

# RED FLAG

NEWSPAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY \* [ICWPREDFLAG.ORG](http://ICWPREDFLAG.ORG)



LOS ANGELES, CA – MAY DAY MARCH 2010:

“WORKERS OF THE WORLD, UNITE! FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM! INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS’ PARTY

## **MAY DAY MARCHES AROUND THE WORLD:**

# **SHOW THE NEED TO PUT COMMUNIST REVOLUTION ON WORKERS’ AGENDA**

**San Salvador, May 1, 2010--** “Give me a paper; I’ve been walking behind you for a long time,” an electrical worker said to a comrade of the ICWP who was in charge of distributing a communist leaflet and the RED FLAG. The first time that ICWP has been in the streets in El Salvador has been an interesting and novel experience. Workers from all branches of production received the communist literature with great expectation and enthusiasm, wanting to know more. A university worker gave his email address to another group that was distributing RED FLAG. “I need to know more about this paper. I’ll give you my address so you can send it to me,” he said after seeing it.

Close to 100,000 workers from throughout El Salvador mobilized in the Salvadoran capital to show their rejection of the bosses’ capitalist system and its new servant, Mauricio Funes. Many labor organizations historically allied with the FMLN openly criticized the FMLN for their complicity with the government for not representing the inter-

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**LOS ANGELES, CA—May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010--**Chanting our message, “Long live communism! Power to the workers!” today the ICWP proudly marched in the May Day March in downtown Los Angeles with a very lively contingent of youth and workers with communist banners, red flags, and red shirts of ICWP. Youth led the contingent and chants. We made speeches, and distributed 1150 copies of Red Flag and over 5500 communist leaflets, explaining that May First isn’t Immigrants’ Rights Day, but International Workers’ Day and that immigration reform was tied to the bosses’ fascist war plans.

Tens of thousands marched, with more thousands, especially garment workers, watching. Workers are furious at the fascist Arizona racial profiling law. Pushing for the liberal bosses’ agenda, the press, Mayor Villaraigosa, the Catholic Church and the LA City Council (passing a resolution to boycott Arizona) took advantage of the anger to build support for Comprehensive Immigration Reform (CIR). The flags of US imperialism were

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## 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of May Day:

# RED FLAGS IN THE SHADOW OF WAR

On May Day 1890, the communist leader Frederick Engels wrote: “The proletariat of Europe and America is holding a review of its forces; it is mobilized for the first time as One army, under One Flag...”

The spirit of May Day is to forge one international army fighting capitalism under the red flag of workers’ revolution. This goal has inspired millions upon millions of workers in every corner of the globe to march on May Day for 120 years.

In this spirit the International Communist Workers Party marched this year – our first May Day! -- in Los Angeles, San Salvador and Spain for communist revolution to smash capitalism, its borders and wage slavery.

### May Day: Revolution Versus Reform

But the original May Day tradition had another side. Although rooted in the workers’ class struggle against capitalism, leaders viewed that struggle mainly in terms of reform. As Engels put it, the first May Day marchers were “fighting for One immediate aim: an eight-hour working day, established by legal enactment.”

Today, 120 years later, it’s clearer than ever before that capitalism can’t be reformed to meet the needs of the working class. It should be clear that reform movements don’t develop into revolutionary movements. On the contrary: in the midst of the capitalist crisis shaking the world today, reform movements lead workers into the hands of fascist rulers.

Nowhere is this clearer than in the United States, birthplace of May Day. Liberal and nationalist organizations turned May Day into a massive nationwide call for “immigration reform” amidst a sea of U.S. flags. Another article in this issue of *Red Flag* explains how this “immigration reform” serves the interests of the US imperialists preparing for war with Iran and, sooner rather than later, world war. (see p. 3)

But reformism, patriotism and revisionism dominated May Day celebrations the world over.

· Cuba: A huge official May Day march denounced US and European imperialism – but under the Cuban national flag with no red flags in sight.

· Turkey: Tens of thousands in Taksim Square, Istanbul chanted “Shoulder to shoulder against fascists” but their main demands were for trade union rights and job security.

· Macau, China: Over a thousand people marched – and some fought the cops – demanding job protection and – in a racist turn – “action against illegal workers.”

· Hong Kong, China: Thousands marched for a higher minimum wage and better job protection.

· Greece: Protestors clashed with police, protesting budget cuts forced by the debt crisis.

· Spain: The huge General Workers’ Union (UGT) marched for employment rights and pension guarantees.

There is no “security,” no “fair wage,” no real “rights” for workers under capitalism. Under capitalism, governments are a dictatorship of the bosses over the workers. Trade union leaders hide this truth. Their reformism chains workers in wage slavery.

This is especially true in periods like the present. Global capitalist crisis and competition are leading inevitably to more and more wars. We need to put communism on the agenda of the working class of the world.

### Not Reform, Not Socialism Workers Need Communism!

In the Ukraine this May Day, thousands chanted “Socialism is our future.” In Russia, hundreds raised red flags and, calling for “a return to communism.”

But communists in the Soviet Union and China chose to build socialism – in reality, state capitalism under workers’ control – instead of communism. This socialism turned the communist parties themselves into a new capitalist class. It turned

communists into revisionists who lost faith in the workers and ended up betraying them.

The bosses tell us that communism died with the collapse of the USSR in 1991. But the USSR was by then a full-fledged capitalist empire. Some so-called leftists say that revisionism died in 1991. But the fight against revisionism is now sharper than ever. It always sharpens as world war looms.

### Red Flags in the Shadow of Imperialist War

On April 24 the *New York Times* reported that Arizona had enacted the viciously racist anti-immigrant law that galvanized the marches a week later. On the same front page, the *NYT* also reported that “the Chinese military is seeking to project naval power well beyond the Chinese coast, from the oil ports of the Middle East to the shipping lanes of the Pacific, where the United States Navy has long reigned.”

Two days earlier had come the report that the US military is developing a new non-nuclear weapon. “Prompt Global Strike...will hurl a conventional warhead of enormous weight at high speed and with pinpoint accuracy, generating the localized destructive power of a nuclear warhead.”

Every day’s news reveals another step toward a huge imperialist bloodbath in which workers will kill and die for the bosses’ profits. But here in *Red Flag* you are reading the other side of this story. Imperialist war opens the door for communist revolution. It’s our historic task to organize the international working class to march through that door toward the bright future that awaits us.

You are holding the *Red Flag* of revolution in your hands. Raise it with your friends, your family, your co-workers. Carry forward the international spirit of May Day by fighting nationalism and racism wherever they arise. Advance the revolutionary spirit of May Day by exposing and rejecting reformism in the midst of the class struggle.

**Join the International Communist Workers Party!**

### WORKERS AND STUDENTS DON’T WANT TO PAY FOR THE BOSSSES’ CRISIS! ONLY COMMUNIST REVOLU- TION CAN ACHIEVE THIS!

**Athens, May 4.** Workers and students fight against the police in a protest against austerity measures which will result in layoffs and cuts to wages and pensions of government workers. These austerity measures are the price Greek workers are being forced to pay for the European Union and International Monetary Fund bailout of the Greek economy, in the midst of a general meltdown of the European capitalist economies as the most recent result of the world wide economic crisis of overproduction.

Greece is not alone. Spain and Portugal are on the brink of bankruptcy. Italy is not far behind. In Eastern Europe, Latvia and Poland, for example, are in the same situation. Workers are fighting back in all these countries against the austerity measures that force the workers to pay for the bosses’ crisis. The sharpening of the worldwide economic crisis means that European countries will be forced to involve themselves in the coming World War III. Capitalism makes such crises inevitable and has no solution for them except war. Workers’ organizations which confine themselves to the fight to keep jobs and pensions are leading the working class into the dead-end of reformism. Building the ICWP as the international party of the working class and organizing for communist revolution is more urgent than ever.



Join the  
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## US BOSSES USE RACIST ARIZONA LAW:

# TO MOBILIZE YOUTH AND WORKERS FOR WAR

*The harsh exchange between Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton at the UN on Monday, May 3, shows that the US bosses' preparations for war against Iran are accelerating. Further evidence of this is the US bosses' push for an immigration bill. Their point man in Congress for getting this bill passed recently made this statement on Iran, "We have waited long enough for the diplomacy to work. Iran is a festering sore in the world" - Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (AFP, 4/22/10)*

Thank you, Arizona," said LA Cardinal Mahony, at a rally after over 100,000 workers marched on May 1st in downtown Los Angeles.

Why would Mahony say this? Because he, together with local, state and federal officials, including Obama, is helping the US bosses use the public outcry against Arizona's new racist immigration law to orchestrate a hysterical campaign to pressure Congress to address the immigration issue this year.

Arizona has provided the US bosses with an excuse to revive the massive pro-immigrant rights movement, building patriotism around the call for "Comprehensive Immigration Reform."

Immigration reform is all about preparing for more war: The US imperialists must go to war against Iran, not because of its nuclear program but mainly for its oil. The US bosses' position, as the world's dominant imperialist power since World War II, was based on control of Middle Eastern oil. Fighting to keep that position – challenged by Russia, China and Europe – US bosses must control Iran's natural gas and oil deposits in the world, the second and third largest in the world, respectively.

### What does war have to do with immigration?

To secure Iran the US bosses have two options. One is to effect a pro-US regime change, a very distant possibility. The other is to invade. War with Iran won't be easy. Iran has a 545,000 person army equipped with sophisticated weapons. It also has the Basij paramilitary force of three million dedicated combat-capable volunteers.

How can the US bosses invade Iran when their military is already overstretched fighting wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan? They will have to institute the draft.



Won't that be very unpopular? Yes, but US imperialists aspire to be the world's undisputed rulers, and won't give up that goal peacefully. They'll do whatever it takes, including eventually fighting WWII. That will definitely require the draft.

We communists are not organizing an anti-draft movement. Soldiers are essential to revolution and will be increasingly open to revolutionary ideas as the bosses' bloody war plans unfold. With communist leadership, soldiers and industrial workers will become the gravediggers of capitalism. We encourage our young members, friends, family and other youth to join the armed forces to organize our brother and sister soldiers to wage communist class war against capitalism.

### Immigration Reform and the "Green Card Draft"

Before resorting to the draft, the US bosses are planning to secure for their military the large pool of undocumented youth. That's why they need Congress to pass two immigration bills: the DREAM Act and Comprehensive Immigration Reform (CIR).

The DREAM ACT, supported by the Pentagon, targets 350,000 military-age undocumented youth. It will give them the options to finish 2 years of university or military service. After six years, those that do neither will be deported. Eventually, an additional 1.7 million youth will face those options. The economic crisis and public education cuts will force most into the military. These numbers, however, will prove too few for US imperialism's future war needs. A full draft will follow this racist conscription of undocumented youth.

CIR will secure twelve million undocumented workers for the bosses' war industries and military by promising them a twelve-year "path to citizenship." Eight million of these men and women are of military-age. Many will choose a military-service option to shorten this long, expensive ordeal.

### Liberal Leaders Steer Immigrant Workers Towards War

Immigrants in the bosses' war industries will be forced to slave long hours for low wages and few or no benefits. Those unemployed 60 days or more could be deported. The racist, fascist conditions imposed by CIR to super-exploit these workers will drive down wages, hours, and benefits for workers in all industries.

The politicians and the pro-immigrant group leaders sell these laws to immigrant workers as their dream come true. They promote U.S. patriotism – "we are Americans too" – to prepare workers ideologically for war. They channel the mass anger against the racist immigration system into support for federally-legislated fascism. They are "wolves in sheep's clothing" – helping the bosses get these workers in these programs before the coming carnage rudely awakens them to the towering inferno capitalism is preparing for them.

Imperialist wars and super-exploitation are built-in to capitalism. Only communist revolution can end them. We need to smash the bosses, their borders that make workers "illegal," and the exploitation which fuels their wars for profits. The International Communist Workers' Party and our newspaper Red Flag are dedicated to this task. Join us! Read and distribute Red Flag!

## MAY DAY IN SPAIN:

### ICWP SPREADS COMMUNIST IDEAS

Spain. "What we need is one party everywhere which leads all the workers." These were the words of a member of a Communist Party and with whom we had a short dialectical discussion in which we, as the ICWP, expressed our ideas about reform and revolution. We explained that the old communist movement made many errors in supporting reforms, and that we need to fight, all workers united, for the same cause: to smash capitalism. We also found ourselves with other workers and we shared ideas and our newspaper the RED FLAG with them, so they could see that they were in harmony with the communist ideas that our newspaper teaches.

This May Day many red flags were seen, fearlessly showing that the working class supports communism; the working class this year showed that they don't believe in the politicians and their sell-out unions. This year they didn't carry trade union flags; on the contrary they organized themselves and carried red flags with communist messages, chanting openly in support of dialectics and communist revolution.

This is a big step and it supports the analysis of our party that the sharpening of the struggle solves problems and that the communist line that we, as the ICWP, give to the proletarian class is the line which will lead us to destroy capitalism. Workers from Latin America, Asia, Europe and Africa marched this May Day and we have shown that the working class is united, fighting for a better world!

### RED FLAG comments:

We thank the comrade from Spain for his letter, and send our great appreciation for his work in organizing for the ICWP there. In Spain there were several marches, including a mass march lead by the bosses' agents of the UGT and the CCOO as well as other smaller marches led by "leftist" groups. All these groups are the offspring of the old revisionist movement. The main failure of the old movement was that it fought for socialism; they were not able to see the contradiction



SPAIN, MAY DAY 2010 —  
YOUNG WOMEN READING ICWP LEAFLET

between reform and revolution, and put revolution primary. Only the ICWP puts communist ideas primary in the reform struggle, and fights directly for communism, and is building one international party: one working class, one flag, one communist party.



# Fight Liberal Patriotism in US Peace Movement

**Sacramento, California** — Dozens of community activists recently marched for an end to the US wars and occupations in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. They were united in spirit, but sharply divided in their political outlook

Several speakers named capitalism as the root of the racist war system. They called on peace activists to unite with workers and soldiers to fight back. But the main speaker, a seventy year old actor, called for two years of universal compulsory national service for all eighteen-year-olds.

At first listeners thought the actor wanted a draft to mobilize youth against the wars. But he explained that he wanted youth to feel proud about “serving their country.” Such patriotism builds a false unity between workers and the warmaking rulers who oppress and exploit us. It paves the way for the rulers’ widening wars, up to and including World War III.

Unfortunately, some older audience members liked this, asking where to learn more. The actor pretended that national service was a brand-new idea that was emerging from the peace movement. But someone called out, “the Brookings Institute.”

Seven years ago, Brookings published United We Serve, a collection of essays by paid ruling-class analysts advocating “national service as it relates

to citizenship.” This idea got new life last summer when US President Obama announced his “United We Serve” initiative.

## “Community Service” vs. “Serve the Working Class”

The US bosses are promoting “community service” through “Big Sunday,” “Americorps Week,” and other volunteer programs which they organize. Be prepared to see through the hype. Politicians and business executives roll up their sleeves and help repaint an elementary school once in a while. But their daily job is to serve the capitalist class by maximizing profit at the expense of the workers.

The rulers’ talk about “community” to suppress class struggle against their racist system. In the not-so-long run, they plan to use young workers as cheap labor to rebuild their infrastructure, work in their war industries, and willingly fight in their wars.

Communists in the factories and barracks will organize these young workers to turn the guns around. World war will once again create both the need and the possibility of revolution for workers’ power. To take advantage of the growing opportunities, we need to struggle hard against the rulers’ fascist ideology, especially when it’s dressed up in liberal rhetoric.

“Community service” appeals to our unselfish instincts and our desire for meaningful work. The rulers cynically play on our better nature to win us to their deadly plans. In contrast, communists struggle with ourselves and our friends to serve the international working class, not “the community” or “the country.”

Serving the working class takes many forms, but it always includes fighting for communist ideas in theory and in practice. Communism means the abolition of the market economy, of private property and profit and money. There will be meaningful work for all “from each according to commitment, to each according to need.”

The capitalist profit system institutionalizes selfishness and greed as a way

of life. Communism will create the material basis to develop the best in all of us. This process has already begun in the *International Communist Workers Party* as we collectively plan, carry out, and evaluate our political work.

At the peace rally, unfortunately, the speaker who followed the actor stuck to a prepared script. She made some good points but didn’t challenge his liberal patriotism. In contrast, *Red Flag* readers should take seriously our responsibility to struggle sharply against patriotism, nationalism and racism at every turn. You can’t be a communist revolutionary without fighting the bosses’ ideas – and the misleaders who promote them – within the working-class movement.



## Historic May Day Dinners for ICWP

Los Angeles, CA –April 24, 2010—“Today is a historic day, because this is the first May Day dinner that our recently formed International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP) has celebrated.” This kicked off a communist event with workers from garment, industry, transportation, soldiers, students, teachers, and men and women. They all showed their multi-racial unity and a strong collective of workers, young and old.

After enjoying a delicious meal prepared by many friends and comrades, the program began with revolutionary songs and poems. Then two young comrades spoke about how they are organizing the ICWP and distributing RED FLAG in their colleges. They spoke of their participation in the March 4 actions against the budget cuts and how they gained confidence in their fellow students when they saw the positive response to communist ideas, and even how some of those students helped them to distribute our literature.

A monologue about a mother with a son in the army in the Middle East and who, because of RED FLAG, began to get active with ICWP, was delivered by a young mother who works in the garment industry. This monologue served as an introduction for a young soldier who spoke about his experiences in combat in Iraq, discussing communist ideas and organizing other soldiers. He also spoke about some friends in an army unit who organized and distributed a leaflet attacking the racist conditions on the base; the leaflet was distributed and placed in many places on the base by these same soldiers. He said that our seriousness as a Party

must be shown in our seriousness in organizing in two of the key pillars for communist revolution, among industrial workers and soldiers.

Then a worker talked about how poverty, unemployment, racism, sexism, fascism and wars are part of the inter-imperialist struggle for markets and cheap labor. The emphasis of his speech was that the working class, from the factories to the schools to the army, must read our newspaper and join the Party to have an ideological guide in the fight for a communist world.

On the other side of town, in an enthusiastic May Day dinner organized by high school students, teachers and workers, speeches by high school students emphasized the seriousness of the task of building a new party, and a high school student read a poem about the historical importance of the red flag in the sacrifice and struggle of the working class. A young worker invited everyone present to subscribe to RED FLAG, and to join a study group to learn more about the ICWP. A teacher spoke about the way that the sharpening capitalist crisis is affecting workers and students, and that the crisis will lead to opportunities to build a movement for communist revolution.

When a young woman asked how communism will function, there was a lively discussion that communism means the working class collectively planning and running society for our interests.

We ended both dinners singing our new battle song, *Red Flag* and the *International*. We called on the more than 160 participants in both dinners to participate in the May Day March, together with the ICWP contingents and to massively distribute our newspaper RED FLAG.



SAN SALVADOR—MAY DAY MARCH 2010



# Who Rules Rio Tinto?

Big corporations, such as Rio Tinto, are often described as "faceless" and "impersonal." This isn't true, but it suits the interests of the very real people who run these corporations for workers to think they're up against a soulless machine rather than flesh and blood enemies.

Not only is Rio Tinto run by real flesh-and-blood bosses, it's easy to find out who they are: they're the Board of Directors, and anyone with an internet connection can get their names and see their faces quickly.

The top boss of Rio Tinto is Jan du Plessis, chairman of the board of directors, previously the top boss at British American Tobacco (BAT), the British/Dutch tobacco giant that makes Benson and Hedges, and Kool's. A tobacco man running a mining company? What does he know about mining?

Not a whole lot, but then he didn't know a lot about tobacco when he took over BAT as a "nonexecutive" director, meaning he wasn't involved in the actual day-to-day operations. Nor is he an expert on food, though for a while he ran RHM, the British conglomerate that makes Cadburys chocolate. And he's probably not heavily into fashion either, although he is a director (nonexecutive) of Marks and Spencer, the big British department store. Du Plessis' business is not tobacco, or mining, or candy, or clothes, but business itself. In other words, his real expertise is in squeezing profit out of workers, in allying with other bosses against competitors, and in getting the government to help with both activities. In particular, he's a banker - a director of the big Lloyd's Bank group; the London Times once named him the UK's tenth most powerful businessman.

Du Plessis' (ruling) classmates on the board have similar records. Canadian Yves Fortier is a lawyer

and long time pal of Brian Mulroney, former Canadian Prime Minister. Fortier spent time in industry (Alcan) but like his boardmates served (his fellow bosses) in government as well. He has been Canada's ambassador to the US, and Canada's representative to the UN. During his time at the UN he played a big role in planning the first Gulf War.

After du Plessis, the most important boss is Sir David Clementi. Clementi was a deputy governor of the Bank of England, until recently ran the insurance giant Prudential, and runs the British investment bank Kleinwort Benson. Clementi is a typical member of the British ruling class, moving back and forth between government and industry. His grandfather was once British governor of Hong Kong (in the 20's). Governor Clementi's main job was to keep Hong Kong from being swept up in the anti-imperialist and communist movements in China; he played a big part in suppressing the Canton - Hong Kong strike.

Although none of the directors was born in the US, there are two with important positions in the U.S. ruling class. Richard Goodmanson was born in Australia, but he has an MBA from Columbia University in New York and is the CEO of American West Airlines and COO of the long-time ruling class Dupont Company. He's also been on the Board of Directors of PepsiCo and heads the United Way of Delaware, Maryland. David Mayhew is chairman of JPMorgan Cazenove, the British wholly owned subsidiary of JPMorgan Chase in London, and is now Vice Chair of JPMorgan Chase, a financial service firm with \$2.1 trillion in assets which has been "too big to fail" since its loans to Britain were one of the main factors forcing US involvement in World War I.

Debra Valentine, Rio Tinto Executive for Legal and External Affairs, is also a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, a member of the U.S. ruling elite, combining, as did the British imperialists, involvement in both the day to day operations of capitalism and its longer term strategic objectives. This also shows is the increasing involvement of the U.S. ruling class in a corporation that historically belonged to the British Commonwealth.

U.S. labor leaders have done their best to portray Rio Tinto as a foreign firm, and to divert the workers' anger against the corporation into a nationalist movement against "foreigners." However, as far as workers are concerned, the nationality of these parasites doesn't matter. They are equally driven to extract every last penny of possible profit out of our labor. Even worse, they conscript us into their fights over the wealth we produce.

This fight means regional wars now, and eventually an all-out conflict. Workers will never have any lasting peace or happiness until there are no more bosses like Clementi, du Plessis or Valentine. Then industry will be run for the benefit of the whole working class, not a handful of parasites. There will then be no more countries and no more national ruling classes, and miners in California or China or Australia will cooperate (not compete) for the well being of all the workers of the world.



## MAY DAY MARCH, FROM PAGE 1

abundant throughout the march, but not in the ICWP contingent, where only red flags were waving.

It's clear that the bosses need and are building a patriotic movement for supposedly "lesser evil" fascist immigration reform, hoping to win a grateful working class to labor in their arms factories and fight in their military. "In order for the ruling class in this country to set in place the necessary pre-WWIII conditions, they must usher in the CIR. They will use our brothers and sisters in their war factories and our sons and daughters in the battle fields. But we will turn their coming war into a communist revolutionary war for workers' power", said one of the speakers in the march. The ICWP contingent and its message stood in complete contrast to the bosses' liberal fascism. Our communist message is crucial for the working class.

Although the bosses are using the Arizona law to win workers to patriotic slave labor immigration reform, and many marchers carried American flags, we found that most workers and youth on the march were open to our communist position of fighting to eliminate all borders, bosses, and racist wage slavery with communist revolution. Workers asked for our red communist shirts, many paid for RED FLAG and some gave their names to know more about ICWP. An enthusiastic worker moved by our banners, chants and flags with tears in his eyes asked, "Who are you guys?" "We are the International Communist Workers' Party", we answered. After a conversation he took his shirt and his **Red Flag**.

### BUILDING FOR THE MARCH

During the two weeks leading up to the May Day March, teachers and students from the ICWP visited aerospace contractor and garment factories, bus

barns, and high schools. In these places we distributed hundreds and hundreds of RED FLAGS and communist leaflets, urging workers and students to participate in the International Workers' Day march for communist revolution under the banners of the International Communist Workers' Party. We were well received, and many promised to participate.

In addition, young comrades who wanted to guarantee the presence of the ICWP in its first May Day March participated in the preparation of banners, flags, signs, sandwiches, chants and security. In all these preparation meetings there was camaraderie and communist political discussions about the intensions of the Comprehensive Immigration Reform and the capitalist crisis that requires it. We examined how these conditions were necessary to prepare for wider war and to carry out the 3<sup>rd</sup> World War that is coming.

"Yes, and patriotism and nationalism, the US government is promoting them at a level never before seen," observed a young woman. And she added, "They want to win the youth and the workers to defend the interests of the US bosses' class that will clash with the interests of the Chinese, Russian or Iranian bosses."

For sure the liberal bosses, the dominant wing of the US ruling class, need to defend their declining empire; the capitalist crisis is pushing them to a 3<sup>rd</sup> World War as their only escape route. And they're



using the little fascists in Arizona to push their Comprehensive Immigration Reform and the Dream Act to prepare for wider war.

Deepening our communist work on the job and in the schools will make it possible to bring larger groups of marchers under our leadership, and put us in a position to challenge the bosses for the leadership of the workers—posing the alternative of the fight for workers' power, rather than a patriotic exercise. Organizing workers, including those in arms factories, students, soldiers and future soldiers, a base among all these sectors will give us the potential to turn the coming world war into a war for communist revolution. Building the fight for a world without borders and wage slavery by building for communist revolution is now more important than ever.



**LETTERS****LETTERS****LETTERS****LETTERS****Report from Germany***Bertholt Brecht*

We learn that in Germany  
 In the days of the brown plague  
 On the roof of an engineering works suddenly  
 A red flag fluttered in the November wind  
 The outlawed flag of freedom!  
 In the grew mid-November from the sky  
 Fell rain mixed with snow  
 It was the 7<sup>th</sup> though: day of the Revolution!  
 And look! The red flag!

The workers stand in the yards  
 Shield their eyes with their hands and stare  
 At the roof through the flurries of icy rain.

Then trucks roll up filled with storm troopers  
 And they dive to the wall any who wear work clothes  
 And with cords bind any fists that are calloused  
 And from the sheds after their interrogation  
 Stumble the beaten and bloody  
 Not one of whom has named the man  
 Who was on the roof?

So they drive away those who kept silent  
 And the rest have had enough.  
 But next day there waves again  
 The red flag of the proletariat  
 On the engineering works roof. Again  
 Thuds through the dead-still town  
 The storm troopers' tread. In the yards  
 There are no men to be seen now. Only women  
 Stand with stony faces; hands shielding their eyes,  
 they gaze



At the roof through the flurries of icy rain.

And the beatings begin once more. Under interroga-  
 tion  
 The women testify: that flag  
 Is a bed sheet in which  
 We bore away one who died yesterday.  
 You can't blame us for the color it is.  
 It is red with the murdered man's blood, you should  
 know.

**RED FLAG is your  
 paper!  
 Send us your  
 letters, poems,  
 and comments!**

**El Salvador, from page 1**

ests of the working class and only thinking of the  
 elections of 2014.

The workers don't accuse the FMLN directly for  
 fear of being attacked as right wingers. A wall  
 painting reading, "Funes is a coward, his hand  
 trembles, and he's together with the bourgeoisie;  
 send the corrupt to jail" was one of the most  
 widely read by the workers.

The dialectical change from quantity into quality,  
 which will later result in more members of ICWP  
 with a higher level of commitment to the struggle  
 for communism, was one of the objectives of the  
 participation in the May Day march this year. This  
 objective was established based on the experience  
 of the majority of the members of ICWP and the  
 assimilation of our ideas by the youngest mem-  
 bers.

"Changes are won through organized struggle!  
 Comrades, we must destroy this capitalist system  
 that forces the working class to be wage slaves!  
 "What the working class needs is a change of sys-  
 tem!" chanted a worker from a sound car during  
 the march today. The workers welcomed these  
 slogans and speeches. A worker who was in the  
 car said, "Good, we have to hammer at these slo-  
 gans."

Self critically, we could have mobilized more  
 comrades and distributed more communist litera-  
 ture. This first experience as a party will help in  
 the process of building a base for our ideas so that  
 in the coming activities the international project of  
 ICWP is in the hands of more workers and youth  
 giving communist leadership.

**Join ICWP**

**Mexico—Failed State for  
 the Working Class**

Mexico, April 2010—Milton Friedman in strat-  
 for.com commented on April 6 that Mexico is not a  
 failed state, in the sense that it has lost control of a  
 significant part of its territory (a third he says) or is  
 unable to function.

For Friedman it appears that the Mexican govern-  
 ment has lost control of the northern border to the  
 narco-traffickers. It appears to him that the Mexican  
 state has accommodated to the situation, developing  
 strategies not only to survive the storm but to maxi-  
 mize the benefits derived from it. Not only has the  
 government not collapsed, but while the drugs dra-  
 matically reconfigure the institutions, paradoxically  
 they stabilize Mexico. With the US as a major and  
 growing consumer, and the low cost of agriculture,  
 Mexico has become a major producer, processor and  
 exporter of narcotics. Since the drugs are illegal, the  
 price is higher, producing extraordinary profits. He  
 who controls the supply chain from the fields to the  
 processing installations, and from there to the border,  
 will make enormous quantities of money.

There are several organizations. They are Cartels, but  
 not in the economic sense. There is not competition  
 of businesses moving the price, but a real war over  
 more control, not winning through the mechanism of  
 the market, the supply chains of the consumer, but  
 taking by force. These paramilitary organizations are  
 well armed, well led, and very motivated, offering  
 the youth extraordinary opportunities to make money  
 that they couldn't achieve through "legitimate" ex-  
 ploitation.

The money involved is calculated to be between  
 \$35,000 and \$40,000, calculating a generous margin  
 of profit of 10% daily, or \$4 billion a year. The profit  
 margin in narcotics is estimated to be about 80%,  
 which would mean \$32 billion a year. To produce  
 this amount of profit in factories (manufacturing),  
 \$320 billion would have to be exported. This is the  
 size of its impact!

Even if it is invested outside the country, some part  
 of the profit of the remnant flowing to Mexico cre-  
 ates a tremendous liquidity in the Mexican economy  
 in these times of global recession. It's difficult to  
 follow the trail of this money, given its illegality.  
 Even though the money flows outside Mexico, the  
 narco traffickers influence the government by invest-  
 ing a substantial part of these funds.

However, there has to be a way to "launder" the  
 money and invest it in the legitimate business of ex-  
 ploitation where it can produce more profits, which is  
 achieved through banks and other financial institu-  
 tions. This is nothing different from the American  
 mafia during and after the prohibition of alcohol.

That's why for the economic elite, interrupting the  
 flow of drugs to the US is not in the national interest.  
 They will accept the embarrassment and sacrifice of  
 such commerce. They'll make an effort to appear as  
 if they're trying to stop it, so they won't be accused  
 of supporting it. This week the magazine *Proceso*  
 published an interview with Mayo Zambada, a big  
 drug dealer, who says that "narco" is here to stay.

But the bosses' military is not motivated to run the  
 risk of being effective since it benefits them more to  
 be ineffective. It's not incompetence; it's the  
 "rational" national capitalist political policy. And in  
 the recent agreements with North American func-  
 tionaries, the Mexican politicians blame the US func-  
 tionaries for being incapable of reducing the demand for  
 drugs or stopping the sale of weapons.

Drugs are used to pacify and divide the workers, to  
 make enormous profits and keep capitalism alive.  
 Our goal must be to fight to organize the working  
 class against drugs and against the capitalist system  
 that produces them. This May Day we go into the  
 streets with our message of REVOLUTIONARY  
 COMMUNISM: to put an end to this rotten capital-  
 ist system and its drugs.

*Comrade from Mexico*



## US Soldiers Defy Orders, Aid Haitian Sick

A friend recently returned from Haiti. He'd spent a week there, volunteering in a large hospital. He was surprised to learn that US military medics had just been told, "You're not on a humanitarian mission anymore." These companies were ordered to provide support only for US military forces. They were no longer allowed to treat sick or injured Haitian people.

But, my friend said, many of the medics were sneaking off base to come back to the hospital anyway. They defied their orders, risking Article 15 discipline, to treat patients in their free time. "I have beautiful pictures of US soldiers cradling Haitian babies," he said, "but I can't show them because they might get in trouble."

When Obama sent 20,000 US troops to Haiti in January, *Time* magazine called it a "compassionate invasion." But *Red Flag* has explained Haiti's strategic value to US imperialism. A permanent US military presence there would "close a strategic square of the entire Caribbean" together with US bases at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and others in Aruba, Curacao, and Colombia. (*RF* v. 1 #1, available at [www.icwpRedFlag.org](http://www.icwpRedFlag.org))

The "humanitarian mission" will officially end by June. But military officials admit that they will "continue to support the work of Haiti's government and international agencies." That is, US soldiers will stay. The US military build-up in the Caribbean is part of the rulers' plans for bigger and broader wars.

But — as the defiant medics demonstrate — many soldiers are open to supporting their class brothers and sisters, against the orders of the bosses' military command. Our Party needs to position itself in the barracks and battleships so that individual defiance will become collective rebellion. With communist leadership, anti-racist instincts will become revolutionary class-consciousness.

One day, significant numbers of red soldiers will bring the *Red Flag* of communist revolution to workers near every US military base in the world.

*Comrade*

## May Day First March

May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010, was the first for ICWP. About 30 to 40 students from my high school showed up. As we were riding in the bus, four or five people made speeches and organized us into committees. We had security, literature distribution, etc. We were different from everyone else because, unlike them, we wore red t-shirts and had red flags which represent every worker. Every student and participant gave their soul to this march, not just for what happened in Arizona, but to help organize more people to get together and change this capitalist world to a communist world where everyone is equal and all workers are valued the same.

*HS student*

## Red is my Color

Red is the color I wear within my soul. Red is the blood that was shed on the very first May Day when our brothers and sisters died for the 8 hour day. Red was (and forever will be) the flag that I proudly marched with on ICWP's first May Day. THE RED FLAG'S message has cleansed communism from reformists who have insulted our fallen brothers and sisters who fought for revolution. May Day's true message has been overlooked by many who marched under the U.S. bosses false campaign for immigration to be legalized and now Obama's Nightmare Act. (Oh, I'm sorry, was I supposed to lie like Obama and say Dream Act?) We have a

duty to re-establish the true meaning of May Day and to proceed on the pathway to revolution, not to reform or negotiate with these money-driven fiends we so dearly hate, capitalism and the bosses.

*HS student May Day marcher*

## We All Learn From Political Struggles

I was glad to read in *Red Flag* (5/5/10) a really helpful analysis of nationalism in Palestine/Israel and how it hurts all workers. Even better, fifty students heard this analysis and at least one concluded that "only communist revolution can do away with borders and bloody national conflicts, and get beyond nationalist thinking."

The article would have been better, though, if it had included more about the students' questions and comments. That would help readers understand better what is the nature of the political struggle. It would help us all see more clearly what are the obstacles and opportunities to winning other workers, students, and friends to a communist point of view on this subject.

A good example was the article about a month ago on transit workers' discussions of imperialist war. I hope that more readers will write articles and letters about interesting conversations they have, especially with co-workers. I know I always learn a lot from them.

Thanks again to the author of the article from the San Diego campus. I hope we hear more from you!

*--Reader*

## RESPONSE TO POSTAL WORKER ARTICLE

It's clear from the article in the last RED FLAG about postal workers that they are being attacked by the capitalist crisis. Being forced to survive through overtime is an attack both on the workers forced to work overtime and on those who've been thrown out of their jobs. A system that has to divide and exploit workers by using growing racist unemployment to pressure those working even more, needs to be destroyed with communist revolution. In this crisis and widening war, we can't go back to the "good old days" (which weren't that good), before the deepening capitalist crisis and increasing decline of US imperialism, but instead we need to deepen the struggle for collective class consciousness and communist revolution.

Under communism, workers' schedules will be collectively determined by the needs of the working class, with communists encouraging all workers to participate. There won't be part of our class unemployed and part forced to work overtime. Everyone will receive based on what they need, not based on how many hours they work or what job they have, but based on sharing what the working class produces.

A READER

## Socialism Reversing to Capitalism?

I think that the newspaper should be consistent when it talks about socialism, the Soviet Union, and China. In the last edition in the letter section, one letter appears in a box. It was an excellent letter criticizing Red Flag for not writing enough about how things will be under communism. It seems that the criticism was taken seriously because some articles, like the article about Kyrgyzstan, discussed somewhat how we would satisfy energy needs under communism. We can do more and better.

However, the letter says, "In the second edition there was a small article that started to discuss education in Russia and China (when they were communist)." In



MAY DAY MARCH 2010—SAN SALVADOR

the present edition, in the article, "Dialectics and the Struggle Against Revisionism," the author of the article writes, "The ICWP has learned, for example, that socialism and its wage system leads back to capitalism, not communism," and later says, "In the 1950's in Russia and in the 1970's in China, the victory of revisionism turned socialism back to capitalism."

In hindsight, we can now see that socialism was state capitalism administered by the working class through its communist party. It may be that this gave more freedom to the working class and a taste of what communism would be like, but it was still capitalism. China and Russia were never communist. We should always point this out. If Russia and China were state capitalist, they could not have returned to capitalism. The communist parties which led these revolutions became revisionist and became a "Red Bourgeoisie" that openly holds power in Russia. In China they still maintain the farce that they are communists. I think that we need to be more accurate and consistent.

## Waiting for more Miners' History,

The articles in the paper interest us a whole lot, but there was one that caught our attention the most, as there always is. We would like to share our comments with you about the article "Miners Have Led Rebellions and Revolution", in the April 21<sup>st</sup> edition. This article is full of very interesting facts we have never even heard of. What fascinated us the most is the way you connected the past with the present involving the miners ideas towards capitalism without them even knowing; as said in paragraph 8, "These revolutions did not have ending capitalism as their goal"

The way you explained the different Rebellions and Revolutions was very impressive, especially the one about how you connected the miners problem with the Mexican Revolution in 1910, and how it is "Now seen as the first shots" against Porfirio Diaz. We believe the workers had to defend themselves, and it was a must to fight back before things got out of hand. Throughout time people from all over the world have experienced this injustice, and have got enough guts to unite and fight. It is sad and hateful knowing that nothing was "permanently achieved", even though many miners lost their lives. Now I expect more from this generation, and future ones towards setting our goals straight in ending capitalism, completely. To do this we must unite, have a clear vision about what we're fighting for, and train for the struggles that are going on now and for future ones. All these interesting stories about the miners have us anxious to learn more, especially about the story of Anyuan, China. We look forward to this achievement

*HS STUDENTS*



# Dialectics and the Struggle Against Revisionism

## Part One: The constant struggle against capitalist ideas

The idea of communism has existed in various forms for most of human history, but communism only became a science about 150 years ago. Marx and Engels, and later communist revolutionaries developed scientific communism, based on the experience of the working class struggle for communism. As they learned from revolutionary successes and failures, communists needed to revise their ideas. ICWP has learned, for example, that socialism and its wage system leads back to capitalism, not communism.

Inside the communist movement, however, there must be a constant struggle against capitalist ideas and practices that contradict communism. Intense capitalist propaganda for patriotism and reformism, as well as fear of defeat and of capitalist repression, influence people to give up on communism or look for an easy way to get there. This is the origin of *revisionism*, that is, capitalist ideas and practices that prevent the victory of communism.

Before World War I, revisionism turned the socialist parties in most countries into supporters of imperialist war. In the 1950s in Russia and the 1970s in China, the victory of revisionism turned socialism back into capitalism. Revisionist tendencies are always found in the communist movement, and fighting them is absolutely essential to move forward and to prevent past victories from being reversed.

One kind of revisionism says that direct struggle for communist revolution isn't necessary. It claims that

reforms lead eventually to revolution, that some "lesser evil" capitalists are allies of the working class, that elections can advance the communist movement, or that imperialism does not have to lead to war.

An opposite revisionist view does not recognize the opportunity that the sharpening internal contradictions of 21<sup>st</sup> century capitalism give for revolution, claiming that revolution is impossible or that capitalism will be too strong to defeat for generations. These opposite views have in common that they lead to compromising with capitalism, either because it can't be beaten or because it isn't that bad.

Although there were big struggles against revisionism by the Bolsheviks, led by Lenin, in the Chinese Cultural Revolution, a mass movement against revisionism by millions of workers and students, and in the Progressive Labor Party in the past, revisionism eventually won in all these movements.

One of ICWP's most important tasks, as it builds up the communist movement, is to carry out the struggle against revisionism, both inside and outside the party.

### Internal Contradictions are Primary

The importance of the struggle against revisionism is an example of a general principle of dialectics. This principle says that how something changes and what it becomes are due primarily to its internal contradictions. Although external conditions make a

difference, it is mainly the contradictions inside a process or system that determines how it will change. The history of class society, for example, is the "history of class struggle," as the *Communist Manifesto* said. The conflict of the social groups inside society that have opposite relationships to production determines how society develops. This means that social change does not come about primarily by factors outside society, like climate or natural environment, although these things certainly make a difference. Instead, the effect that external factors have on society is mainly determined by factors internal to it.

The internal is also primary in determining the growth of the party. Internal factors such as its line, its composition, its leadership and its size mainly determine how it grows. Probably the most important thing to understand about internal contradictions for our work is that *our weaknesses hold us back more than external conditions*.

This means that we can only win by making a determined struggle to overcome internal weaknesses, including tendencies toward revisionism. But you can't struggle against weaknesses you don't know about or don't face up to, so the struggle against them requires being honest and self-critical with our comrades, our friends, and the masses we are trying to win.

*Next issue of the Red Flag — The dialectics of inner-party struggle.*



LOS ANGELES, CA — MAY DAY MARCH 2010 — ICWP YOUTH



MAY DAY MARCH 2010 ON MEXICO

## Participate in the ICWP Seattle and LA Summer Projects

- **Learn from and bring communist politics to industrial workers, soldiers and youth.**
- **Talk with workers about their work and their struggles in fighting the capitalist crisis by making communist politics primary.**
- **Study the science of dialectical materialism, criticism and self criticism, and how communism will work.**
- **Lead in the fight against racism and patriotism by fighting for communism.**