

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM



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

MASSES DEMAND NO BAN, NO WALL SEE PAGE 8



Los Angeles (USA) International Airport, January 29

Mass strike in Bangladesh

GARMENT WORKERS NEED COMMUNISM TO CRUSH BRUTAL WAGE SLAVERY

BANGLADESH, Jan. 30—A wave of violent strikes has swept the garment district of Dhaka, Bangladesh. Tens of thousands of workers walked out in the district of Ashulia, which makes clothes for western brands such as Zara, H&M, Gap and Walmart.

The strike was sparked when the bosses sacked 121 workers for demanding higher wages. Soon the entire garment industry was shut down. The bosses unleashed police terror and at the same time sacked another 3500 workers. Many activists have gone underground.

The wages of garment workers in Bangladesh are the lowest in the world. The wages are only 20% of what is considered the country's living wage. With such low wages, workers are crowded in horrific slums where as many as 30 workers share the same room in a makeshift arrangement. A minor illness kills a worker, as healthcare is non-exis-

tent.

From Bangladesh to Los Angeles and the faraway garment factories in El Salvador, the workers need communism where there is no wage slavery.

As long as capitalism exists, the bosses steal our surplus labor. In their effort to convert it into profit, they attack both the workers and other competing capitalists. This contradiction leads to the crisis of overproduction where too many goods are produced and the workers are discarded in the millions. The deepening of this crisis results in the looming imperialist war for profit.

The International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) is organizing workers all around the world to join us in our common goal to overthrow capitalism with communism. In communism, there will be no wages so nobody will steal our labor. Communism will also free up hundreds of millions of workers

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Boeing Workers Discuss Demonstrations:

TIMES CRY OUT FOR MORE COMMUNIST LEADERS ON-THE-JOB AND OFF

SEATTLE, USA—This week in the Boeing plants the topic of discussion was last week's demonstrations. Some had gone. Many more wanted to discuss what they signified. We set out to make the need for communism the theme, developing potential communist leaders the goal.

The word "fascism" came up more than before. One machinist admitted she didn't know what fascism is, but she wanted to.

The global economic crisis of capitalism sparked rebellions around the world. She, like many industrial workers, had lost confidence in the usual neo-liberal politicians the bosses have been offering. In a crisis like this, fascism emerges because the bosses can't rule in the old way.

Even more importantly, the potential to build an international party to mobilize for communism increases. There is no doubt now that

that potential includes the U.S.

We talked at some length about the characteristics of fascism. Fascism blames other workers for the sins of the capitalists. Any capitalist system would do that, but fascism intensifies the attacks. Last week's marches zeroed in on increased racism, sexism and xenophobia.

These three evils rest on a foundation of wage slavery and super-exploitation. The capitalists, with the aid of their government, must always super-exploit black, Latin, immigrant and women workers. Capitalists everywhere in the world find or create a section of the working class to super-exploit. They must divide the working class along these same lines.

Liberal promises about the nation being "stronger together" cannot erase this need of capitalism. It is futile to wish for "kinder" bygone era of capitalism, because each of those bygone eras contained the seeds of

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Women's Marches in the US and Worldwide:

MASS OPPOSITION TO TRUMP'S FASCISM OPENS DOOR FOR COMMUNIST MOBILIZATION

January 30—Over four million people marched on January 21 against US President Donald Trump. They marched with home-made signs in cities, small and large, in every US state and 81 other countries. Led by women, the marches also included many men.

When the masses are in motion like this, doors open for communist organizing. In Los Angeles, comrades distributed 2500 copies of *Red Flag*—all they had brought. Tens of thousands saw communist signs, banners and red flags at our street-corner rally.

In Seattle, thousands took *Red Flag*, anti-sexism leaflets and anti-racist pamphlets (see page 4). Dozens gave their names to be contacted. In Oakland and San Diego, comrades distributed hundreds of papers—all they had.

We were limited only by the forces we had in action. We need to work harder to mobilize more friends to help do this work.

This is a new situation. It urgently calls for more *Red Flag* readers to distribute this paper and to join the International Communist Workers' Party. We are happy to answer any questions you have. Ask any comrade or contact us (see box below).

Fight Fascism with Communist Revolution

"The march was spectacular," commented a friend. "It helped me see that we are going to keep resisting and fighting until we make a change!"

A Los Angeles MTA bus operator took his regular two copies of *Red Flag*. "We are in trouble brother," he told a comrade.

"Over 750,000 people marched in Los Angeles last Saturday," the comrade replied.

"Well, it will take much more than marching," declared the operator.

"It will take a communist revolution," answered our comrade.

"You are right," said the operator, "but those thousands are not thinking like that."

"Marching is a beginning. Acting on their aspirations will put them in confrontation with the government. They will see that marches, vigils,

electoral campaigns don't work. They will eventually opt for our communist revolution alternative."

"Let's hope so," he said.

This bus operator and many like him can help get those thousands thinking like communist revolutionaries. Our comrades must be in those marches, vigils, and even electoral campaigns. We must help those activists grasp the possibility and necessity of communism.

ICWP clubs should organize communist rallies. Comrades should take the initiative in bringing our literature and signs to other events. Don't wait for someone to call you!

Make no mistake: this movement will continue. Protests are already scheduled for the coming weeks and months: Immigrant rights. Health care for all. No Dakota or Keystone pipelines. Even scientists! Trump's "Muslim ban" has provoked a firestorm of protest (see p. 8).

Democratic Party organizations are working hard to channel this energy into legalism and electoral politics. They promote patriotic "solidarity" in preparation for war. For example, US Rep. Judy Chu's rally in a mosque featured a man who joined the US army in his native Afghanistan. Pro-immigrant crowds at the Los Angeles airport chanted "USA, USA."

Liberal multicultural patriotism is, if anything, even more dangerous than Trump's racist flag-waving. Masses are beginning to see that Trump's aggressive fascism goes hand-in-hand with his plans for war (probably with China). Most don't yet see that capitalist imperialism makes war inevitable (see p. 5). Patriotic all-class unity is a set-up for even more slaughter.

But here too there is an opportunity. Communists understand the need to organize inside the capitalists' armies. As the Bolsheviks did a century ago in Russia, we must win rank-and-file soldiers to turn the guns around—this time, for communism.

Similarly, we need to organize inside the bosses' political "armies." Our goal is not to win leadership positions in their groups. It's not to



"move them to the left." It's not to use them as camouflage, hoping the rulers won't find us. It's not to build a "united front" with our class enemies.

Communists need to be in capitalist-led mass organizations to turn them into political battlegrounds and recruit more communists.

Masses in Motion Show Possibility of Communist Society

"Everyone at the Women's March was so nice and helpful!" Many saw that. But we saw more. We saw the potential for communism, even though these marches were not rooted in the multi-racial industrial working class.

"Imagine what all those people could do if we could organize society instead of just protesting!" a comrade told some students.

Their eyes opened wide. "We could feed everyone, house everyone, clothe everyone...."

In communist society, we will sometimes have to share hardship. In Los Angeles, many marchers encountered long waits in jam-packed streets or train cars. People talked, sang, made the best of it. They were there in a common cause.

Imagine the depth of solidarity and commitment when the mass common cause is a communist world without borders dedicated to meeting everyone's needs! We communists do not fear the hard times of fascism and war on the horizon. Even today we can see the bright communist future ahead. But we need you—every one of you—to make it a reality.



Long live communism!
Down with Fascism!



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GARMENT WORKERS: FIGHT TO BREAK THE CHAINS OF WAGE SLAVERY

EL SALVADOR

“You all want to make more money and work less!” yelled a factory supervisor. A worker answered her, “You have always made your money without doing anything!” These kinds of discussions have been happening in the factories due to the increase in the minimum wage from \$0.87 to \$1.23 an hour worked.

The fmln and the unions bill this increase as a great advance, but the reality is that they are only negotiating the value of the workers’ labor power. This increase continues to maintain wage slavery. It is not intended to end the buying and selling of workers’ labor power. The working class needs to abolish such a valuation of our labor power so that it is only used to meet human needs and not ever again to be bought and sold.

In response to these situations about the minimum wage, wage slavery and the need to fight for a world without money, we decided to go to the area where the textile factories (maquillas) are located in the capital. There we distributed 300 communist leaflets and 100 copies of *Red Flag*.

“Ah, it’s *Red Flag*,” exclaimed two workers as they received our leaflet and newspaper.

“The bosses know that the party exists and that we are the only ones who denounce their system and propose communism,” said a woman worker leader.

We want to show that there is no “fair wage.” Even if the wage was doubled, we would continue to be chained to this system. We don’t want a longer chain, but to get rid of all the chains. Each worker needs to understand this concept and join the Party to build a communist society.

Our message is clear: Only a communist society will eliminate money and exploitation. Living in a communist society means to organize industrial production and work in the

communities based on the needs of their members. For this goal the ICWP clubs here and internationally are carrying out political activities and organizing more workers to build a strong communist workers’ movement.

Our presence was also a show of support for the workers and denunciation against the bosses’ outrages such as firings, abolishing overtime, and psychological attacks that all the workers from this industrial complex suffer everyday.

The bosses’ threats that they will leave the country because of the increase in the minimum wage are part of their strategy to divide and intimidate the working class. However, it is here in El Salvador where the minimum wage, even with the increase, continues to be the lowest in Central America.

We left the factory area satisfied because we distributed the material and we witnessed first hand the interest by other workers who, despite not being ICWP members, recognize us and have confidence in our message. They know that outside and inside the factory there is a workers’ movement fighting to organize the working class, in the daily struggle against the bosses and their servants for a communist world.

This year begins with more workers, *Red Flag* distributors, and more students reading our newspaper *Red Flag* on the sidewalks, on the buses, on the way to the market, and planning the Communist May Day.



UNITED STATES

LOS ANGELES—On January 16th, the garment factory American Apparel closed its doors, leaving more than 2400 workers out of work. American Apparel is one more factory that has fallen in a capitalist world full of overproduction. Bankruptcy came after years of all-out competition against other brands and bosses.

American Apparel, like all bosses, amassed huge profits for years. Now that this factory is not profitable, they grab their suitcases with their \$ millions and they leave. Thus they leave thousands on the streets, without caring about their lives or those of their families.

Many of these men and women workers are very angry and looking for ways to sue the American Apparel company for back wages, bonuses, and injuries suffered during their years of working in the factory. The illusion that the bosses’ courts will favor the workers leads many to put this fight into the hands of the lawyers and the courts. And even if they won these suits, we men and women workers will continue being wage slaves. On the other hand, the struggle for communism gives them the opportunity to take the future into their own hands.

Most of these workers, mainly immigrants from Latin America and some from Asia, like

thousands more who work in the garment industry, are potential leaders of the working class. Steeled by difficult conditions of life, they had to travel thousands of miles, without money or documents, from their places of origin to the big cities of the US. After crossing deserts under intense heat and the cold in the mountains, they have arrived to work for miserable wages in garment factories. This process is not a sign of a weak class. On the contrary, it is a sign of a sector of workers that is full of strength.

Many of these workers came with experiences in fighting fascist capitalism. They organized in the factories, schools and in the fields. These men and women workers are not weak and helpless, as the bosses want to make them appear. Within them lies the potential to lead the masses to fight for a world without borders, without money, without exploitation.

The doors of ICWP are open to all men and women workers to fight for a communist society and to take the future in their hands. Now, many of these workers will go to other factories and shops, and they can take with them their anger about this experience, not just against American Apparel, but against the whole capitalist system. This is the same system that forces us to leave our homes to live a life of constant struggle with no way out under capitalism.

Hundreds of them, like thousands more in the whole garment industry in Los Angeles, have read *Red Flag* and its struggle for a communist world for years. They must take as their own the goal of a world where all workers, free of the chains of wage slavery, can share according to our needs what we ourselves produce.

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who are organized to support capitalism. The society will be organized to meet the needs of the working class and not capitalist bosses. The most hazardous tasks will be converted into joyful activity by the creativity of the workers.

To achieve our urgent tasks we are slowly but with firm determination translating ICWP’s main document *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*. The working class is angry and the workers truly feel that communism is the only solution.

The bosses have every reason to be scared. Every blow from the ruthless cops is producing thousands of resilient workers ready to be leaders for communist revolution. The garment industry in Bangladesh is dominated by women. They have shown that they can be fearless in the face of police terror. We will and we can win them to ICWP.



Strike in Dhaka, December 2016



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ANTI-TRUMP DEMONSTRATORS WELCOME COMMUNIST MESSAGE: SHOW NEED FOR MORE COMMUNISTS

SEATTLE, USA —Comrades went to four marches and a high school walkout the week of Trump's inauguration. These protests involved somewhere between 110,000 to 185,000. With crowds like these, each new comrade can have a huge effect. They can advance the party's ability to offer communism to larger and larger numbers.

Every action took aim at some aspect of fascism. Tens of thousands understood that intensified racism, sexism, xenophobia were part and parcel of developing fascism. Many blame capitalism.

What was surprising (it shouldn't have been) to members and friends was how many "perked up" (as one *Red Flag* distributor put it) when offered communist solutions. There was plenty of anti-capitalist rhetoric and talk of militant resistance to fascism. The International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) was the only organization that offered communism: the only way to end capitalism and its fascism once and for all.

"Read a communist paper?" were often the first words out of the mouths of *Red Flag* distributors. Sometimes these words were followed by something about fighting fascism by mobilizing for communism around the world. ...or fighting for a world without money.

Some marchers would politely decline, then marchers behind them would reach over and say something like, "Yes! Give it to me. That's what I want to read about!"



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fascism.

Only communism can destroy these fascist tools and the class of bosses who use them against us. First, we must eliminate the capitalist foundation. Communist work will be collective, based on the needs of our class. Workers will not need wages because the fruits of our labor will not have to be purchased. They will be distributed freely based on our needs. We will no longer compete with other workers for jobs.

When deadly wage slavery is replaced by useful collective work, we can mount the campaigns necessary to eliminate the remaining vestiges of racism, sexism and xenophobia. We'll fight to change how and where we live, work, and play... and how we think about the world. Collectivity will rule, not competition. Communism will end the possibility of fascism re-emerging.

Some think (or hope) the fascism of Trump will be replaced in four years (or less) by democratic socialism, locally and nationally. But socialism of any kind maintains the wage system and profits. It too contains the seeds of a fascist revival.

Discussions like these continued for days with workers awakened by activity in the streets. But we weren't starting from scratch. We have been

Then four or five would grab the paper. More than four or five if one person took a bunch to distribute to their group or random people around them. Sometimes these spontaneous distributors would shove a five-dollar bill in our hands.

Red Flag's front page featured articles about the communist fight against fascist developments from around the world. It had headlines from Mexico, India, France, South Africa as well the U.S. Other articles from El Salvador and a history article from Italy could be found within.

Each paper was stuffed with a leaflet that spoke especially to the material basis of sexism and also with the party's anti-racism pamphlet. It too had examples from around the world.

The international character of our fight for communism did not go unnoticed. Seattle is a port city with residents who were born nearly everywhere around the world. Many were keenly aware of the danger of fascism in other countries. Along with their friends who were born in the U.S., they thanked us profusely for putting the communist answer out there.

Only one anti-communist came to our table trying to whip up the crowd against us. She screamed out the headline of our leaflet: "Only Communism Will End Sexism."

"Are you joking?" she shouted. "Russia and China are communist. They don't even

discussing the ins and outs of communism with several closer workers.

One of our Boeing friends brought eight members of the girls' high school basketball team he coaches to the march Saturday. They told him they have already organized fifty people from this multi-racial working-class school around Black Lives Matter and human rights.

He immediately gathered a bundle of the literature we distributed at the various marches and donated money for it. He included three items: *Red Flag*, our leaflet entitled "Only Communism Will End Sexism" and our pamphlet that declared "To End Racism, Mobilize for Communism." The next day he gave them to the student leaders to pass out among the group. He was proud of these students, but knew that nothing less than communism will do.

All the time spent discussing how communism will work has borne fruit. He was once a minor union official, but lost confidence in trade unionism. He was recruited to work for Hillary Clinton, but lost faith in electoral politics.

But he has not lost hope. Our party gave him something else to place his hope in: communism. He has taken this hope as his own: distributing our party literature on and off the job.

Comrades plan to spend more time off the job



have elections." A stranger in the crowd shouted back, "Those countries aren't communist!" The anti-communist left.

Communism will organize production collectively for our collective needs. The very nature of work will change including raising children and "domestic" work. Relationships between men and women will not be undermined by the threat of economic destitution or laws.

In the end, we distributed 1,000 *Red Flags*, 1,500 communist anti-sexism leaflets, and a thousand pamphlets entitled "To End Racism, Mobilize the Masses for Communism." New young friends asked to be contacted as well as older folks we hadn't seen in decades.

The demonstrations are continuing. As we go to press, mass demonstrations have blocked the airport and shut down downtown Seattle. Neighborhood groups have sprung up. We are participating, as well as intensifying our base-building at work (see page 1 and below).

Our job now is to focus on developing potential communist leaders. Big demonstrations demand stronger personal ties with our friends, and new potential communist leadership. Each new comrade in priceless, now more than ever.

with friends like these from Boeing and other places. These massive demonstrations demand we concentrate on developing potential communist leaders.

More than anything, we need more like the coach who have confidence that their base can mobilize even more for communism. Then we'll be on our way to the only solution: communist revolution.



98118 refers to a neighborhood in Seattle that is the most diverse zip code in the US.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION AND THE CONTRADICTIONS OF U.S. CAPITALISM

As the Trump regime comes into office, it is trying to impose a whole series of new policies. It is facing serious opposition. Ideas from communist dialectics are vital in understanding this (and other) complex changes. Especially important is the idea of a *dialectical contradiction*, a struggle of opposite sides in a process that causes change. Contradictions in the world drive change and can force it in a direction that political actors don't want or even understand.

US imperialism is caught up in a network of contradictions with its imperial rivals. Russian and Chinese capitalists are its most powerful opponents. They are challenging the struggling US empire on many fronts. The US also has serious conflicts with Iran and others in the Middle East. It has lesser conflicts with India, and the European Union (EU). Bush's and Obama's policies have only accelerated US imperial failure and decline, and strengthened the other imperialists.

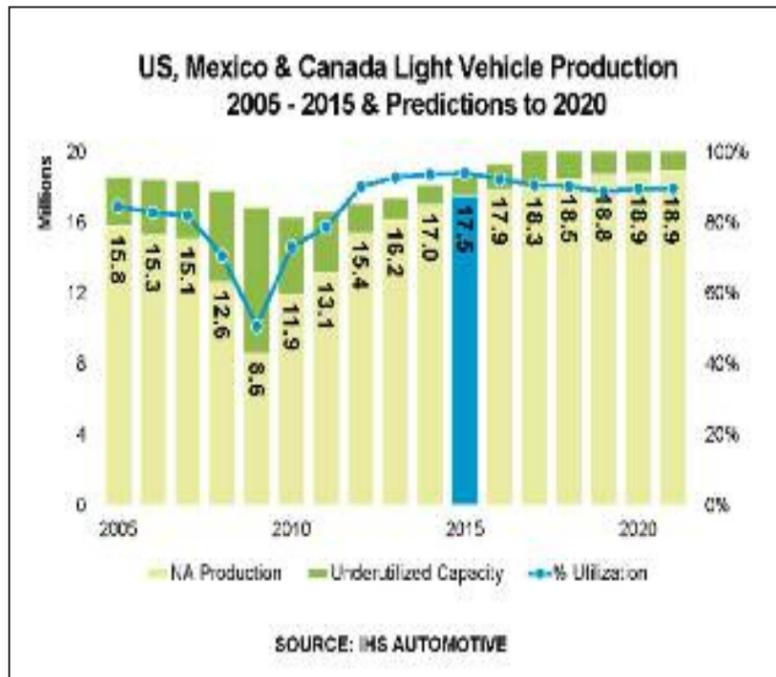
The underlying causes of these rivalries are the economic conflicts that capitalist powers have with each other. They compete for access to raw materials, especially oil, along with metal ores, water and access to low-wage labor. The largest bone of contention, however, is markets for manufactured goods. Competition among capitalists creates surplus production capacity that they can't find big enough markets to use. So they are often stuck with underused factories and unsold products in local or global crises of overproduction.

Right now there is an overproduction crisis in farm products in Europe. The EU is trying to find ways to cap the production of milk and other commodities. The steel industry in China has expanded enormously in the last 15 years. Overproduction there has led to a big drop in steel prices. This has caused problems for other steel producers in Britain and Japan. The EU is now putting new import taxes on Chinese steel.

There is also a worldwide overproduction of

oil, lowering oil prices and creating crises in oil-exporting countries like Venezuela and Nigeria. Boeing and Airbus have created an overproduction of big commercial jets.

But the most widespread overproduction is in motor vehicles. China is now the world leader in motor vehicles, producing more than twice as many as the US. The world production capacity was 116 million vehicles in 2014, but only 87 million were produced. The automakers don't expect steady expansion of the world market. Their unused capacity is likely to increase, as the graph shows. Trump's threat of a new border tax is aimed at reducing auto production and profits by Japanese and German companies in Mexico, not helping US workers.



Capitalists' worldwide struggles for markets are intense, as are the conflicts over oil, sea-lanes, etc. Within these conflicts there is also some unity, however, including profitable trade relations. General Motors, for example, sells more cars in China than in any other country, including the US. China is the largest source of goods imported into the US.

Despite these common interests, contradictions

among the imperial powers are growing sharper. Preparations for future wars are being made by all the big players. The rival powers also try to strengthen their hands for a future war through diplomacy. Trump appears to be using the strategy long argued for by former Secretary of State and war criminal Henry Kissinger. That strategy is to try to reduce the intensity of the US-Russia contradiction so that the US will not have to face a united China-Russia front in a war.

This is a reversal of the Bush-Obama policy of setting up a "wall" of NATO-affiliated countries on Russia's European border, eventually to include Ukraine. Trump sees NATO as less important and may be willing to compromise with Russia on Ukraine, Crimea and Syria.

The outgoing Obama administration, along with some leaders in the US Congress and US intelligence agencies, has already been fighting against this policy shift. They see Russia as a more serious enemy than China. Some policy makers who were for the NATO wall against Russia are now backing down, however. Zbigniew Brzezinski, former advisor to President Carter and a big influence in promoting an aggressive policy against Russia, is now saying that Ukraine should stay out of NATO.

It is too soon to say whether Trump can overturn the past policy. It isn't too soon to conclude that diplomacy can never eliminate imperialist rivalry. None of the established powers want to give up their profits to the new rising powers, that is, China and Russia, and to a lesser extent, India. The result of imperial rivalries is always war.

Sometimes it is not directly between the rivals, but between lesser players that they arm and support, as Russia is doing in Syria and the US does in many countries. Eventually this will lead to World War between the major imperialists. Under capitalism, there is no way out of these contradictions. Communist revolution or imperialist war—That is the choice. Join us in the fight for communism.

COMMUNIST WORKERS' POWER WILL DUMP ALL CAPITALIST BOSSES

Some are calling it a "coup."

US President Trump has reorganized the National Security Council "Principals' Group." This top-level US inter-agency group discusses imperialism's key policy issues.

The Principals' Group includes the Secretaries of State, Treasury, Energy, Homeland Security and Defense and the Attorney General. Now it also includes Trump's "alt-right"-hand man Bannon but not – incredibly – the head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Trump also wanted to cut out the CIA chief but changed his mind.

Trump is consolidating power in the hands of trusted political allies. Some, like National Security Adviser Michael Flynn and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, have close ties with Russian officials. Some "insiders" fear they are putting their secret private economic interests ahead of US imperialism's strategic interests.

Others worry about Trump's expansion of executive powers at the expense of the federal bureaucracy. Trump is building on the legacy of George W. Bush and Obama. Both broadened the scope of executive power, including extra-judicial killings.

Trump and Bannon may or may not be planning a "coup" to replace one ruling faction of US capitalists with another. **What's important is that a coup is not a revolution.**

Bannon calls himself a "Leninist" because he wants to "smash the state." But like the Nazis ("national socialists") he actually wants to concentrate power even more firmly in the hands of a capitalist faction.

The communist Lenin fought to replace the bosses' state with a workers' state. His Bolshevik party called for "all power to the soviets" of workers', peasants' and soldiers' deputies. They aimed to build a socialist society that would evolve peacefully into communism. It didn't. Now we have a better plan.

Today we prepare for revolution to win communist workers' power. That means a massive International Communist Workers' Party uniting all who want to build a world without money: From each according to ability and commitment, to each according to need. Eventually that will be everyone.

Our strategy of mobilizing the masses for communism is the exact opposite of a fascist coup.

Bannon is a former Goldman-Sachs investment banker. Like the Nazis, he denounces "international bankers" (code words for Jews). His "alt-right" allies with Christian fundamentalists like Vice-President Pence. They see Trump as a "blunt instrument" to establish a US

theocracy. They plan a third world war of Christianity against "Islamic fascism." This is what Bannon means when he talks about a "crisis of the underpinnings of capitalism."

The real crisis of capitalism has two aspects. First, market competition for maximum profits has created more capital than can be profitably invested. The only "solution" is the massive destruction of workers' lives and the products created from their sweated labor. That means world war – and a massive opportunity to win soldiers to turn the guns around for communist revolution.

The second, more profound aspect of the crisis lies in its inability to meet the masses' most basic needs. It has created an international working class that will build a new communist society over the graves of Trump and all capitalists everywhere.



COMMUNISTS FIGHT TO DEFEAT BOSSES' NATIONALIST AND PATRIOTIC DISTRACTIONS

MEXICO—Three comrades and a close friend of ICWP read the *Red Flag* editorial “*Danger of Fascism and World War Shows the Urgency of Fighting for Communism.*” We are happy because we are moving forward. In addition to having a delicious dinner, we were organizing the communist revolution.

This helped a lot to clarify that the Chinese, Russian and US bosses, mainly, are preparing for World War III. But, at the same time, the working class in every corner of the world is questioning their way of life, and is going out to protest in the streets. This is an excellent opportunity to bring them communist ideas.

We said that the bosses can no longer contain the anger of the workers; therefore the only thing left for them is fascism. The bosses have two big problems: to contain this anger and at the same time to win the workers to defend their empires.

We concluded that the building of the wall between Mexico and the US is a need for the US bosses to generate a nationalist and patriotic ideology among US workers. But this is also happening among Latin American workers who are being pushed into the arms of their rulers and nationalist bosses with the illusion that these will save them.

A comrade commented, “A few days ago, thousands of workers in Mexico took to the streets to protest against the government of Peña Nieto for the Gasolinazo. Now, many people on the social networks are thanking the same Mexican government for defending them

against the construction of the wall.”

He said it was a strategy to distract the discontent against the government of Peña Nieto and gain popularity by unifying the masses in favor of nationalism.

“In reality,” commented another comrade, “the bosses want to divide the workers in the US from those in Mexico to maximize their profits and prepare for their third world war. And the billionaire nationalist bosses like Carlos Slim are taking advantage of this situation to declare “the best wall that we must build is that of giving more jobs and taking advantage of the unity of the people with their government; that has never been seen until now.”

Another comrade said, “Of course, Slim wants to imprison the Mexican workers with his wall of wage slavery instead of the wage slavery of the US bosses.”

We commented that we workers have no option under capitalism. Every boss wants to suck the last drop of our blood, no matter whether they are domestic or foreign. We analyzed that nationalism is a deadly trap that blinds the workers and prevents them from seeing who their true executioners are.

We also read the article in *Red Flag* about the confidence that we must have in the working



class, so we don't opt for false paths or become distracted by the bosses' smoke screens. We discussed that only we workers from the whole world have the need and the potential to put an end to the hell of capitalism.

“But we have to be more determined in spreading our ideas,” commented a comrade.

We discussed how to work in our workplaces, with friends and relatives. At the end of the meeting, our friend took *Red Flag* and he left more excited. The bosses have their plans. We have ours. They cannot live without us. We don't need them.

Now is the time! We are learning from the experiences of our brothers and sisters from the past, and this time we will win once and for all. Let's build the communist revolution. Death to capitalism!

LETTERS

Time to Show People the Communist Solution

As always, we held our meeting this Sunday. We discussed our own activities as a collective. We discussed how we are going to move forward since now the schools are open and we are planning that when the new issue of *Red Flag* comes out, to take it to the universities—two of them—so that we can mobilize more people.

We want to have as many people as we can who understand our political line to prepare for May Day. We are going to intensify our visits to the industrial areas and to the colleges. Today we discussed ways to do that.

Another piece of good news is that we welcomed a new member who is female, which is great news for us. Women workers can give vital leadership to build communism. We gave her the dialectics material and the pamphlet *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*. What's cool is that she's keen on learning more

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about our organization, and, since she is my neighbor, we can see her regularly.

We will update you as time goes on about our activities and our plans. We are really determined and focused now more than ever to achieve our promised number. I know its not going to be easy. But this is a great opportunity for us.

Many people are really seeing and realizing now that there is something wrong. But they're just not sure what direction to take, what are the solutions. I think that this is a great time to grab that gap and to show them the solution, which is communism, and to really fight for it.

—Comrades in South Africa

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

Democracy Stifles Change

Today I voted for delegates to the California (USA) Democratic Party state convention. This was part of Bernie Sanders' attempt to reform the Democratic Party. I was reminded how democracy stifles change.

Decades ago I went to the state convention, appointed by the congressman I worked for. The system is still the same. Most of the delegates are elected by any Democrat who learns about the vote and shows up to vote. Most are members of local Democratic clubs.

Nonetheless, the convention is controlled by elected officials and party hacks. Every elected official appoints delegates. So do the county central committees. The state convention has no real power anyway. The most consequen-

tial decision made is the platform, but candidates who win the primaries don't even have to support the platform.

I got two ballots today. On one ballot I could vote for 14 delegates to the state convention. On the other I could vote for one member of the state party executive committee. The executive committee has some real authority. For one thing, they select some delegates to the national committee. That's the committee that insured Hillary Clinton beat Bernie in the primary.

But almost all the executive committee members are chosen by the county central committees. These county central committees are chosen on the regular ballot in November. Only party insiders know who to vote for. All these layers of representation insure that insiders control the levers of power, insiders connected to people of wealth.

The whole business burns up grass-roots energy that might actually change things if organized to strike against the economic system. I voted for the Sanders supporters in the hope that, by becoming more involved in the system, more of them would realize how hopeless it is to try to change the system from within.

—Red Flag Reader

Red Flag comments: We agree completely that it is hopeless to try to “change the system from within.” Your experiences help to explain that. Others will surely have similar experiences. But disillusionment often leads to cynicism. We need to motivate activists with a vision of the communist system we need and a revolutionary plan to get there. We hope that you and others will help get communist literature to delegates at the California Democratic Party State Convention and elsewhere.



THE FIGHT AGAINST SEXISM IS A NECESSARY PART OF THE FIGHT FOR A COMMUNIST WORLD

How Do We Fight Sexism on the Job?

Donald Trump's attacks on women led thousands of women across the U.S. out to the streets this past week. This made me realize the importance of something that had happened the previous week: I was involved in the fight against sexism at work, and I'm not too sure I handled it the right way.

I work in a warehouse here in Los Angeles where we have very little contact with women besides the ones who work inside the office. A lot of the time the guys I work with go about the day joking around, talking about how macho they are and how sexy one of the women who happens to pass by is—sometimes in very sexual ways, which I don't care to repeat.

That day, while talking about Trump's plan for war, I asked my co-worker Maurice what we would do if we get drafted, which led him to say: "I wouldn't care because if I went to the army at least I get to rape b**s."

This immediately set me off. I punched Maurice in the chest. Hard. I asked him why he would say something like that.

Immediately my other co-workers tried to de-escalate the situation by saying he was just playing, but I wouldn't have it

"Is that all you think of women?" I said.



"Dude, women are not just good for that and rape is nothing to f*ing play about! Women are our comrades and you wouldn't want someone saying something like that about your mom or your sister."

Usually when these discussions have occurred in the past, I would stay quiet, just because I lacked the confidence at the time to have these conversations. But as fascism and Donald Trump's constant attacks have created more unrest and fear amongst the masses I have felt more inclined to bite the bullet and have these conversations with my friends, family, and co-workers.

I don't regret telling Maurice how I felt about his disgusting words, but I'm not too sure I should have punched him. I'm still getting used to taking on this responsibility as a man and as a member of ICWP.

I can tell the guys at work at the very least respect me enough not to have these conversations around me. Still, on the daily basis, if I hear something, I tell them that just because women are not around doesn't make it all right and that we should have some restraint.

My question to my comrades is how could I have handled the situation better and how do I continue this struggle with the guys at work?

—Young comrade

Who Says Politics is Just For Men?

"Politics is for men, not for us women," somebody said to me while we were talking about the current political situation.

I answered, "NO, girl, that's not true! We all have the physical and mental capacity to undertake an endless number of activities."



For centuries, women have been seen as less. But the truth is that throughout history many women have been part of revolutionary struggles, some taking up arms and others doing intellectual work, or doing both at the same time.

I mentioned Petra Herrera, a fighter in the Mexican Revolution, who fought under the identity of Pedro Herrera, taking up arms. She became very well known among her comrades for the leadership that she gave and because she took part in significant battles during the revolution. She actively participated in the second battle of Torreón in 1914 with about 400 other women.

Capitalism wants to control us at will and bombard us day by day with lies that say that we aren't capable of thinking. But you, like your class brothers and sisters, can do it. The International Communist Workers' Party calls on you to read and distribute *Red Flag* to your friends and relatives, to come to study groups, and to write for *Red Flag*. You will fulfill your potential and you will see that only communism can break the chains of sexism.

—Young Comrade in El Salvador

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services from other funding. But Congress seeks to shut down Planned Parenthood altogether.

Both of these development reflects the dominance of the Republican Party pandering to religious fanatics who call themselves pro-life but are anything but.

In the US and other countries, women's health clinics struggle to provide services to poor and working-class women that ruling-class and even middle-class women take for granted. These include treating sexually transmitted diseases, breast and cervical cancer screening, and birth control. The attack on abortion is the leading edge of an attack on the health of working-class and other poor women around the world.

Communism and Abortion

What will we do about abortion, and birth control in general, in a communist society? We know that women's health, will be just as important as men's health. Health will be more important, period. We'll do away with money, wages, rent, and bills to pay. Men and women will choose freely whether or not to commit to loving partnerships. No one will face the responsibility of feeding, clothing, educating and loving a child on their own. This will let women make decisions about having children more freely.

We will live and work collectively—from each according to commitment; to each accord-

ing to need. Everyone is—and always has been—both an individual and part of a collective. Communism will let us put that understanding into practice in a dialectical way. We envision political struggle, collective living and planning as the way we make decisions and get things done. If someone doesn't want to work, we won't starve them or lock them up—we'll struggle with them

That's our basic view of communist social relationships. We reject coercive social relations. We rely on political struggle for everything, from who washes the dishes and takes out the trash, to who changes the baby's diaper.

That's how we'll deal with the question of birthing and raising babies as well. Children will be the joy and the responsibility of the collective. But everyone is both an individual and a member of a collective. Having another kid is a decision that will involve collective political struggle in the same way as every other decision: should Suzanna learn how to work the lathe? Should Javier learn how to work the milking machine?

But collective struggle has limits. At the end of the day, if Javier really doesn't want to go anywhere near a herd of cows, we'll find other useful work for him to do. And no woman will be forced to have a baby or to have an abortion. The collective will respect those decisions.

Laws making abortion illegal can never stop it. When the economic realities of survival in class society push women to choose abortion, laws can only criminalize it and drive it underground. Like the laws criminalizing the migration of workers across the bosses' borders, these laws can make abortion dangerous and expensive. But if people are desperate enough, they will break the law.

When abortions are illegal, rich women pay doctors who will perform abortions illegally at high prices. Poor women seek out non-traditional and often non-sterile abortionists or take matters into their own hands, often with fatal consequences.

The law legalizing abortion in the Soviet Union allowed women to get safe, sterile, abortions. It was one of several women-led reforms after the Russian revolution that included communal child-care.

Women still got a lot of abortions in the Soviet Union, especially during the 1920s' New Economic Policy.

Childrearing was supported by a network of social services. Nevertheless, the wage system and the maintenance of the family economy inevitably made childrearing an individual responsibility. That, combined with a housing shortage and an insecure economy, convinced many women that abortion was their only option.

**Masses Demand:
"No Ban! No Wall!"**

COMMUNISM WILL END RACISM, SEXISM, BORDERS AND NATIONS

Racism against Muslims

Jan. 30—"No Ban, No Wall! Yes to a Communist World without Borders!" declared ICWP signs at a mass demonstration at the Los Angeles airport.

In an outpouring of anti-racist anger and multi-racial solidarity, hundreds of thousands demonstrated on short notice at airports in some thirty US cities against Trump's racist ban against refugees and Muslims from seven countries. People from all over the world denounced racism and fascism.

In Seattle, comrades attended an immigration march which shut down downtown. One comrade ran into a neighbor whom she'd met at a local Neighborhood Action Council a few hours before. They had a long discussion about how communism would erase borders by eliminating nations. There will be no "immigrants," just one global working class. Everyone will do useful work. They plan to get together again soon.

In LA, thousands marched through the airport. Many took pictures of our communist signs. We distributed 300 *Red Flags*, all we had. There were discussions about communism as a world without borders, nations, racism or wage slavery. No one will be forced to emigrate to flee hunger or war. Everyone will be welcome everywhere. We will freely travel to different parts of the world to learn from each other.

We talked about the need for revolution. Making or enforcing "better" immigration laws, like allowing green-card holders to re-enter the US, are limited and temporary stop-gaps.

The bosses use their borders to lower wages, terrorize workers and build nationalism-patriotism for war. The only way to end racism against immigrants and black, latin, and indigenous workers is to abolish capitalism. When communist revolution liberates any area of the world, communist workers, students and soldiers will continue to mobilize to spread it worldwide. Immigrant workers will play a leading role in this fight.

Just hours after the ban was imposed, a mosque was burned to the ground in Victoria, Texas. Nearly 19,000 people have contributed \$900,000 to rebuild it, repudiating this racist attack.

Two days later, a racist terrorist killed six worshippers at a mosque in Quebec, Canada and wounded eight others. Trump's racist ranting is directly responsible. So is the anti-Muslim racism pushed by the bosses in Canada, India, France and elsewhere.

Trump's ban on refugees and Muslim immigrants, and his plans to build a wall to stop immigrants from Mexico and all Latin America, are attacks on all workers. They are meant to divide the working class and build patriotic nationalism to defend the US in coming wars.

Millions are disgusted with this racism and xenophobia. They are being courted by liberal politicians who want to build a "diverse" multi-racial US patriotism to defend racist US capitalism-imperialism and to divert us from communism as the only solution.

The only way the masses can achieve their aspirations to end racism is with communist revolution.

Splits among US Rulers

On Jan 30th, Sally Yates, acting deputy Attorney General, refused to defend Trump's executive order. Trump fired her and appointed someone who would.

Sen. Charles Schumer and many other Democratic and Republican politicians are denouncing Trump's ban on Muslims. Their reasons and interests are not the same as those of the angry masses.

These politicians oppose Trump's ban because it angers and alienates millions in the US. The US rulers need their loyalty to fight in and produce for their coming wars. The ban further isolates the US rulers internationally and helps their rivals. It limits their influence, especially in ma-



majority-Muslim countries.

Madeleine Albright worries that it hurts the "national security interests" of the US by fueling terrorist propaganda and attacks. This same Albright said, as Secretary of State, that Clinton's sanctions against Iraq which killed 500,000 Iraqi children, were "worth the price."

Republican hawk Senator John McCain calls the ban a "self inflicted wound," incompetent and short-sighted. It is so broad that it includes interpreters and others who aided the US occupation of Iraq and face the masses' anger there. US imperialist strategy relies on stooges in countries they invade to help them, promising US citizenship in return.

Rely on the working class, not capitalist politicians

Millions support workers' solidarity, anti-racism and internationalism. These are communist ethics. We are one working class, brothers and sisters, world wide. We have the same interest and need: to destroy racist capitalism and build a communist world where everyone's contribution will be encouraged and welcomed to meet the needs of all. Join us!

Trump's "Gag Rule" Will Kill Thousands of Women Worldwide

COMMUNIST SOCIAL RELATIONS, CHILDBIRTH AND WOMEN'S HEALTH



January 23— Trump led off his executive orders with an attack on women around the world. He brought back the Reagan-era "global gag rule" on abortion. This will directly cause the deaths of thousands of women from unsafe backstreet abortions.

Capitalism has never valued the lives of the babies—or the adults—of our class. It places the responsibility of childrearing on individual women, their partners and immediate family. It replaces the "village" that we need to raise a child with what Marx called the "cash nexus."

Masses of women around the world are unable to provide for the basic needs of their children. They are forced to make hard choices when they get pregnant. Women without access to affordable and safe contraception and legal abortion often take the desperate alternative of an unsafe, illegal abortion. Thousands more women will die each year due to these attacks on family-planning services.

US foreign policy since World War II has combined massive spending on the military with a tiny fraction for social services. This is supposed to calm the masses while it makes US imperialism look like the good guys. An even smaller fraction of this goes to health clinics in countries impoverished by imperialism.

It's already illegal to use US funds to provide abortions. The "global gag rule" goes way beyond that. It means that clinics that get US funding can't spend any other funds to provide abortions, or even to refer women to abortion providers. It will force health clinics around the world to choose between US funding or providing a full range of health services to women.

The same thing is happening in the US. Planned Parenthood is the largest US provider of health care services for women. Taxpayer dollars in the US are already prohibited from paying for abortions. Planned Parenthood provides those

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