

# RED FLAG

NEWSPAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY



## Organize to Smash a System that Cuts Education for War and Bank Bail outs!

On March 4<sup>th</sup>, students, teachers and workers in California will stage statewide actions against the cuts in public education. These massive cuts and fee increases in the public universities are among the growing attacks against the working class caused by the capitalist crisis. As this crisis deepens and the capitalist's profits dwindle, they will deepen their attacks against us here and workers abroad to maintain and increase their profits. Imperialist wars are an inevitable result of this quest for higher profits and world domination. Cuts in our jobs, schools, and health care, besides benefiting the US rulers' bottom line, are to pay for wider imperialist wars to defend their crumbling empire.

The leaders of this movement are only fighting to roll back the cuts and "Defend Public Education." The outlook that capitalism can be fixed to meet our needs is a dead end street. These "leaders" conveniently ignore the nature of the capitalist beast we are fighting. For starters, public education is capitalist education, designed to poison our class with racism, sexism, nationalism patriotism, individualism and especially anti-communism. These ideologies chain us to the rulers. We need to destroy these ideologies and replace them with the working class ideologies of anti-racism-sexism, internationalism, collectivity and cooperation.

Further more, history shows that in past similar crises, the bosses' only recourse is fascism and world war. We need to alert our class to these looming dangers, while emphasizing the great opportunities they provide for turning the bosses' crises and wars into a revolutionary armed struggle to destroy the system that engenders wars for profit. Russian workers did it during WWI and the Chinese workers shortly after WWII. Unfortunately, they fought for socialism which failed because it was state capitalism run by workers. Learning from history, we fight directly for communism, a society without profits, bosses or money.

With racist unemployment topping 30 million - 34% of black men between 18 and 35 years of age are jobless - more people are unemployed than ever before. The LAUSD superintendent is demanding a 12% pay cut for teachers or layoffs of 8,000 school

employees; the University of California system has increased tuition by 32%, and community and state colleges have cut classes and programs. Around the globe workers are also under tremendous attacks. We must turn the fights against the bosses' attacks into a struggle against capitalism; a struggle for a communist society where human beings will flourish and reach their full potential.

This will never happen under capitalism. Capitalist racist disregard for life is unparalleled in history. Tens of millions die yearly of starvation and curable diseases. Millions more are slaughtered in wars or "natural disasters" like in Haiti. Yet, trillion\$ go to bail out billionaire bankers and slaughter Arabs workers. At the same time, the bosses speak of patriotism, of "national interest," "security," and "freedom"—all lies to convince us that our interests are the same as theirs. This is fascism: winning us to passively accept their repression and fight in their wars. This is how the world's rulers prepare for global confrontation, World War III (see article on Pg).

That is why the world's bosses are forced to attack us on a scale not seen before. We should have no illusions in their politicians or their so called "democracy." We live under a capitalist class dictatorship: their police force, courts, their laws and their entire state apparatus is set up against us. The only way to break free from this dictatorship is to organize, build and commit to fight for a communist revolution. Soldiers and industrial workers are key to this. The youth should be encouraged to go into the military and factories to help organize them.

The vision and the reality of a communist future is what we must fight for now—a communist future in which the world's workers share and share alike all that the earth has to offer its humanity, with no bosses, profits or racism. The International Communist Workers Party is dedicated to this struggle. Join us! For education that serves the working class, we need a communist system that meets the needs of our class. Fight the capitalists' attacks! Fight for communism! Join us!

### INDUSTRIAL STUDENTS: FUTURE REVOLUTIONARY LEADERS

I teach industrial education at a high school. Despite the appearance that this education is meant to get kids out of the ghetto and become successful engineers, the majority of what is taught is in the interest of imperialist war. The bosses and their state have been instrumental in funding and setting up engineering programs at the high school level. They have a dual strategy: educating engineers and production workers. According to the Society of Manufacturing Engineers Education Foundation, capitalism needs many more production workers than engineers. Yet most students, teachers, and parents believe the hype that engineering education is for economic success and a reform, rather than for the further militarization of the US and an intentional step towards all-out imperialist world war. The main point of high-school engineering education is to prepare a workforce to read blueprints, run CNC machines, and make weapons.

Despite the whining denials of the liberals and fake leftists, war —eventually world war — is the only possible bosses' resolution to the current world capitalist crisis. The US and every other capitalist country are deeply embedded in the crisis of overproduction. At no point in the history of the world have there been so many industrialized countries producing for the world market. They are producing more goods than could be sold on the market. At no time in the world's history has there been such a huge industrialized workforce. You name the country, and they have industry. The US no longer dominates production. Countries like China do. The only way out for the capitalist system is to be reset, and it must be through war. It is no wonder that the bosses have set up engineering programs at the high school level, something unprecedented in the US educational system. This future workforce will not be building toys for homeless kids or walkers for seniors, but bombs and weapons, to further enhance the power of US imperialism.

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# CONFRONT WORLDWIDE CAPITALIST CRISIS, THREAT OF WWII: ORGANIZE FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

8 million jobs have been lost in the US alone since the start of the crisis. Iceland is broke while, in Europe, Greece is tottering on the brink of bankruptcy, with Portugal, Italy, Ireland and Spain not far behind. This crisis is world-wide, yet it is uneven. In China, however, the auto market grew and last year overtook the US for the first time.

More people now realize it is a more serious crisis. Understanding its scope and severity is vital. There is no doubt millions of workers will begin to question capitalism. It is the job of the ICWP to channel those questions into a realization of the need to build a communist revolution.

That is no small task. A crisis is not a collapse of capitalism. In fact it is a stage in the development of a more barbaric capitalism. But it is also a stage that leaves capitalism particularly vulnerable because it produces sharper class struggle and sharper inter-imperialist wars. This in turn spurs the development of both world war and communist revolution.

During the Great Depression of the 1930s, the US' ratio of total domestic debt to the GDP (gross domestic product) was a gigantic 300%. Today it is over 350%. Despite what the media or politicians predict, this crisis will not be short. At its heart lie a falling rate of profit and a crisis of overproduction. These developments have been recurring with some regularity since the 1970s. Only the defeat of the Cultural Revolution in China and its opening to massive western investments allowed world capitalism to escape a serious crisis in the 1980s. This time there does not appear to be any escape.

## CRISIS and WAR

To resolve its crisis and function 'normally,' capitalism has to restore an acceptable rate of profit and that cannot happen until sufficient capital (in the form of rival factories) has been destroyed. Sometimes financial and economic warfare like bankruptcies or mergers are sufficient. At other times the 'remedy' is more drastic. The Great Depression of

the 1930s led to World War II which destroyed the productive capacity of European and Japanese capital and much of the Soviet Union before 'normalcy' was restored to the world market. This produced a "normalcy" that saw US imperialism become the dominant force in the world.

But 'normalcy' is a strange word to describe capitalism. Crisis, mass unemployment, the carnage of world wars and the racist invasion, rape and pillage of less industrialized countries are just as normal to capitalism as are the pockets of peaceful exploitation or 'equilibrium.' These periods of so called equilibrium are marked by the dominance of one group of capitalists over another. Before World War I it was Britain; by the end of World War II it was the USA. A very important development in the present crisis is the rapid decline of US domination, but transferring the center of world capitalism from one country to another will require war.

## DEBT

After WWII the US was the biggest creditor nation (loaner of dollars) in the world. It has become the biggest debtor nation (borrower of dollars) in the world. Now, fighting three wars in the Middle East and its bank and Wall Street bailouts, US imperialism is deeper in debt and strategically weaker. This intensifies the competition for world domination. Larry Summers, Director of Obama's National Economic Council before occupying this post, asked, "How long can the world's biggest borrower remain the world's biggest power?"

An article in the Financial Times noted: "... considerable concern was also voiced about the outlook for countries such as the US and UK... At the heart of investors concerns is whether countries such as the US with its rising debt burdens have the political will, or sense of consensus, to take decisive measures to cut debt."

Cut debt? Cutting debt does not mean slashing the astronomical military budget. Cutting debt means cutting Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security.

The co-chair of Obama's bipartisan committee on deficits, Alan Simpson, asked, "How did we get to a point in America where you get to a certain age in life, regardless of net worth or income, and you're entitled? The word itself is killing us." (Washington Post (2/16). Imagine, the meager entitlements of our social programs are "killing us." The ruling class is getting desperate, while we are increasingly under attack.

## THE RED FLAG

Lenin outlined three conditions needed for such a period. The working class must be unable to live in the old way. The ruling class must be unable to rule in the old way. Finally, there must be a revolutionary party capable of organizing and leading a revolution. This is the task the ICWP has set itself.

It is a gigantic task. Learning from the old communist movement, we have determined to fight directly for communism, not socialism. Socialism, which Mao called "capitalism without the capitalists" failed. It failed first in the Soviet Union and then in the Peoples' Republic of China precisely because it kept the central features of capitalism—wage labor and money. The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution in China in the 1960s was a heroic attempt to move from socialism to communism. Wages were only 30% of a worker's subsistence, the other 70% was distributed freely out of the collective labor of the commune.

It is the bitter legacy that Russia and China, where revolutionary masses launched the strongest attack on capitalism, are now imperialists facing off the US for world domination. Our job is to meet this crisis by building the revolutionary alternative. Our newspaper, *Red Flag*, is our organizing tool. By reading it, supporting it, distributing it and organizing study action groups around its communist analysis we will develop the revolutionary consciousness to replace the barbarity of capitalism with a share-and share alike communist world.

## Industrial Students From Pg 1.

Today at my high school, teachers pulled students into an auditorium to come listen to a local aerospace engineer. He rambled on about how much he gets paid and his cool convertible sports car. He said he was there was to recruit students into engineering. He talked about how cool it was to blow stuff up, and send rockets into outer space. Above all he stated that the US was in crisis and that it must compete to set up a base on the moon before countries like China or India do so. That's why the government sent an \$89 million probe to the moon to find water, so that the US could build a base where people could live.

The 15 year old students responded with questions like, "Does sending rockets destroy our atmosphere?" and "Why does the govern-

ment spend so much money on sending rockets to the moon, when the people on the streets need it more?" "Why don't they invest the money here?"

As the imperialists set up high-school engineering programs and bomb the moon with probes, these questions will fuel the fire of working-class struggle. These industrial students are the future revolutionary communist leaders, workers and soldiers of tomorrow. They must be called upon now to think critically about the capitalist system. Some are distributing RED FLAG to their friends. They must distribute RED FLAG to every trusted worker and trade student so that RED FLAG becomes the means of communication that draws out revolutionary lessons from everyday struggles. This is the way to achieve modest advances in this current period of opportunity and potential growth.

The youth working in these industries now will become the beacon for revolutionary change in the future. The youth who will take over soon in this industry must be won to revolutionary politics now. We must focus our attention on them, for the revolutionary troops will come from the factories. Each industrial student should know the mighty revolutionary lessons the Bolsheviks taught us, that no power on earth can stop an organized industrial working class, led by its revolutionary communist workers party. Join us in the struggle to liberate the working class from capitalism. Learn a trade or go into the army. Organize workers and soldiers, the crucial elements of a communist revolution. Distribute the RED FLAG and join the INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS PARTY.



Join the  
International Communist Workers' Party  
(ICWP)  
[www.icwpredflag.org](http://www.icwpredflag.org)



## “No, no, my sons are not going to die defending the billionaires. We need a revolution”, said an MTA Worker.

“There is going to be war, but I’ll tell you something, my sons are not going to be taken to go die for the rich. I’d rather go to jail or be killed. No, no, my sons are not going to die defending the billionaires. We need a revolution.”

These words were spoken by a black worker, with whom we have been working politically for a long time, after reading an article in the LA Times about the US arms sales to Taiwan and China’s reaction to it.

This worker’s response is not accidental, and even though it is a bit spontaneous, it is nevertheless the product of systematic, consistent and persistent communist work. This worker knows that our class doesn’t need to kill and die in the bosses’ racist genocidal wars for plunder, which are completely against our class interests.

We can also see that he has no illusions that things could be resolved peacefully. He understands that violence is needed. But the best part of everything he said is that he understands that war is a great opportunity to make a revolution. And I tell him, “A revolution, yes. But a communist revolution.”

It is urgent that we as Party members spread our communist ideas. There is no reason to postpone this struggle. In the past, the revolutionaries thought that they had to go through stages – that they didn’t have to speak directly about communism and they paid dearly for that mistake.

That’s why we say that if we want to win thousands and millions to communism, our main task is to spread, spread, and spread our communist ideas by all means possible: individual and collective discussions, study-action groups, barbecues, visits, union struggles. Key in this struggle are the leaflets and especially our newspaper that reflects our political line.

We should not fear the political struggle, we must sharpen it. We should not fear anticommunism, we must expose it, destroy it, and replace it with a deeper understanding of communism.

The bosses’ dog fight will be cruel, fierce, and savage. Only a disciplined Party, firm in its beliefs, courageous and unyielding in struggle will be able under this storm to rally and prepare workers, students and soldiers to face with optimism the fight for communist revolution.

Because, we are not just talking about making a communist revolution. We have to secure it, nourish it and protect it. This will require the loyalty of men and women of our class who have been educated and steeled in class struggles against the bosses and on the battle field.

We need to develop the understanding by millions of workers that a communist revolution and a communist world are the best things humanity can aspire to, and that being a communist is the greatest honor a worker should strive for. Join our International Communist Workers Party! Read and distribute our newspaper Red Flag!



## March 8: International Women’s Day Burmese Women Strikers Defy Riot Cops

**Myanmar- Feb. 8** – Thousands of women workers in Yangon, Myanmar (Burma) defied riot police and went on strike against the Korean-owned Opal-2 garment factory this week, along with workers at the Mya Fashion and Kyarlay factories. Workers in Tai Yee Footwear factory, mainly young women, staged a short sit-down strike. While hundreds of riot cops tried to intimidate the strikers, some factory owners, fearing further strikes, called a one-day holiday. But class struggle in the huge Hlaing Tharyar industrial zone, which has been heating up since December, is likely to continue to escalate.

The strikers demanded a pay raise, a work day shortened from 13 to 11 hours, a 5-day instead of 7-day work week, and better conditions such as better access to bathrooms. About 130 garment factories in Myanmar exploit some 45,000 workers who produce close to US\$300 million worth of clothes, mainly for export. That works out to about \$6700 per year per worker, while most workers receive less than \$200/year. The struggle of these brave young women workers who are confronting the military dictatorship with their very modest demands, if not linked to the fight for communism and building the International Communist Workers’ Party, will put them as pawns of the local bosses and the imperialists fighting over control of Burma. For that, the **International Communist Workers’ Party** needs to grow in Burma and worldwide! Only by building a Party that fights for communist revolution will we end brutal sexist wage slavery.

### International Women’s Day: Revolution Not Reform

For nearly a century, March 8 has been celebrated as International Women’s Day. On this day in 1917, women workers in Petrograd marched against the Tsar, helping to launch a struggle that culminated

seven months later in communist-led revolution and workers’ power. However, in Europe and especially in North America, socialist organizers focused their Women’s Day actions around the demand for women’s right to vote.

“But what use are these rights to working women in the framework of bourgeois parliaments?” asked the Bolshevik leader Alexandra Kollontai in 1920. “While the power is in the hands of the capitalists and property owners, no political rights will save the working woman from the traditional position of slavery in the home and society.”

The old communist movement made the grave error of thinking that fighting for reforms (like the right to vote) was a way to bring workers by “stages” to the revolutionary struggle. Now we know that reform



doesn’t lead to revolution. Instead, reform and revolution are contradictory. We in the **INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS PARTY** celebrate International Women’s Day with the understanding that only the abolition of capitalism and the wage system can end sexist exploitation and the oppression of working-class women worldwide.

### US “Human Rights” Sanctions: Cover for Imperialist War

The Western capitalist press often reports sympathetically on the struggles of Burmese workers against brutal exploitation and repression, even as it ignores similar issues elsewhere in the region such as Thailand. Why? Because the US military relies on Thailand’s U-Tapao Navy Airfield as its major refueling station for Iraq and Afghanistan, while the Burmese government is a critical ally of US imperialist rival China. The US Imperialists are relying on the dissident movement in Burma to fight for a pro-US government. The Chinese rulers once supported the Communist Party of Burma in its fight against the military regime, but since 1986 they have invested heavily in that same regime’s construction of dams, bridges, roads and ports. Chinese firms have been involved in the construction of oil and gas pipelines from Burma’s Arakan coast to China’s Yunnan Province, and in exploiting Burmese oilfields and refineries. They hope to use these pipelines to import Middle East oil, bypassing the Strait of Malacca. Workers everywhere must shed the illusion that *any* imperialist power will defend their “human rights” as the US government cynically claims to do with its sanctions on Burma. The true purpose of these sanctions is to build ideological support for US imperialism as it prepares for World War III.

## UCI Students Disrupt Israeli Ambassador, Protest War Crimes

Feb. 8, Irvine CA -- "Propagating murder is not an expression of free speech!" As Israeli Ambassador Michael Oren attempted to speak to a crowd of 500 at the University of California – Irvine, eleven students repeatedly interrupted him with sharp attacks on the murderous Israeli assault on Gaza a year ago. They were supported by dozens more, mostly organized by the UCI Muslim Student Union. "We strongly condemn the university," declared the MSU, "for cosponsoring, and therefore, inadvertently supporting the ambassador of a state that is condemned by more UN Human Rights Council resolutions than all other countries in the world combined."

The "UCI 11" were charged with misdemeanors and now face possible university punishment as well. Their militancy, solidarity and discipline are inspiring, especially on this conservative campus with a strong pro-Israel presence. Non-Muslim students, including members of MECHA and the UCI Worker-Student Alliance, are organizing to support the UCI 11. "We plan to link this issue to the U.S. wars and occupations in Iraq and Afghanistan, and also to the firing of UCI campus workers," one said. "If disciplinary action is taken, we'll all be out there protesting."

### Students Must Fight Nationalism, Patriotism

In recent years, MSU members have been involved in the fight against the attacks on campus workers and students. However, the MSU leadership of today's demonstration promotes a combination of pro-Palestinian nationalism and conservative religion that opposes the developing internationalist class-consciousness of its participants and supporters.

Civil rights groups are calling for charges against the UCI 11 to be dropped on the basis of

"free speech," trying to steer the students into pro-U.S. patriotism. One Muslim leader said that "peaceful exercise of free speech [is] a great American tradition" and "thank[ed] the students for reminding me why I am a proud American." This garbage is an insult to the protesters, who know full well that the U.S. imperialist government is solidly behind the Israeli government and relies on it to defend U.S. bosses' interests in the Middle East.

### Goldstone Report: Inter-Imperialist Conflict Sharpens

The focus of the UCI protest was the Goldstone Report to the United Nations Human Rights Commission, which charged mainly Israel but also Hamas with war crimes. Last October, the UNHRC endorsed the report and criticized Israel, and in November the UN General Assembly passed a non-binding resolution calling for independent investigations on these allegations of war crimes. However, the US House of Representatives voted in a landslide to reject the report as hopelessly biased against Israel. The Goldstone Report has thus become a flashpoint for sharpening inter-imperialist rivalry. In the UNHRC, 25 countries endorsed the report, including China and Russia. Only five countries joined the US to side with Israel against the report. In the UN General Assembly, 114 nations voted in favor of the resolution with only 18 supporting the US/Israel position.

Clearly the U.S. is still relatively isolated today, as it was under the Bush administration, in spite of the diplomatic initiatives of the Obama team. The threat of expanded war – not just in Gaza but possibly soon with Iran – continues to increase. Pro-US patriotism and



UCI Students Fight Budget Cuts, Fall 2009

pro-Palestine nationalism can only sucker students and workers into supporting one set of bosses over another in their bloody profit wars. We need to get rid of all these bosses with a communist revolution. The ideological struggle must sharpen at UCI and elsewhere. We invite readers to take up the RED FLAG as a weapon in this struggle for class-conscious internationalism and communism.

## You can call it a "What is to be Done?" Potluck

You can call it a "What is to be Done?" potluck. A group of teachers from local districts got together one Saturday evening to talk about the attacks on education, the failure of the Unions to respond and what we should do as a result.

All agreed the Union strategy of dealing with each district as an isolated unit hopelessly weakened any chance of resisting the attacks. By contrast, even our tiny demonstration of cross district unity energized everyone. Self critically, though, the communists in the room could have done a better job in pointing out that the role of the Union movement in a capitalist crisis is exactly to fragment and weaken the working class, not champion it. Protectionism, nationalism, racism and all sorts of reformism become the banners under which they operate.

Despite this weakness, however, an important debate was started. It revolved around the question of money. "There is no money," one side argued, "and so little can be done. The Government is broke. It bailed out the banks, Wall St. and is fighting wars in Iraq and Afghanistan - all this on borrowed money. There is no money as long as there are imperialist wars." "If there is money to bail out banks, Wall St. and fight foreign wars," the other side countered, "then there is money to bail out the education of working class kids." Both sides have a point but to really understand what has to be done, we need to be

able to tell the difference between money and capital.

We all use money. It pays our rent or mortgage, our food and so on and so on. We earn it, we spend it. Money, as we know it, is useful and, generally, very mobile. As soon as we get it, it goes! Capital, on the other hand, is not so mobile. It's used for domination, exhortation and control. It controls the labor market (all of us workers and 'professionals'), raw materials (like oil) and trade (as in the US dollar being the world's reserve currency).

The US wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan and, now, Yemen are not just about controlling the world's most important raw material (oil) but about defending the US dollar as the world's reserve currency. Losing, or walking away from these wars would all but cripple the power of the US ruling class. It would lead to an explosion of class struggle (both right and left wing) in the US and invite rival imperialists to loot the remains of the US empire throughout the world.

Likewise, if they failed to bail out the banks. In fact, bank credits are central to the way industrial capital works. Without functional banks capitalism would all but collapse – again leading to an explosion of class struggle. In short, neither abandoning imperialist wars, nor refusing to bail out banks are options for the US ruling class.

So, the idea that even a series of strikes could pressure the US ruling class to bail out education rather than the banks or to fund inner cities schools rather than imperialist war, is wishful thinking. It's an idealism that expresses itself as an appeal to democracy. The reality is that we have democracy until we need it! Deep crises, like the present one, strip away all illusions about the democratic nature of government. Instead we see government for what it is: the dictatorship of capital.

Does this mean we should lie down and accept defeat? Not at all. It means we must build strikes around revolutionary demands. To oppose bank bailouts is to oppose capitalism itself. To oppose imperialist wars (and its intensified racism) is to oppose capitalism itself. The fight for communist ideas has never been more relevant than it is today. To those who say we are not ready for this debate we say it is coming whether we are ready or not. The crisis will force it onto our agenda. It means we should organize more "What is to be Done?" potlucks, we should agitate and organize for political strikes on March 4<sup>th</sup>, we should recruit readers, supporters and distributors of RED FLAG. We build the new International Communist Workers Party.



# Communist Education Will Unite Workers and Students, Practice and Theory

## *What will communism will be like - how will we live and work?*

The current crisis is forcing people to question capitalism and consider alternatives they used to dismiss. However, many worry that the cure might be as bad as the disease. They fear that communism will end up just being capitalism under new management, with a red flag on the White House. This is understandable given the way capitalism was restored in Russia and (in all but name) in China. Revolutionaries believed that there had to be a long socialist period before society was ready for communism. Socialism, however, ended up being capitalism under new management.

We've rejected socialism and are fighting to move directly to communism. That makes it more urgent to explain what we mean by communism. What exactly do we reject about socialism/capitalism, and what alternative do we offer?

### No "Golden Age" of Capitalist Education

Education is a case in point. The crisis has hit the schools hard, especially in the US. Millions of students face deteriorating conditions. Tuition and other costs are rising, keeping many from getting the credentials needed for the few remaining jobs. Teachers and staff face pay cuts, layoffs, school closures.

Of course we support and organize struggles against these attacks and link these developments to the decline of the US empire. But if that's all we do, we become conservatives -trying to restore conditions when the schools did not "fail" students (as we now say they do). We don't pretend that any mere fight for reforms will accomplish this. But let's not mislead

people into concluding that under communism schools will be like they were in the allegedly "good old days." We don't want people to believe that communist schools would be like capitalist schools with all our reform demands met. In other words, nice clean new buildings, small classes, no racist harassment, plenty of books, good food, comfortable chairs, and so on. With a red flag over the principal's office.

Do we really believe that under communism students will spend a good part of their youth cooped up in classrooms, sitting silent and motionless while teachers ramble on about trigonometry, renaissance poets, spelling or state capitals? Should education look like a giant game of trivial pursuit? The Bolsheviks didn't think so.

### Soviet Education: From Practical Learning to the Academic Model

In the early 20's, Soviet students learned by solving practical problems and doing real work. Teachers acted like coaches and mentors (not like preachers and prison guards). For example, students would practice reading and writing in the context of planning an outing or holding a meeting. Subjects included cooking, cleaning, and performing simple repairs. (See Scott Nearing's inspiring book "Education in Soviet Russia".)

Unfortunately this system was replaced in 1931 with the so-called "academic" model. Academic learning chopped knowledge up into the familiar separate, lifeless, abstract subjects, and divided the students into same-age groups. Students were subject to drills, tests, grading, and endless lectures. This is the same

system the Carnegies and Rockefellers imported into the US from Prussia in the early 1900's.

The academic model was imposed in the Soviet Union exactly when ranks and decorations were restored in the Red Army, and pay scales and piecework in industry. In short, the academic model was a vital component of socialism, which turned out to be capitalism with a 'proletarian' mask.

In the early years of the Chinese revolution, Chinese communists adopted the Soviet socialist approach, including the academic model in education. During the Cultural Revolution (against revisionism) of the 1960s, the Left proposed the "revolutionary" model for education implemented in the Soviet Union in the 20's. The revisionists defended the academic model tooth and nail, and it was never widely replaced.

We have to explain how the current crisis is inflicting great hardships on students and teachers. But we should make it clear that there were never any 'good old days' for capitalism's so-called educational system. And we must explain how communism will smash the separation of youth from workers, and give everyone an education worthy of the name.

### Future articles in this series will explore:

- How the "academic model" serves capitalism and why socialists and revisionists fought for it
- Strengths and limitations of the Soviet model of education – how communism will do better



## DREAM ACT:

# Part of Bosses' Plans for War and Fascism

The US imperialists always hide their murderous plans behind "humanitarian" smokescreens. Such is the case with their proposed Dream Act. This law is to "help" over one million undocumented immigrant youth achieve their "Dreams" of going to college. These are youth who came here before age 15, have completed their high school here, but can't go to college. Because of their immigration status, they have to pay prohibitively high tuition fees.

The Dream Act's aim is to "rescue" these youth, giving those who graduate from high school a conditional residency for 6 years. At the end of this period, they can become eligible for legal residency if they finish two full years of college or serve at least two years in the military. Those who don't meet these requirements will be deported.

If law passes, more than 360,000 undocumented youth between the ages of 18 and 24 would be immediately eligible for conditional residency. There are another 750,000 between 5 and 17 years old who would become eligible. In reality, they will be eligible for the US Military because the university option is an illusion. Given the current economic crisis, cut backs in education, higher tuition fees, high unemployment and the already precarious economic situation of these youth even before the onset of the crisis, the majority of them will end up in the armed forces.

It should therefore be no surprise that two of the main backers of this law are the Pentagon and President Obama. With Obama's Pentagon fighting wars

in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan and gearing up for another one with Iran, the US bosses are short of soldiers to fight for their blood soaked Middle Eastern oil-empire. They eventually will need to institute the draft. Meanwhile, they hope the "Dreamies," as these undocumented youth call themselves, will provide the bulk of the 200,000 soldiers they presently need.

To achieve their dream of the DREAM ACT, the US imperialists have the help of the Spanish media, many immigrant rights leaders, union leaders, and Democratic and Republican politicians. These are all enemies of our class. They are trying to win us to believe in the electoral process and to patriotism so that we may kill and die for the greater glory of US imperialism.

We can't let ourselves be fooled. On the other hand, like it or not, bigger wars are on the horizon. This unending butchery of the working class can only be stopped by destroying this murderous capitalist system with a communist revolution. We should welcome going into the military as an opportunity to organize our brothers and sisters there to turn the guns against the rulers that sacrifice us for their profits. Workers, soldiers and students under the leadership of the International Communist Workers Party can and will put an end to all the bosses' "dreams" and build a communist world.



## LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS

“Only a multi-racial working class, armed with class-conscious communist solidarity, can smash borders and exploitation in the Middle East and everywhere. “

### Forging Soldier Student Unity

As we continue to try and make connections with workers and soldiers, students came to meet and greet a comrade that was involved in the military. We spoke with him about how important it is for the party to grow and get more people in the military more involved in this movement. A movement, not for short-term changes, but for a long term change for a revolution for communism. He spoke about how recruiters sweet talk young people who are in need to get help to get into college and try to convince them to defend the country. Then when they are finally sent to the bases and battle grounds they see a side that was not described or even mentioned by the recruiters. Many of the young people that come to the base think that what they are going to specialize in the military (their MOS) is what they are going to be used for. After a while of training and getting pumped up to go out to war they are changed from stations and used for other things that they might not have even thought of ever doing.

He shared many stories of how he was able to organize in the military. He mentioned how most are working class brothers and sisters. He described how he was able to organize and speak to many about his communist politics. As he kept describing many stories that he remembered from his time in the military, he kept saying that after they found out that they were being used just as dummies for the war, and actually found out what they were fighting for, some felt traumatized while others found out about the party aiming to fight for revolution and against the system that uses the working class as guinea pigs.

Just like in every battle, there are people who will need to get to the root of the situation by understanding the main road blocks that control and try to stop the working class from taking over our oppressors. He said that youth need to get into the military to be able to communicate, express communist ideas and organize their fellow soldiers. That will ultimately change the system into one where the oppressed will not be shut out and kept down because of the bosses and their interests, a communist system.

HS Student

### Communist Leadership: Key to Ending Fear, Cynicism

It was just a little over a year ago when I discovered what being a communist meant. Yes, I said it – Communism – a community in its truest form and a belief in a society that will not exploit, pollute, and destroy our resources for ruthless gain of profits. There is something incredibly powerful about that word – something the ‘bosses’ are scared of and do not want us to know.

Complacent, uneducated, undeserving are just some of the words I have overheard to describe my fellow brothers and sisters who are fighting everyday to hold onto their dreams of finishing being educated during this modern day “Great Depression”. People say that these very students are undeserving, but beneath the complacency is anxiousness and fear of the unknown. I have made it my business to care about what happens to them and all the while fighting the ‘beast’ of complacency. I witness the suffering capitalism creates, the monsters it breeds, and the hardships families endure. I see through the ruse for re-

form. I am tired of waiting for corrupt politicians to tell us when and if we can have the ‘crumbs’.

I started to believe I had found the answer when I became a part of PLP. After a while, I felt the message in their paper had gone a little soft. I am re-energized by the formation of ICWP, it is exactly what we needed to build a strong base. Finding leadership is the key to ending the fear, anxiousness, and cynicism. Thank you for hearing our battle cry for not just leadership, but mentorship that is not afraid of the struggle.

--Red Student

### “I’m Tired of Being Asleep”

Though Seattle was cold, especially at 3:00 a.m., which was the time our days started at the Seattle Summer Project, the selling of PLP Challenge newspapers to Boeing workers and soldiers kept us warm. This was the first time I was introduced to the party line and party members.

As the days progressed, my interest sparked. When one question was answered, I had more questions. I was very intrigued by the idea of having a society with no money. Every day, instead of sleeping, I talked about my experiences with a close friend who was also part of this project. I was able to make the connections and related to the struggle on many levels. Honestly, this experience woke me up from a deep trance.

I was still trying to wrap my mind around this ideology, when I jumped into the Los Angeles Summer Project. I participated for a week and then had to take a mental break. I was overwhelmed by my experiences. I felt that everything I knew was a lie and I didn’t know what to do or how to proceed. Weeks passed and I felt different. My view of society had changed slightly and I was disappointed with the system. I continued to attend study groups because I felt committed and enjoyed the discussions.

When I received news that PLP divided in two, I felt it was time to make a decision. I heard that many members were shocked and unsure of which party line to follow. Some members stayed in PLP, others joined the new party ICWP, and the disillusioned chose to leave the struggle completely. It has been a week since the last study group I attended, and eight months since the Seattle and Los Angeles Summer Projects. Based on my experiences, I came to realize that I am part of the struggle, I am against Capitalism, and I am tired of being asleep!

I strive for truth and this party has definitely provided me with it. I still have many questions and I plan on learning as I go. I joined the new party, the International Communist Workers Party, on February 12, 2010. I’m looking forward to struggling with comrades and workers through these difficult times. Red fists and red flags in the air; together we can oust the bosses.

--Ruby

### The Palestine/Israel crisis can’t be solved by negotiations among competing capitalist waving nationalist flags

A group of us come together for dinner once every few months to get to know each other better and to have deeper conversations than we can during formal meetings of our community organization. Last month we started talking about the Israeli-US-

Egyptian siege of Gaza, one year after the Israeli assault. We all felt a little guilty about not being at a “Justice for Gaza” vigil in a nearby city, about 20 miles away. So we decided to organize a rally in our own town on a corner especially busy during the holiday season. We knew we couldn’t get the community organization to sponsor it, because we’d already fought unsuccessfully to have it plan something like this. But on three days’ notice, we pulled together a multi-racial group of about two dozen people. Some came in small groups from churches, others just came with friends. Thousands of people saw our signs, and hundreds took every leaflet we had. Many thanked us for being there. “We were energized by much positive response and very little negative,” said one participant, “I am grateful to be a part of a group of people who are deeply committed to this.” And we were able to take this event back to our broader organization.

Because many of us have been reading communist literature and discussing the ideas on a regular basis, our signs and leaflets were much sharper than the “Justice for Gaza” event that our community organization had declined to co-sponsor. Signs linked the Israeli occupation of Palestine with the US occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan. The leaflet applauded the Israeli youth who refuse service in the Israeli military, setting an example for resisting the imperialist war policies of the US government. It detailed US military support for Israel and explained it as part of the US effort to control the energy resources of the Middle East. One organizer especially liked this last part of the leaflet, which concluded with a call to dismantle the war system that makes justice and human rights impossible. “But it doesn’t call for communist revolution, which is the only way to destroy the imperialist war system,” another responded. “True,” said the first guy, “but I guess this leaflet doesn’t have to say everything.”

Maybe so. But the Palestine/Israel crisis can’t be solved by negotiations among competing capitalists waving nationalist flags. It can’t be solved by inter-religious peace task forces. Only a multi-racial working class, armed with class-conscious communist solidarity, can smash borders and exploitation in the Middle East and everywhere.





### Communists must turn the schools into centers for organizing and preparing for communist revolution.

However, the schools' work has to be intimately tied to the heart and soul of a communist revolutionary organization; the twins of industry and military work. Industry and military work can take many forms, but every party club or organization has to be intimately linked to this effort. At the center of all this has to be a Single Unified Internationalist Newspaper that not only agitates, organizes and leads the masses, but also instructs them on the communist road to take. Our schools' club has used the paper correctly, but we have major improvements to work on. With student and veteran comrades we have kept up visits to the military bases as well as Party factory concentrations. In addition, we have maintained a network of readers by way of hand-to-hand networks and public distributions. We have yet to formalize the networks. Through the comrade youth collective we will guarantee that the networks are not only formalized but expanded.

In addition, *our communist newspaper and its distribution have been an integral part of our fight back. In our club meetings we regularly read articles and discuss them. To teachers we distribute over twenty papers and at the teachers' union meetings close to 60 are distributed.*

As Lenin fought for and put forward in *What Is to be Done*, an effective newspaper not only mobilizes and organizes but it also educates the masses of workers.

In the next edition of *The Red Flag* we will continue this discussion of the role the Party's newspaper, not only in advocating communist revolution but in fighting illusions in reforms within the class struggle--to deepen the understanding of masses of workers about the need to build a communist world. We will focus on the following questions: What do networks, their apparatus, their function and their operations consist of? How do we widen, establish and systemize the distribution of our newspaper?

High School Student

**In this Edition there are statements in articles that the editorial board of Red Flag would like to criticize. We open our newspaper pages to anyone who would like to comment on the criticism or would like to voice their opinion on other matters.**

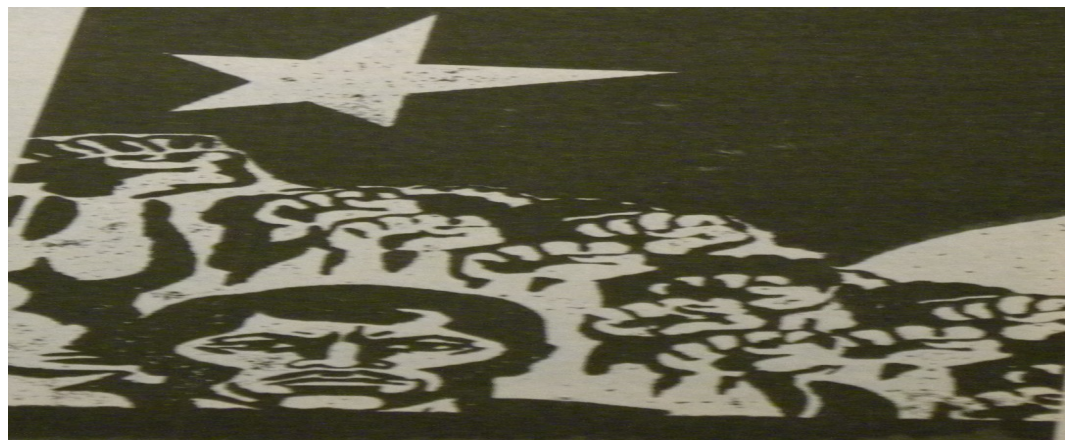
### Dear Red Flag:

Fisrt, I would like to congratulate you for your excellent newspaper which without any doubts is a really revolutionary beacon, guiding our class in its struggle to liberate itself from capitalism wage slavery. Next, I would like to make a few criticisms to the otherwise excellent article "Boeing Threatens Jobs To Wage Imperialist Dogfight" that was published in last issue. It did not mention the word communism or communist revolution. Although it says that "a system that destroys our jobs...doesn't deserve to exist," it does not say that communist revolution is the solution. A little before that phrase it said, "...and maybe even world war..." I don't think that that is a "maybe" because we know that world war is inevitable. To end, the writer of the article doesn't mention the key role that industrial workers like Boeing play in the revolutionary communist process.

L.A. MTA Worker

The article *You Can Call It a "What is to be Done?" Potluck* is good and very useful but we would like to make some comments on it. We think that words like "democracy" should not be used so loosely. The article says "The reality is that we have democracy until we need it!" We think this confuses our class. "Democracy" as defined by the bosses doesn't exist and has never existed. Democracy is the name that they have given to their class dictatorship -- as long as capitalism exists there won't be any instant that we won't be under their dictatorship. Although it was said sarcastically -- the fact is that we don't need their "democracy," we need to destroy it and replace with the dictatorship of the working class.

We also think that there are other concepts associated with the word democracy that need to be clarified and exposed, like the illusion that the majority rules by voting. Communists know that the electoral process is a farce and that's not the problem. The problem arises when a decision has to be taken in a group or the communist party itself. Should this be put to a vote? Does the majority really rule? We would like to hear our readers' opinions on this subject.



## For a Revolutionary Communist May Day, Let's March Under ICWP's Banner!

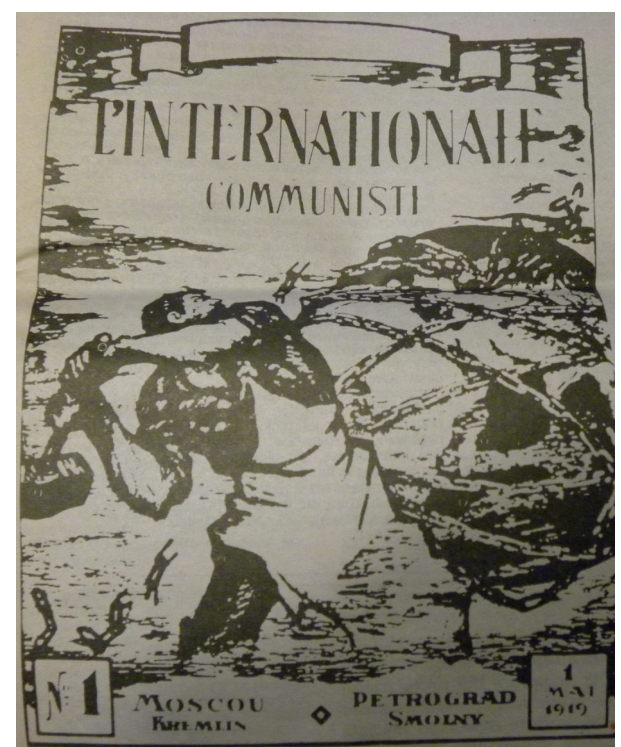
**May Day is a communist holiday. In 1889 the Second Communist International declared May 1<sup>st</sup> as the International Workers Day to honor the Martyrs of Chicago, murdered by the US ruling class for having organized on May 1<sup>st</sup> 1886 a general strike demanding the 8 hour day.**

Since then under communist leadership, May Day became the symbol of struggle of the international working class in its quest to destroy the capitalism with a communist revolution. Throughout the years hundreds of millions of workers have marched worldwide for this communist vision.

But, when the International Communist Movement began to collapse in the 1950s, the working class lost its revolutionary leadership and May Day lost its revolutionary meaning. Now, millions of workers still march worldwide on May Day but no longer for that revolutionary vision. They no longer march under the red flag of workers' internationalism, but under the nationalist flags of all the capitalists and imperialists of the world.

However, now more than ever our class needs to revive and hold high the revolutionary spirit of May Day. The deepening world economic crisis and the growing threat of World War III are confronting us with an enormous historic challenge: capitalism's fascism and war or communism. Workers will always choose to fight for communism, if revolutionary communists commit themselves to take them the communist ideas and organization so indispensable for this struggle.

That is why the primary task of the International Communist Workers Party is to participate in every struggle against the bosses' racist attacks in order to inject our communist ideas, build the networks to massively distribute our literature, build study action groups and recruit to our Party. Only by developing and deepening the communist class consciousness of our class and recruiting millions to our Party will we be able to make a communist revolution and build a communist world. This is the true revolutionary spirit of May Day! Join us, history is on our side!





# Iran's Nuclear Negotiations: WAR DANCE TO WIDER OIL WARS ON THE WAY TO WWIIII

The contradiction between the US imperialists and the Islamic rulers of Iran is coming to a head. "I think we can get through 2010 without a military strike, but 2011 could be more dicey," said Richard Haass, President of the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) back from his recent trip to Israel. The CFR is the think tank most influential in setting US foreign policy.

The US bosses, using the excuse that Iran won't stop enriching uranium, are calling for stronger UN sanctions, knowing that these won't change the Ayatollahs' minds. Nevertheless, Obama and his US imperialist masters need to go through these motions to justify their future military actions by claiming "that they tried everything and failed."

Iran's nuclear ambition would impact US geopolitical interests. It would put the Iranian bosses well on the way to becoming the region's main military power, eventually displacing Israel. This would change the balance of power in the Middle East and restrict the US bosses' ability to intervene militarily at will in this oil-rich region.

However, the real reason behind the Iranian nuclear "crisis" is the sharpening inter-imperialist rivalry between the US, the European Union, China and Russia for world domination. This rivalry is intensifying because of the deepening worldwide capitalist economic crisis. As it sharpens, it inevitably drives the world's capitalists and imperialists to wider oil wars and a rapidly approaching WWIIII.

## Iran: Strategically Key To Imperialists' Quest For World Domination

The US bosses need to take over Iran to try to slow down their rapid imperial decline, especially in the Middle East. When the Shah, a US puppet, was overthrown in 1979, the US imperialists lost Iran. Now they are waging losing wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan. To make things worse for them, Saudi Arabia, the cornerstone of the US bosses' oil-world empire, is becoming ever more unreliable.

Controlling Iran's vast oil and gas resources would also enable the US imperialists to break Europe's energy dependence on Russia. They hope this would allow the European imperialists to side with them on important geopolitical issues, notably in their coming war with China and Russia.

Moreover, Iran is the perfect land bridge for exporting Central Asia's vast energy supplies to world markets. Such a route would break the region's energy barons' dependence on the Chinese, Russian and Iranian markets. It would be a devastating blow to Russia's dreams of world domination which are based on displacing the US bosses as the world's main energy broker. US bosses would also be able to starve China of desperately needed energy for its future growth.

Additionally, with bases in Iran, the Pentagon's military encirclement of China and Russia would tighten.

## US Imperialism Has Irreversibly Lost Competitive Edge

Even if the US bosses regained full control of Middle Eastern oil, which is unlikely, they couldn't reverse their decline. They can't compete economically anymore with China. Even if they could double exports in five years by imposing ever-worsening conditions on US workers— as Obama has pledged — it would only sharpen the capitalist crisis of overproduction and the imperialists' dogfight. Imperialists who are unable to compete economically must resort to war to destroy their competition and regain market domination.

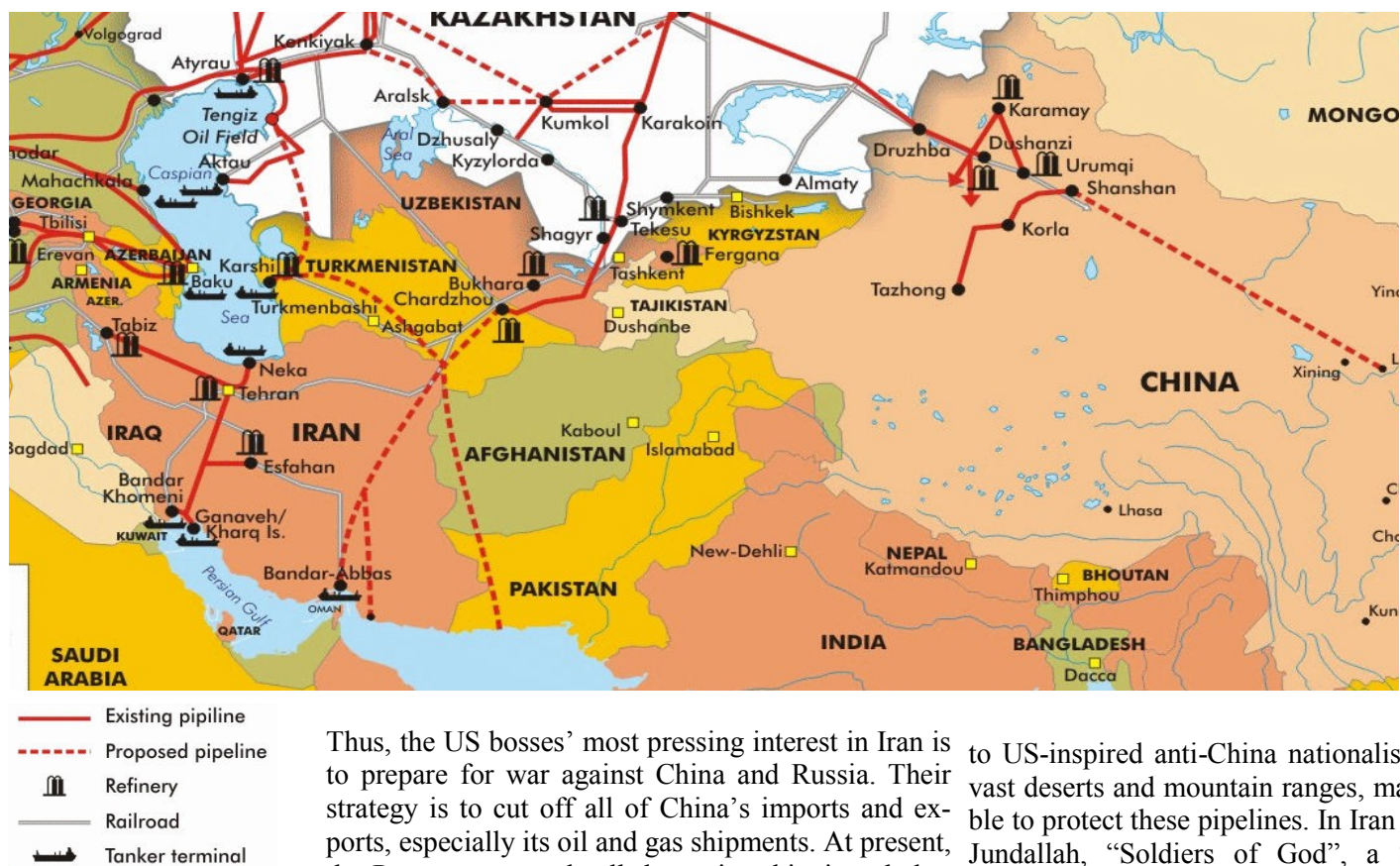
Together, China and Russia are Iran's main arms suppliers.

## US Imperialists Hope to Use Taliban Against China-Russia-Iran

"Central Asia is a ticking bomb waiting to go off.... Gripped by deepening gloom about economic stagnation and poverty, the mainly Muslim but secular region has become increasingly susceptible to extremist ideas in past years." (*Radical Islam casts shadow over Central Asia*, Reuters Feb 9, 2010).

The US imperialists are trying to make this prophecy come true. The Taliban peace talks are to set up a Taliban-governed Afghanistan that will energize the extremist forces not only in the five ex-Soviet Republics of Central Asia but also in China's Xinjiang province.

These "holy warriors" could then be used to topple the area's governments or sabotage the oil-gas fields and the pipelines that go to China and Russia. China's Xinjiang province is also very vulnerable as half its population of 16 million are Uighur Muslims who are responding



Thus, the US bosses' most pressing interest in Iran is to prepare for war against China and Russia. Their strategy is to cut off all of China's imports and exports, especially its oil and gas shipments. At present, the Pentagon controls all the major shipping chokeholds in the Indian Ocean where at least 80% of China's imported oil and much of its exports must travel.

To avoid these chokeholds, China is building ports and pipelines in Pakistan and Burma to transport its oil and natural gas imports by land. China is also building a Blue-Water Navy to contest the US-NATO-Indian navies for control of the Indian Ocean. As US Navy geostrategist Admiral Mahan predicted prior to World War I, "This [Indian] Ocean is the key to the seven seas in the twenty-first century; the destiny of the world will be decided in these waters."

## Iran Crucial To China's Growth, War Strategies

To eliminate its Indian Ocean vulnerability, China has built pipelines - from Turkmenistan through Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan - that deliver natural gas and oil directly by land to its Xinjiang province. These Central Asian countries have enough gas but not enough oil to satisfy China's future economic and military needs.

However, Iran *does* have the capacity to deliver this energy safely by land though the Turkmenistan pipelines. To guarantee this, China has invested over \$120 billion in Iran's energy infrastructure. China has also displaced Germany as Iran's main trading

to US-inspired anti-China nationalist appeals. It has vast deserts and mountain ranges, making it impossible to protect these pipelines. In Iran the US sponsors Jundallah, "Soldiers of God", a Sunni insurgent group that is fighting against the Ayatollahs.

## Wider Wars, Eventually WWIIII, Inevitable

Russia-China-Iran are not going to roll over and play dead. They'll guarantee that the US doesn't inherit a peaceful Afghanistan. Fifteen million Northern Afghans, where the Northern Alliance supported by Russian-China-Iran, has a base, hate the Taliban.

Also, invading and occupying Iran will be a monumental task. A US or Israeli military attack on Iran will further destabilize the whole Middle East and Central Asia and will aggravate the world capitalist economic crisis. Besides, the US-Taliban deal can't simultaneously accommodate Pakistan's and India's interests. The one left out will be driven into the arms of US rivals. Wider, more lethal wars are looming.

Workers, soldiers and students have nothing to gain and everything to lose in capitalism's unending wars for profits. Our interests lie in building the INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS PARTY into a mass revolutionary movement to turn the bosses' wars into armed struggles for communism. Without money, bosses, and their racist selfish ideologies, cooperation not competition will be a universal characteristic of a communist world.