedley Butler said it straight out almost a hundred years ago.

“I spent 33 years and four months in active military service, and during that period I spend most of my time as a high class muscle man for Big Business, for Wall Street, and the bankers. In short, I was a racketeer, a gangster for capitalism. ... I helped make Mexico, especially Tampico, safe for American oil interests in 1914. I helped make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City Bank boys to collect revenues. I helped in the raping of half a dozen Central American republics for the benefit of Wall Street.”

and the US to seize this historic moment. Enlisted personnel in all armies have the power to organize. To join with communist workers to turn imperialist wars into revolutionary wars for communism.

Don’t die for empire! Fight for the working class! Fight for communism!

new and beautiful to grow. We can only build power with people who believe change can come.

I believe that change is not only possible, but inevitable. I am reminded of Octavia Butler’s meditation on change in *Parable of the Sower*. “All that you touch, you Change. All that you Change, Changes you. The only lasting truth is Change.”

After this meeting, many colleagues took copies of *Red Flag* and expressed curiosity about the party. I expect some of them will join us in the May Day march.

—Los Angeles (USA) comrade

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Igniting the Fires of Imagination

I was just talking with a group of colleagues about the capitalist, racist, and exploitative systems that keep people down.

“And it’s just going to stay that way,” one said.

I reacted strongly, urging the whole group, “No, change is possible! It has happened in history, and it will happen again.”

We only need to look to struggles of the past to see the toppling of systems that once seemed inevitable or even ordained by god. Other, often indigenous, ways of knowing have been erased from