

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

MAY DAY: ONE INTERNATIONAL WORKING CLASS NEEDS ONE INTERNATIONAL PARTY, PAGE 2



ISTANBUL, TÜRKİYE

ISTANBUL (Türkiye), MAY 1: "We will not be soldiers to the USA, servants to (Erdoğan's) AKP, or slaves to holdings."



SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR



LOS ANGELES, USA

IN THE FACE OF IMPERIALIST WARS, COMMUNIST REVOLUTION!

EL SALVADOR, May 1— The banner of the International Workers' Communist Party that read "In the Face of Imperialist Wars, Communist Revolution" was one of the most widely read before and throughout the May Day march in San Salvador. This slogan is the response of the working class organized in the ICWP to fascism and genocide around the world. It demonstrated that workers cannot and must not remain indifferent to capitalist crimes.

Men and women workers carried the banner, wore red T-shirts, and proudly waved our *Red Flag* as a sign of their struggle for communism. Several workers participating in the march, who were reading the banner carefully, stepped in front of it and said, "Take my picture here!"

"The working class has no borders!" "Long live the international

working class!" shouted the maquila workers this May Day, as dozens of workers from the fields, healthcare, education, and young students made up the group organized by the International Workers' Communist Party (ICWP) in the march through the main streets of San Salvador.

Very early in the morning, and in the days leading up to it, comrades from the International Communist Workers' Party gathered at agreed-upon meeting points. They came from the mountains in the eastern and western parts of the country, as well as from the outskirts of the capital. They answered the ICWP's call to participate in the Salvadoran capital in the massive protest demonstration against a system unjust for the working class, which must be destroyed at its roots through revolutionary violence.

Army and police checkpoints on the main highways did not prevent our comrades from arriving at the march on time. And our contingent was consistently recognized as one of the most colorful, disciplined, and ideologically committed to communism.

"We passed through the checkpoints without any problem, according to our plans. But other organizations were unable to do so. Their buses were stopped, the drivers' documents were confiscated, and fines were imposed to prevent them from reaching the march. That shows the capitalists' fear of workers' mobilization," said a comrade.

The overarching principle of mobilizing the masses for Communism is reflected in the partici-

pation of families of ICWP comrades in the march. It is fostering an interest in Communism in the children, turning them into new generations of communists, fighting to put an end to the capitalist system of exploitation.

Twelve hundred copies of *Red Flag* were successfully distributed at the march, and as always, it wasn't enough. "It's a joy to see that the newspaper is in demand and being read by the workers right now," said one comrade.

After marching through the main streets of the country's capital and waving the ICWP's *Red Flag*, the workers went to an annual gathering to share a moment of relaxation with one another, strengthening communist social ties.

Likewise, the comrades traveling

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One International Working Class, One International Communist Workers' Party

MAY DAY MARCHES MUST LEAD TO A GROWING ICWP

May 1—Thousands marched in Tel Aviv against genocide and imperialist wars. Over a thousand in Prague rallied against fascism in the Czech Parliament and in the streets.

Tens of thousands in the Philippines confronted police to protest attacks on the working class and the US war on Iran. Many tens of thousands across the USA denounced fascist attacks on immigrants. Hundreds of thousands marched in Turkey.

Workers in Argentina mobilized against fascist anti-labor laws. Transport workers in Ireland, South Korea, Brazil, India, and Nigeria found ways to disrupt the bosses' system.

May Day marchers targeted capitalism. They expressed international working class solidarity. Many marched under communist banners. Carried red flags. Sang the communist anthem, the Internationale.

Wherever ICWP brought our Red Flag newspapers, workers and youth took them eagerly. In India, Spain, Mexico, and Occupied Palestine.

In Los Angeles and San Salvador, they also cheered our communist banners, chants, and speeches. Some joined our contingents. Some exchanged contact information. (See articles and letters in this issue of *Red Flag*.)

We saw and heard disgust with electoral politics and skepticism about reform. Anger at fascists and exploiters. Enthusiasm for class struggle.

Many of our classmates and coworkers, friends, neighbors, relatives, feel this way, too. Not all, but enough to encourage us to raise communist ideas more boldly. To take relationships to a higher political level. To invite more to join and build ICWP communist collectives.

We fight for a communist world without borders or nations. Where all workers are welcome everywhere.

That fight starts by building one International Communist Workers' Party without borders, that wel-

comes and connects workers everywhere. We must work more intentionally to meet and recruit workers, soldiers, and youth who live in other cities and countries.

A New Kind of Communist Party

Unlike most "communist" parties, we declare openly that trade-union reformism and electoral politics will never end capitalist wage slavery. They are distractions that reinforce capitalist state power. Liberation requires preparation for armed communist revolution.

Unlike most leftist parties, we have learned from both the mistakes and the victories of the twentieth-century international communist movement. A century of struggle shows that the road to communism doesn't run through "democracy" or "national liberation" or "socialism." Those strategies have chained the masses to variations of capitalist exploitation.

That's the main reason we don't see communism working anywhere in the world today. Because the old communist movement didn't prepare workers to fight for and build communism. That's what the ICWP is now learning how to do.

"US imperialism squashed the left," friends say. True, US and other imperialists have viciously attacked revolutionary movements everywhere for over two centuries. But it wasn't communism they attacked, because none of those movements actually tried to build a communist society.

What Is Communism?

Communist society: All working and learning. All contributing politically, socially, economically. Everyone's needs met as best we can. Nobody lives better or worse than others.

Social relations of sharing and cooperation will replace capitalism's "cash nexus." No capitalist competition to maximize profits, no imperialism, no reason for war.



TEL AVIV (Occupied Palestine), May 2— The banner reads: "No War, No Slaughter, No Occupation" in Arabic and Hebrew. ICWP comrades and friends distributed many copies of *Red Flag* among thousands of anti-war participants in the May Day march here. The next day, several comrades were among one hundred Palestinian and Jewish protesters who blocked "business as usual" to expose Israeli official complicity in the organized crime that is devastating Palestinian communities. The comrades distributed *Red Flag* there too.

A consistent fight against remnants of racism, sexism, nationalism, xenophobia, and other capitalist practices.

Our party works to prepare, organize, and mobilize masses directly for this communism. Nothing less.

All Comrades Must Become Thinkers and Doers

Slogans aren't enough. We need plans based on concrete and rapidly changing reality. Right now: When the US and Israel have started a war with Iran that they can't win. When xenophobia spreads globally, fueling fascist movements everywhere. When capitalism's environmental, military, and economic disasters devastate our working-class siblings

ICWP struggles to help every comrade learn to analyze capitalism's contradictions. To use dialectical materialism (communist philosophy) as a weapon in the class struggle. Every member and friend should become both a "thinker" and a "do-er." We lay the basis now for erasing class society's division between "mental"

and "manual" labor.

For example: The capitalist rulers need working-class soldiers to fight their wars for them. The same soldiers whose families are ground down by those same capitalists. Understanding this contradiction means seeing the necessity of communist work inside the bosses' militaries. That makes revolution possible.

ICWP collectives mutually support their members and friends. They analyze, plan, carry out, and evaluate our communist work. They contribute to the development of the one line that guides that work everywhere. We build direct comradesly relations among comrades in different cities and different areas of work.

If you are not yet a member of an ICWP collective, please talk to whoever gave you this paper. Or contact us to meet up.

Let's all act on an important lesson of May Day 2026: Now is the time to build the International Communist Workers' Party everywhere we can, near and far!

ON THE WEB:

As usual, we have more than we can print. The website: www.icwpredflag.org has the following letter this issue: May Day, El Salvador: An Inspiring March

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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www.icwpredflag.org — Twitter @RedFlagBandera
NEW E-mail: contact@icwpredflag.org
Instagram: @icwprf Facebook: icwpredflag
Phone: US: (323) 812-9155
South Africa 084 682 6501 and 081 553 5880
Write to: P.M.B. 362
3006 S.Vermont Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90007, USA

SOUTH AFRICA: CAPITALIST CLIMATE DISASTER CAN'T STOP COMMUNIST ORGANIZING

EASTERN CAPE (South Africa), May 11— “This is the first time I’ve ever seen weather this bad,” said a comrade here.

Comrades continue our communist work despite a week of torrential rain and violent winds. Extreme flooding, extended power outages, shuttered schools, and closed roads are now officially considered a natural disaster.

But this unusual weather is anything but “natural.” The old weather models predicted a dry spell. Those models no longer serve. This disastrous weather is an example of the climate crisis created by capitalism. Imperialists and other capitalists are still making this crisis worse as their industries

and wars dump more carbon into the atmosphere.

Burning fossil fuels, deforestation, and industrial processes release “greenhouse gases” (mainly carbon dioxide and methane) that trap heat in the atmosphere. This causes global warming and destabilizes weather systems worldwide. As imperialist confrontation intensifies, we’ll see a lot more of this.

The African continent has been warming even faster than the global average. Last December and January, extremely heavy rains killed at least 280 people and affected millions across southern Africa. A study by an international consortium of scientists and institutions found that the warming cli-

mate, combined with La Niña weather patterns, created an unprecedented rainy season.

Capitalists, bent on maximizing profits, cannot solve this problem no matter what scientists say. It can only be the working class that will begin to solve it with communist revolution. In communism, workers will plan production to meet our own needs, not some bosses’ profits. And one thing we need is a livable planet!

We have been meeting in Uitenhage with fifteen to twenty comrades. We have prepared and shared food collectively. We have supplied drinking water to those in need. We have navigated flooded roadways to drive comrades to their jobs in factories like Volkswagen that demand they come in despite the crisis.

Our discussions have increased new comrades’ understanding of communism. We have made plans to expand distribution of the *Red Flag* newspaper.

“We have had several meetings focused on the internal struggle amongst the comrades, looking at our shortcomings and weaknesses,” explained another comrade. “We are looking at ways to strengthen commitment in the face of the

things comrades are battling with.

“On the other hand, we have a lot of comrades who are very committed, especially young comrades and their friends who have embraced *Red Flag*,” he continued. “One thing they have identified is that they want to understand dialectical materialism. So, we are going to have another weekend outing later this month to study that.”

Read our pamphlet:
**Communist Dialectics:
The Philosophy of Struggle**
Available at <https://icwpredflag.org/DiaMagEnglC.pdf>

Lots more material about dialectical materialism is available at the link below.



UITENHAGE (South Africa): Comrades meet to read and discuss *Red Flag*

YOUNGER LEADERS STEP FORWARD TO BRING COMMUNIST IDEAS TO THOUSANDS

LOS ANGELES (USA), May 1— As we gathered at MacArthur Park, comrades old and new, there was a shared sense that this wasn’t just tradition, but continuation. Continuation of struggle, of organization, of building towards mobilizing for Communism.

As we stepped into the march, stacks of *Red Flag* in hand, a newer comrade walked beside me, looking out at the crowd of maybe ten thousand people stretching down blocks.

“There’s so much standing... is that normal?” they said, surprised and anxious.

I nodded. “Yeah. But we’re gonna get started soon,” I said as we distributed *Red Flag* to the workers who were still pouring in. Our Communist speeches spoke profoundly about destroying capitalism and the need for workers to unite to fight for a communist



world without bosses or borders. Workers listened attentively as they took *Red Flag*.

This year’s march was noticeably filled with workers from many unions and all walks of life. Workers taking time off from their jobs, students marching with friends, older folks who had clearly been here before— all reaching out, curious, open, sometimes eager.

Younger comrades stepped forward without hesitation, leading chants and coordinating movement. It wasn’t forced; it was emerging. Leadership wasn’t assigned—it was taken up.

New friends and old friends joined our contingent.

At one point, the same comrade turned to me again, more energized this time.

“I didn’t expect to feel like this,” they said. “It feels... real.”

“That’s because it is!” I replied. “This is what building looks like.

Not perfect, not finished—but moving.”

There was pride in what we were doing. It came from clarity. From knowing that distributing our literature is intentional. It’s part of preparing, organizing, and pushing beyond reform for revolution. Reform is inherently about making capitalism more palatable and preserving capitalism. It’s the opposite of revolution. We enter into mass movements to win our class siblings to the revolutionary alternative.

As we marched through Los Angeles, our chants echoed off buildings. “Este puño sí se ve, los obreros al poder” (“This fist means power to the workers”) rang out as our multigenerational and international party stood as a reflection of what’s possible. Not just resistance, but direction. The only international party there.

We brought over 1300 papers

Capitalist Reality and Our Communist Future

“We talked about real stuff,” a person said after our May Day luncheon in Oakland, California (USA). We ate delicious food at a Cambodian restaurant. We discussed the world situation including Iran; our personal experiences of racism on the job and in graduate and professional school; and the Michael Parenti book, *Blackshirts and Reds*, we are reading in our book group.

We pushed back on the mythology of super achievement - Blacks must be twice as good to get jobs and enter professions. An ICWP member urged us to go to local May Day marches, read *Red Flag*, join our book group and ICWP.

People want to talk about “real stuff.” However, we must explain and teach that “stuff” is due to capitalism that must be destroyed. We must work today to fight for a communist humane society.

—Oakland (USA) comrade



and ran out halfway through the march. A comrade looked at the last few copies in their hand and smiled. “We should’ve brought more.”

WAR IN IRAN ACCELERATES US IMPERIALIST DECLINE AND SHARPENS US-CHINA CONFLICT

LOS ANGELES (USA), May 12— “US global hegemony is going away pretty fast,” posted a *Red Flag* reader. “BRICS was already ascendant, but this really foolish war with Iran is speeding up the transition of global power. Iran will become a really wealthy ally of China and Russia. The petrodollar will likely be dethroned, and the world will divest from US Treasury bonds. That could spell catastrophe for the US. How bad do you think it will get?”

Many wonder about the final outcome of the US/Israel war on Iran and Lebanon. What is already clear is the tremendous human and environmental destruction that the imperialists have wrought.

“It has been a war for oil—and, by extension, for markets,” declared an immigrant US steelworker.

It is an imperialist war driven primarily by the United States and Israeli rulers.

“I was in the US Army during

the Vietnam War,” remarked another industrial worker. “The US military high command thought they would quickly wipe out the Vietnamese fighters. Yet we watched as the army collapsed and they were forced to abandon that invasion. Now, with the war in Iran, it is said that the necessary ammunition cannot be procured.”

Indeed, the war with Iran has depleted US reserves of military materiel and ammunition to an “alarming” degree, say lawmakers and Pentagon estimates. The rapid consumption of critical missiles threatens US capacity to confront other global conflicts, like Ukraine and Taiwan.

This is driving an accelerated surge in US war production, unprecedented since World War II. We must take this opportunity to organize for communism in the factories, among the thousands of young workers who will end up there. And among the working-class youth in the imperialist

armies.

The merger of industrial and finance capital characterizes imperialism. The US/Iran war has intensified the financial challenges facing the US capitalist class.

Already, the Chinese currency (renminbi or yuan) is penetrating the global market. US policymakers are responding with “currency swap lines” that stabilize their economies and guarantee them access to dollars for trade and oil sales. The overarching objective is to reinforce the dominance of the dollar and maintain the stability of global markets.

But Iran, Russia, and other countries already sell oil in yuan. Even Saudi Arabia might soon. India, Japan, and, of course, China buy oil in yuan. The petrodollar has indeed been “unthroned.”

As we go to press, Trump and his planeload of billionaires are heading to China to “make deals” to fatten their bulging pockets. But no “deal” can paper over the deadly

rivalry between the two powers.

Global capitalism is in a general crisis of overproduction of goods and of capital. This can only resolve itself through massive destruction of human lives, productive capacity, and the environment.

The wars in Palestine, the Persian Gulf, Ukraine, Sudan, Kashmir, and more all reflect great-power conflicts. The prospect of direct confrontation, even nuclear war, cannot be ignored.

How much worse will things get for workers in the US and globally? Much worse. But not forever.

The working class, led by its International Communist Workers’ Party, will end this deadly system through communist revolution. Workers, students, teachers, soldiers, homemakers, professionals: Join us in this fight! We have a world to win!

PLEASE SEND YOUR LETTERS, RESPONSES, AND SUGGESTIONS TO: CONTACT@ICWPREDFLAG.ORG



May Day in El Salvador: “Filled with Joy!”

Greetings to all, comrades and friends.

For me, it was a very special day to be at the May 1st march. At first, I thought I would be alone, that few comrades would show up. But then comrades from other departments and municipalities across El Salvador began to arrive. That filled me with joy. It was a long march, unlike in previous years.

However, we raised our voices, and it was a great opportunity to make ourselves known as a communist party.

It’s not easy for us women to leave things undone at home. But it’s worth putting those things aside to go out and fight, comrades, because if we stay silent, no one will ever know about communist ideas.

Distributing *Red Flag* filled me with joy. My son and I handed out the newspaper. It was the little bit I needed, but it filled me with satisfaction.

A woman approached me and said, “But I hadn’t heard of you until today.”

I replied, “This party has been around for years, but now we’re distributing our newspaper so more workers can read it—we’ve

grown. And if you read the newspaper, you’ll see where we’re organized in other countries, not just here in El Salvador. Our party is international.”

“Really?” she asked.

“There’s a website where you can read more. If you have children, nieces and nephews, or grandchildren, they can use the internet to learn about our entire struggle and how long the ICWP has existed.” She thanked me.

This motivates me to raise our voice as a party, as *Red Flag*.

—Young communist worker

Camaraderie among Communist Farmworkers and Factory Workers

Comrades, greetings to all!

The community where I live has a long history of participating in the struggles for a better world.

Today we took part in the May 1st march, with the conviction that this oppressive system will come to an end.

We got up very early at 2 am and left at 3 am for the meeting place where other party comrades were waiting for us, so we could arrive in the capital early.

They welcomed us very warmly, which made us feel a sense of camaraderie, just as it should be among communists.

There were six of us from the community, including family and friends. We marched a long way, but it was worth it.

We will meet soon to continue organizing more workers in the community.

On the way back, we were all tired but satisfied that we had fulfilled our duty to mobilize on this historic day for our class, the working class.

—Farmworker comrade in El Salvador



IN THE FACE OF IMPERIALIST WARS: COMMUNIST REVOLUTION, from page 1

to areas farther from the capital also shared a meal together on the trip and enjoyed one of the best meals in the country.

“What a joy to be marching again after so many years, and that everything went well,” said a young comrade who had only recently rediscovered the struggle for

revolution at the December conference. She brought a contingent of rural women workers to this march.

“I thought you’d get tired because of the length of the march,” Comrade J remarked to two ICWP comrades who are former Salvadoran guerrilla fighters.

“No, this energizes us every

year,” they replied. Many worker comrades asked to take photos with them, since they are very elderly and represent a great example of lifelong revolutionary struggle. Their daughters and granddaughters marched alongside them. One even marched with a cane, waving the red ICWP flag, and they con-

cluded their participation with great emotion.

The comrades returned satisfied that they had fulfilled their mission of spreading communist ideas through *Red Flag*. And with a genuine commitment to strengthen the International Communist Workers’ Party, wherever they may be.

Communism versus Anarchism (Part VI)

ERRORS OF “WAR COMMUNISM” AND WORSE ERRORS OF “THIRD REVOLUTION”

Part V described how the Bolsheviks tried to cope with massive famine in Russia in 1918. They misleadingly called their policy “war communism.”

“War communism” centered on a state grain monopoly. Farm surpluses were requisitioned from peasants and rationed for urbanites. The “communist” aspect was replacing markets with state-managed distribution. Money became almost worthless, except in illegal “black markets.”

But the Bolshevik party was committed to Marx’s 1875 Critique of the Gotha Program (published 1891). First, Marx said that in communism’s “lower phase,” people would receive goods according to their work. Only the “higher phase” would function “from each according to ability, to each according to needs.”

Lenin saw war communism as the “lower phase.” But how would state distribution allocate food according to work? It didn’t.

Second, in *Gotha Program* Marx emphasizes the “dictatorship of the proletariat.” This was to be the transition between capitalism and communism. Lenin, too, emphasized this in his May 1918 letter to Petrograd workers. He called on the party’s strongest base to form “iron detachments” for this “communist task.”

By 1921, capitalists had violently suppressed proletarian revo-

lutions in Germany and elsewhere. Soviet leaders could no longer expect support from western Europe. Their situation was critical. They had to face it alone.

Many desperate ex-soldiers had turned to banditry. Former industrial workers were largely de-proletarianized. Factories closed. Cities shrank as hungry workers left for the villages. Crops failed in 1920. Industrial production was only a fifth of pre-war levels.

The Civil War ended with the defeat of Wrangel’s counterrevolutionary army in November 1920. But resolving that contradiction sharpened new ones.

Many peasants had sided with Reds against Wrangel’s Whites. Now they lost their main reason for supporting the Bolsheviks. Over 118 peasant rebellions broke out across the Soviet Union.

Lenin admitted in 1921 that the Bolsheviks had made “mistakes in every field of work.” Their single-minded focus was “everything for victory on the Civil War front, and nothing else.”

This, Lenin said, “determined a whole series of mistakes and intensified the crisis.” These included a mistaken analysis of class forces. And time wasted on inner-party debates over “syndicalist and semi-anarchist deviations.”

Lenin saw the main task as strengthening the Bolshevik Party to “operate the dictatorship of the

ICWP Misjudged Soviet “War Communism”

In the past, our party did not correctly analyze the Soviet “war communism” period. Our manifesto “Mobilize the Masses for Communism,” published fifteen years ago, said this:

During the civil war, the Bolsheviks organized society under what they called “war communism,” on an emergency basis. They requisitioned food, jump-started production, and bypassed currency that inflation had made useless. As an emergency measure, they eliminated money, but they didn’t think that the masses were ready to do this long term.

This is true. However, we mistakenly suggested that this “war communism” showed how we “expect and plan to build our new communist world on the rubble and ashes of the old.” We identified the Bolsheviks’ mistake as thinking of it only as an emergency measure. (*Red Flag*, 2022)

We said that “we are learning the lessons of War Communism during the Russian Revolution.” (*Red Flag*, 2017) However, we did not draw the correct lessons. This series attempts to do better. But more study and discussion is needed. Especially of what “war communism” meant in the factories.

Self-critically, we have not fought hard enough to deepen and broaden our individual and collective understanding. We need more dialectical-materialist study of communism and its history.

We must fight to end the division of labor within our party. To develop more curiosity, critical thinking, and writing skills among all members and friends.

proletariat.” It had become a mass party with half a million members. But a “struggle against the evils of bureaucracy” had become “indispensable.”

Other Bolsheviks, however, feared a party dictatorship over the masses. Anarchists saw an opening for the “third revolution” they’d advocated since 1917.

1921: Anarchists Attempt “Third Revolution”

Anarchists launched that “third revolution” in late 1920. The key leader was the Ukrainian Nestor Makhno (1888-1934). An anarcho-communist since 1905, Makhno was a political prisoner from 1909-1917. Freed by the revolution, he organized peasants and workers in his hometown into anarchist unions.

These took control of local government. They froze out political parties. They organized armed peasant detachments against the landlords, bourgeoisie, and kulaks.

They seized land from landlords and redistributed it among peasants. They transformed large estates into agrarian communes. With other anarchists, they conducted

political work among the peasants.

Between 1918 and 1920, Makhnovists repeatedly formed tactical alliances with the Red Army. And then broke them.

They were key to defeating Austro-German and White troops in Ukraine. But with Wrangel’s defeat, the contradiction between anarchists and communists sharpened.

In February 1921, a former Bolshevik military commander, Maslakov, joined Makhnovists to fight the Bolshevik government. Some other former Red Army commanders did too. They may have thought they were fighting for “communism without commissars.” But that’s not what happened.

Instead, desperate to take down the Bolsheviks, anarchist leaders aligned themselves with capitalist forces. These included White emigres, Socialist-Revolutionaries, and others. They openly hoped to turn the clock back to the bourgeois revolution of February 1917.

The next article in this series will explore this.



Manila, The Philippines: May Day Marchers Denounce Imperialism at US Embassy

SPREADING COMMUNIST IDEAS IN SPAIN AND PORTUGAL

SPAIN, May 7— Thousands of workers took to the streets in Spain to declare that the working class is growing increasingly fed up with this deadly system. There were many banners protesting the imperialists’ war, racism, and the precarious conditions workers face every day.

With *Red Flags* in hand, we participated in the May Day march. We distributed 500 copies, proclaiming that there is a solution to all the problems we workers face,

and announcing that the day is drawing ever closer when we, the working class, will defeat capital, destroy it, and build a new world! A COMMUNIST WORLD led by all the workers of the world through a single party: The International Communist Workers’ Party.

As on every May Day, people approached us to ask for *Red Flags*, always driven by the need to find solutions to the problems of slavery, racism, and war. With great enthusiasm from Spain, we have

spread communist ideas among workers. Let’s continue to join the struggle for the construction of a new world.

After May Day, we met up with some friends in Lisbon (Portugal) who are active in environmental movements. They had also marched in Lisbon. We got together and gave them a couple of copies of *Red Flag*. We talked about the wars and how the imperialists are only interested in their profits at the expense of the slaughter in Gaza,

the West Bank, Ukraine, Lebanon, and Sudan.

We talked about how political parties do the same thing everywhere. As in El Salvador, where they use technology to portray the country as free, yet it is a place of totalitarianism where you can only speak well of their leaders. If you oppose the government, they will surely retaliate.

The friends in Lisbon sent their regards to everyone, and we will stay in touch with them.

MAY DAY: WORKERS AND STUDENTS EAGERLY DISCUSS COMMUNISM

SEATTLE (USA), May 1—“Wow, this is really excellent!” said a young Boeing worker and activist when he saw the ICWP sign at the Seattle May Day rally. Its headline read, “Turn Imperialist War into Communist Revolution.”

Almost one-third of the thousand or so workers and students who marched and rallied on May Day in Seattle took copies of *Red Flag*. Some asked for more to share with friends and colleagues not at the march.

Comrades had frequent and sometimes lengthy discussions with participants and made nine new contacts. Many young people were interested in what our party thinks about what is happening in the world and about war in particular. During our discussions at our May Day dinner and the march, it became clear that these questions had intensified.

Our friends who work at Boeing and related industries are angry at the president of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) union, who has been encouraging defense manufacturing across the

USA. In a letter to Congress, he asked both Democrats and Republicans to “protect our national security.” He aims to build pro-war sentiment.

A longtime comrade who stayed by our literature table had a long conversation with a teacher who had traveled over an hour from Olympia for the march. We met him last year, and whenever he visits Seattle, we meet up at a local coffee house. Each issue he distributes twenty *Red Flag* newspapers in bookstores and coffeehouses in his neighborhood.

A young person who came to the table told the comrade there that she had just moved from Portland to find a job. She picked up the paper and said that she wanted to learn more about communism. We chatted and she said that she “liked to write.” The comrade mentioned that she and a friend were getting together to write an article on AI and its effect on culture, especially music. When asked if she would like to help write it, the young person said “Yes!” We exchanged phone numbers.



A student at the University of Washington told us about an attending physician in the UW Medical School who refuses to give feedback to residents of color. That medical school has been known to have discouraged Black students for decades. After the student and a comrade who had retired from the UW discussed this, she was happy to give the comrade her contact information.

The conflict between the needs of the capitalist class for war and fascism and the needs of the working class to end exploitation forever

has become a very popular subject...especially among younger people. As more of them question everything this system has taught them, they are open to discussions of a communist vision for the future world.

The positive response of so many shows the potential for the battle to end capitalism with communist revolution. We encourage you to fight in your workplace or school, join the military to “turn the guns around,” and win the masses to communist revolution!

PLEASE SEND YOUR LETTERS, RESPONSES, AND SUGGESTIONS TO
NEW E-MAIL: CONTACT@ICWPREDFLAG.ORG

Friendly Neighborhood Communists

I've been working at Franklin High School since 2019. Early on I met D and L who passed out the *Red Flag* to students as they walked up the hill to school. After I got to know L and D, I dubbed them the “Friendly Neighborhood Communists.” They were so delightful to talk to! L and I became friends.

Over the years I've seen students reading the *Red Flag* at breakfast in the lunchroom.

One time I took a picture of a student with the *Red Flag* and texted it to L.

Recently, a student was reading the *Red Flag* at a table with several other students. I asked her if I could take her picture to pass on to my friends, L and D. She said no because she was only looking at the pictures. As I left the lunchroom, I noticed a boy who usually sat at the table with the girl reading the paper. He had the *Red Flag* in his hand and seemed excited about something...

—School worker in Seattle (USA)

“All You Had to Do Was Pay Us Enough to Live”

“I do not think that life will change for the better without an assault on the Establishment, which goes on exploiting the wretched of the earth. This belief lies at the heart of the concept of revolutionary suicide. Thus it is better to oppose the forces that would drive me to self-murder than to endure them.”

—Huey P. Newton

On April 7th, 2026, Chamel Abdul Karim set fire to a Kimberly-Clark Corporation paper goods warehouse. He filmed this, telling the capitalists, “All you had to do was pay us enough to live.” Since then there have been several more warehouse fires, some intentional, some undetermined, and other bold acts of resistance.

Social media comment sections have lit up with discussion of the fires. Whether a post was from mainstream news, leftist, right-wing, or liberal content creators, there was little criticism of the arsonist. There was a great deal of understanding, much glee, and even some gratitude. People spoke about the crushing weight of

trying to survive the capitalist system. And how this was the first bit of hope they had felt in a long time.

Chamel had already been elevated to the same status on the internet as the existing meme hero Luigi Mangione. Luigi assassinated the CEO of the insurance company UnitedHealthcare in 2024 with three bullets etched with the words “Delay, Deny, Depose”.

I've spoken to some comrades who support these actions. I've heard from others who denounce them as “adventurism” and “individualism.” While it is true that collective action will always be more powerful than solitary acts of resistance, I believe they still have their value. The revolution will not come solely through the organizing of the workers. The fuse is often lit by spontaneous action.

A big benefit of the arson was people discovering how common anti-capitalist sentiments have become. Every article, every post has created yet another comment section where people share personal stories, education about workers' rights and the stolen value of one's labor, concerns

about the rise of AI and data centers, and many other interconnected grievances.

This is a valuable propaganda opportunity for the Party. It has captured the imagination of workers across the US and made them hungry for action.

In such moments, we must not lead with criticism of actions that don't align perfectly with the Party. We must not only ask others to join us, but also find ways to join the energy of our allies and build a large tent. We must “yes and” those who are excited about the individuals sacrificing themselves to fight back against the capitalist class.

We must say, “Yes, it's exciting that people are rising up. After feeling alone and scared, it's exciting that so many people have had enough. And we must join together to demand much more than a living wage.” “Yes, this act of vandalism cost a corporation 15% of its annual profits, and we can do much more with collective action. Let me tell you how.”

—Comrade in Los Angeles (USA)

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COACHELLA: SPECTACLE, LUXURY, AND CAPITALIST DECADENCE IN WARTIME

EL SALVADOR, April 20—Nine comrades discussed how working-class life under capitalism is deemed worthless. “They were hyping up the event at Coachella. While thousands consume ‘experiences’ in the desert, the world burns. Imperialist wars, crises, hunger, displacement: this is the flip side that Coachella conceals. It’s not a contradiction. It’s the very same system—one that generates misery for the entire working class while providing luxury for a privileged few,” stated A.

The annual Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival presents itself as “a symbol of culture, freedom, and celebration.” Thousands of young people travel there to consume music, fashion, and experiences beneath the desert sun. “Behind that constructed image, Coachella functions as just another cog in the machinery of global capitalism,” added J.

“That’s right—it isn’t culture. It’s business. It’s a capitalist showcase where music, rebellion, and identity are sold off to the highest bidder. Nothing there is truly free. Everything has a price,” said D. “It’s not merely a festival. It’s a dis-

play window for consumerism.”

“The irony is that Coachella was originally created to push back against festivals with exorbitant prices, but now it has transformed into the very thing it rebelled against 26 years ago. You cannot change the system from within,” a comrade from Los Angeles shared with us.

This year’s festival highlighted the first Salvadoran band to ever perform there—Los Hermanos Flores—as well as Karol G, the first Latina artist to headline the event. It’s clear that the allure of culture is utilized and manipulated to market the festival as culturally sensitive and diverse.

Tickets, corporate sponsors, brand names, and the commodification of “alternative” aesthetics: everything, is designed to transform culture into a marketable commodity. Music ceases to be a form of expression and becomes a product. Identity becomes a sellable image. And experience becomes mere content for social media.

In this sense, Coachella is not an exception, but rather a concentrated microcosm of how contemporary capitalism operates. This spectacle

is no accident. It serves its purpose: to distract, to fragment, and to depoliticize. “Instead of questioning the system, it offers an

escape valve—a space where everything seems possible, but only as long as one can pay,” said C.

“Therefore, we must strengthen class consciousness, instill our communist ideas, and open the eyes of all young people to the smokescreen created by this rotten system of profit,” C emphasized.

Expressions of criticism within the festival itself—as well as artists speaking out on social justice or delivering political messages from the stage—ultimately end up being absorbed by the logic of the capitalist market.

The problem is not the music, the art, or the need to gather and express oneself collectively. The problem is that these cultural spaces end up being subordinated to profit.

Capitalism dominates the economy, life, leisure time, art, and dreams. As long as it goes unques-

tioned, every “festival” will be nothing more than another showcase of inequality. There is no free culture in a system based on exploitation. There

is no free art where everything is bought and sold. The spectacle continues—and so do war and misery.

The question is not whether Coachella is ‘good’ or ‘bad,’ but rather: what does it represent? It represents a culture captured by the market. One where collective experience is supplanted by individual consumption, and where access is determined by one’s ability to pay.

The future is in our hands. Let’s put an end to capitalism—to all its forms and practices. Let’s do away with all its corporate giants.

Under communism, life will be peaceful. No more nations, bloody wars, or private property. Art, culture, and wholesome recreation will be available to all. With no corporations of any kind, nothing will be bought or sold. Let’s fight to put an end to the profit system! Let’s fight for our communist revolution! Join the ICWP!



“Art is a weapon,” wrote the communist muralist David Alfaro Siqueiros, “that penetrates the eyes, the ears, the deepest and subtlest human feelings.”



MEXICO CITY, May 1—With the enthusiasm and dedication of the youth and workers (mostly women) in the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP), we spread the ideas of communism and the Revolution at the massive May Day march. The young men and women are learning through practice. Confronting reformism, nationalism, and patriotism, twelve distributors handed out 650 copies of *Red Flag*. We ended the day with a lunch. Although the ICWP is currently small as it restarts here, it will grow more than any other. Despite mistakes and setbacks, the working class will triumph, and communism will be the guide for the new society.

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Sinners: Destroy Money and Capital with Revolutionary Communist Violence

The vampire film *Sinners* won four Oscars. The writer, producer, and director, Ryan Coogler, won Best Original Screenplay.

“What did you think of the movie?” I asked several friends.

“I loved it; it has so many layers that I need to watch it again.”

“I really liked how blues music formed an integral part of the plot.”

“The relentless fight against the vampires was impressive,” were some answers.

However, everyone I spoke with overlooked the subtle yet scathing critique of money—and, by extension, capital. In his *Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts* of 1844, Marx developed the idea of money as the supreme social nexus. Money becomes the “universal agent of separation” and an “in-

verted force” that transforms fidelity into infidelity, love into hatred, and virtue into vice.

In the film, the Moore twins attempt to use money earned in Chicago to “buy” their way back into the community—and their redemption. However, that money (the nexus) acts as a barrier. Locals view them with suspicion. And in the end, capital fails to purchase the respect or security they seek within a segregated and racist system. Here, money supplants genuine human relationships. Instead of connecting through who we are, we connect through what we can buy.

Marx wrote that money can make a cowardly man appear brave or cause an ugly man to be “loved.” The gold coins offered by the vampire Remmick are part of this inversion. The promise of wealth transforms the desire for freedom of characters like Mary

into eternal servitude. Money “inverts” their humanity: to attain “eternal life” (wealth/power), they must die as humans and become parasites (vampires).

“Capital is dead labor which, vampire-like, only lives by sucking live labor, and lives the more, the more live labor it sucks,” Marx says in *Capital*. In *Sinners*, vampirism serves as a literal representation of this Marxist concept. The vampires do not merely seek blood; they seek to appropriate cultural vitality and art—specifically the blues—to transform them into inert commodities.

In the section of *Capital* analyzing the transition from feudalism to capitalism, Marx adds; “If money, according to Augier, ‘comes into the world with a bloodstain on one cheek,’ capital is born dripping blood and dirt from every pore, from head to foot.”

This is capitalism, born feeding

itself on the blood of humanity. It has robbed us of our very existence. And it continues to do so. Especially in times of environmental destruction, of repeated genocides, of kidnappings and disappearances, of a third World War, and many other atrocities.

Here, the only option we have is organized violence. Like that of the Choctaw vampire hunters and the community faced with the onslaught they confronted, depicted in *Sinners*.

Yet, unlike theirs, ours will be an organized, revolutionary, and communist violence that will unearth capitalism—along with its capital and its money—completely and finally. And in the process, we will be building a communist world—one developing and marching toward its full maturity where every single human being will live to their full humanity.

—Marxist Poet

MAY DAY IN INDIA: COMMUNISM SPREADS IN THE FACE OF CAPITALIST WAR, CRISIS, AND XENOPHOBIA

INDIA, May 1— Thousands of trade unionists, workers, and students organized May Day in Ramlila Maidan, New Delhi. Twenty-five ICWP comrades distributed hundreds of copies of *Red Flag* throughout the march. Other comrades marched with workers they know. An organizer who works in a liberal slum-eradication group marched proudly with an ICWP member who explained how a communist future will eliminate slums.

An ICWP leaflet explained that the Modi fascist regime was caught in the US-China imperialist rivalry. Modi decided to support the US/Israel war machine against Iran. India gets most of its gas and oil from Gulf Cooperation Council nations. Meanwhile, trying to counterbalance China's increased influence, the Modi government had been building the Chabahar port in Iran.

In early February, Modi abandoned the Chabahar port. Soon after, he visited Jerusalem to strengthen ties with Israel. He praised fascist Netanyahu for continuing the genocide in Gaza. Then Modi met with the ruler of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Modi builds intense Islamophobia. He portrays Muslims in India as former occupiers who destroyed India for centuries. His fascist regime created a law to ban Muslims from voting in recent state elections. In West Bengal, for the first time, not only did the fascists win the elections, but not a single Muslim member was elected in a 30%-Muslim state.

The genocidal war in Gaza and the spreading of war in Iran, Lebanon, and beyond have created massive and widespread anger. People see the connection between the super-rich Ambani and Adani, who have invested billions in the UAE and who are profiting from war. Meanwhile, the masses form unending lines for gas cylinders or petrol for their transport.

Our May Day concluded by bringing these messages directly to the neighbourhoods where ICWP has a strong presence. "I want this *Red Flag*," workers said. "Modi talks nonstop to divide Hindus from Muslims while unemployment lines grow longer, gas is unaffordable, and we are starving. We don't need Modi or Trump or Aya-tollah. We want a communist revolution now." Comrades heard this sentiment in each of their impoverished neighbourhoods while distributing over 1400 *Red Flags*.

The comrades in Bengaluru, mostly garment workers, also created a very lively presence on May Day. Their numbers were reduced due to massive layoffs resulting from the LPG shortage caused by the war in Iran. They happily welcomed a large contingent of IT workers who carried signs against genocide in Gaza.

Many IT workers also face a serious crisis as AI reduces the number of computer professionals. Many engineers come from very poor working-class families, and they are open to our ideas. It reminded us that ICWP in Bengaluru was formed

by a passionate IT engineer. By uniting garment and IT workers, we can expand our work in many directions. Seven hundred workers took *Red Flags*, showing that the masses are receptive to communist ideas. We need to strengthen our relationships with them.

In Chennai, forty ICWP members and friends joined a very large May Day gathering. It took place as the election circus decided which capitalist boss would rule. Tamil Nadu, with its capital Chennai, is India's fastest-growing state. It is a major port and the centre of the auto industry. The rapid industrial growth comes with the capitalist bosses' attempts to divide the workers. Workers from Bangladesh and East India have been targeted.

Our call for communism revived the spirit of the 1,500 sanitation workers' strike that ended in January. During that 165-day strike, ICWP comrades organized and recruited sanitation workers who marched with us today. The masses, armed with 1,200 *Red*



BENGALURU (Karnataka State, India), May 1— Hundreds of tech workers march on May Day "to reaffirm their right to a life beyond endless work." Many wear red shirts bearing portraits of Marx and Lenin. They see that only communism, not capitalism, can realize that goal. We now know, from over a century of class struggle, that reform fights don't bring us closer to communist revolution. Our signs and banners must declare openly that we are fighting to abolish wage slavery.

Flags, are the most potent force in the class struggle.

Workers worldwide are under attack as the US-China rivalry intensifies. From auto to energy, aerospace to IT, chemicals to pharmaceuticals, health care to hospital-ity, workers are under attack.

The capitalist/imperialists put weapons in the hands of the most oppressed sections of society. With communist ideology, soldiers and industrial workers can end capitalism's terror for profit. We struggle every day for a new society based on the collectivity and unity of the masses.

We plan to bring together new and growing ICWP forces in India in July for a weekend of communist organizing.

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How Enlisted Personnel Can End Imperialist War Atrocities

During the Vietnam War, a popular saying in the US anti-war movement was, "What if they gave a war and nobody came?" As if people refusing the draft or leaving the military could prevent imperialist war.

It was idealism. It went against the iron (materialist) laws of capitalist development, which make imperialist war inevitable.

What actually made the difference was soldiers and sailors organizing rebellions inside the US armed forces.

As long as they have state power, the rulers will field their armies. Some people will "opt out." But that will not end imperialist war. Communist organizing will.

To end imperialist war we have to end capitalism with communist revolution. Soldiers, sailors, marines, and industrial workers are at the center of the contradiction between the working classes' needs and the imperialists' needs.

They have been in the past, and will be, open to fighting and producing for our class instead of for the imperialists.

Soldiers, workers, and youth can use their unity, solidarity, and weapons against the bosses, instead of against our class brothers and sisters.

Angry Russian sailors mutinied in 1905 on the Battleship Potemkin against rotten meat and the Russo-Japanese war. They won the support of workers in the port city of Odessa. Their mutiny showed the potential of organizing inside the rulers' militaries. It spurred Russian communists to increase their revolutionary organizing among sailors and soldiers.

During World War I, Russian communists organized in the government's military. After three grueling years of war, groups of these Russian soldiers and sailors were key in massively leaving the front and going to the cities to join with industrial workers to overthrow the capitalist government. They used their weapons for revolution.

The imperialists sent soldiers from fourteen armies to attack the new workers' state. The Russian communists called on these soldiers to refuse to attack them and instead support the revolution. Many soldiers in every army refused to attack their Russian brothers. The Russian Red Army defeated the imperialists' attacks.

During the US war on Vietnam, there were rebellions against the US Army's racism and their war by US soldiers and sailors on every military base and ship, including in Vietnam. The US rulers faced a military in rebellion and fierce Vietnamese resistance. Some communist soldiers recruited fellow soldiers to fight for communism. The US withdrew from Vietnam.

Today, the US rulers are facing the threat of the end of their petrodollar privilege. An end to their hopes of regaining their lost hegemony. They will continue this war.

Being inside the military and factories to counter the rulers' racism and fascism and mobilize angry, frustrated, and overworked

soldiers, sailors, and workers looking for solutions is key to mobilizing to turn their imperialist war into communist revolution.

—A Comrade



May Day, Los Angeles (USA)

Read our pamphlet:
**Soldiers, Sailors, Marines:
Crucial to a Communist
Workers' Revolution**

available at
icwpredflag.org/mpe.pdf

