#RiseUptown

‘We won’t back down!’

Antiracist fighters in Chicago demand quality housing for workers

CHICAGO, October 18—A resilient and resourceful collective of multiracial fighters is keeping up the fight to demand safe and supportive housing against the capitalist bosses and their politician lackeys. In spite of plunging autumn temperatures and countless other obstacles, #RiseUptown grows with working-class support. Safe housing and livable housing conditions are in diametrical opposition to the needs of capitalism. We will continue to face this nightmare until we organize a mass international communist party to smash capitalism and build a new egalitarian world built on our collective needs and development.

The #RiseUptown movement kicked off in earnest over a month ago when dozens of pro-housing fighters occupied an unused parking lot next to Weiss Hospital in the city’s Uptown neighborhood (see CHALLENGE, 9/21). The parking lot has been slated to become new luxury housing in the mostly immigrant worker and rapidly gentrifying neighborhood. #RiseUptown was able to maintain a collective space with food, shelter, medicine and community for over 11 days in the lot before being forcibly removed by the racist Chicago Police Department (CPD).

Worldwide, capitalism is a colossal failure, unable and unwilling to provide billions of workers with the basic necessities of shelter, food, and medicine. The bosses put their profits and power over working-class lives every day (see article, page 5). Members of the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) are continuing to support the #RiseUptown struggle in modest ways, connecting with local mass organizations, and holding CHALLENGE sales in Uptown. PLP is committed to the fight alongside our class to not only secure our basic needs but to overthrow the profit system entirely!

Workers’ lives matter

Though #RiseUptown is a relatively small movement, it has proved to be a real thorn in the bosses’ side, so much that the racists have been working overtime to try to snuff out the fightback. After the encampment was forced off the abandoned parking lot, the forces regrouped in a nearby park area across the street to begin planning next steps and strategy.

But even this space was deemed unacceptable by the ruthless and racist bosses. Barely had tents been put up before more demands to vacate were placed by city agencies. The reason? That stretch of park had been designated as a “migratory bird sanctuary” and the human workers would be in the way! Although it’s doubtful that anyone involved in #RiseUptown is “anti-bird” or “anti-nature,” we all agreed that it was indicative of a system with priorities completely out of whack, to once more displace homeless workers. Only under a profit system can the lives of birds be more valuable than the lives of workers.

On top of the uncertainty and fear associated with being uprooted, staying outdoors in the area have faced straight-up fascist violence from the bosses’ forces. Around the time of the parking lot occupation, Wayne, a worker from a different encampment who supported the protest, confronted a security guard and a physical fight went down. The fight was broken up then, but later that night Wayne was beaten to death in his tent. Certain details of the murder remain unclear, but all of us suspect this fascist guard, with complicity, if not outright support of the CPD. We know that we’re unlikely to see anything resembling justice from the capitalist state for Wayne and so many other victims of this system, but through building the fightback to crush all fascists for good we can honor his memory and ensure his death did not happen in vain.

Capitalism can’t and won’t solve the housing crisis

Housing, just like any other good or service produced under capitalism, is fundamentally created to serve as a commodity to be sold for profit. When the bosses’ media pouts about a housing “crisis,” what they are really complaining about is an inability to sell homes and apartments. Meanwhile, countless workers around the world are forced to go without shelter entirely while buildings sit empty, all because of the bosses’ profits! Chicago, which has long been a stronghold for the liberal finance capital Big Fascist wing of the U.S. ruling class (see glossary on page 6), is no exception to this capitalist rule. With the onset of the coronavirus pandemic and thousands of workers in the city being instantly cut off from income and other support services, the compound crises of homelessness, mental health struggles, and hunger have sharply intensified.

Continued on page 3
As the military conflict in Ukraine escalates, it shows just how unstable the world situation is today. With U.S. imperialists deeply divided and U.S.-Europe in political crisis, Russian imperialists aligning with U.S.-arch rival China, and both rulers and workers in the West international crisis of capitalism, competing bosses are speeding toward full-blown fascism and World War III.

Over the last two weeks alone, Ukraine's nazi-laden army has been pushed up by the U.S. (and Euro, 9/16), in—blasted a critical Russian supply line in Crimea and shelled the Russian-controlled city of Donetsk. Russia re-routed back with strikes on Kyiv, the Ukrainian capital, using cruise missiles and drones supplied by Iran, another U.S. arch-enemy. Thirty percent of Ukraine's power stations were destroyed, and workers and children were fed on both sides. More than six thousand civilians have died since the war began in February (statista.com). Tens of thousands more face forcible displacement as Russia implemposes martial law on disputed territories.

Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abol—ish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society’s benefits and burdens.

We must learn from the past. The power of the working class, whether in Russia to power in 1917. Without an international working class that can move full force. When Czarist battleships were sent to intercept the Russian battleship Potemkin rebelled and killed the sailors’ movement had thus removed this major aircraft carrier. The Kitty Hawk was forced to retire to California to launch its planes to attack North Vietnam. After more fighting came to a stalemate, the U.S. military aggression in Ukraine while it profits from sky-high energy prices (“Eurowaves, 3/15). While the sanctions’ impacts have been minimal thus far, inflation and high energy prices are battering the U.S. and EU economies. Britain, the most reliable U.S. ally, is in an oil-control spiral of inflation and recession (BCC, 10/12).

Meanwhile, Russia has deepened its ties with China, the main threat to U.S. imperialist dominance: “[T]otal goods traded between China and Russia surged 31 per- cent to $117 billion during the first eight months of 2022 compared to the same period last year” (foreignpolicy.com, 10/22).

The powerful BRICS coalition (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa), with 40 percent of the world's population, has effectively backed Russia by staying neutral on Ukraine. India abstained from a United Na—ons Security Council vote to condemn Russia’s invasion (Washington Post, 10/10). Led by Saudi Arabia, the oil-exporting coalition of OPEC+ PCIE, which includes Saudi Arabia, Russia and Iran—undermined U.S./NATO sanctions against Russia by agreeing to a production cut that will bolster Russia's revenues (Foreign Affairs, September/October 2022).

Imperialists' weakness and volatility

Russia's rulers have their share of weaknesses: a rela—ively small GDP (11th in the world), stagnant growth, and a heavy reliance on petroleum in a world that is slow-cutting but surely reducing its dependence on fossil fuels. But like their counterparts in China, the Russian bosses have one big advantage over their ri—v—als: the spoils of war. The conflict in Ukraine, with a more united and disciplined capitalist ruling class that can maneuver more quickly and effi—ciently, sounds like a dream come true for the Russian bosses. As the former investigative journalist and corruption fighter together, they are poised to gain new territory and further enrich themselves at the expense of the Russian people.

As U.S. and European de—cay, WWIII inches closer

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Flunk Capitalism: School grades control students

BROOKLYN, NY, October 8 – Members of Progressive Labor Party (PLP) hosted a study group of over 20 teachers and students from different countries to discuss the role of grading in a capitalist system. The discussion opened up with a report back from communist teachers who were involved in a rally earlier that day to garner support for Raymond Chaluisan, an 18-year-old Latin teen who was murdered by the kkkops in the Bronx in July (see last issue).

This day of action and study marks PLP’s effort to win more teachers and students to the idea that capitalism uses divisions to keep workers and youth from uniting together and fighting back with communist revolution. In this study group, we put this idea into practice by fighting the division between students and teachers and between speakers of two different languages.

At today’s study group, the leadership of a teacher in bringing nine students raised the stakes of what is possible to achieve that communist future. Students asked if they could bring friends to the next study group.

Grades conceal the horrors of capitalism

We asked students to take leadership in the study group by starting out the discussion with reflections about their lifelong relationship to grades. Teachers were challenged to engage students with vocabulary such as capitalism, exploitation, racism, and class consciousness to help them link their experience regarding grades with revolutionary ideas.

Specifically we discussed an article “Grades Are Capitalism in Action. Let’s Get Them Out of Our Schools,” which argues that grades do not aid learning instead, they perpetuate capitalism by spreading the lie of meritocracy. The school system prepares the next generation of workers for an inherently unequal system by teaching them that some deserve more than others based on productivity levels. Not only does this give capitalists more productive workers, it also makes workers blame themselves, rather than the system, for what they have, or don’t have in adulthood.

These ideas could be heard in some conversations. Some students reported feeling that their classmates—their future fellow workers—were sometimes their biggest obstacle in achieving better grades. These students, just like teachers, can be made to feel resentment toward each other rather than joining forces against their true enemy, the bosses.

There were also clear examples of class-consciousness and solidarity amongst the students, as they also spoke about unfair grading practices they felt were keeping all students down and also spoke of racism and other forms of discrimination affecting students in schools.

Teachers shared that grading hinders, rather than aids, their ability to teach. Time that could otherwise be used providing useful feedback with students is instead spent mechanically giving students a letter or number that lacks context, an explanation, or productive feedback.

Ultimately, grades give students practice in having their labor exploited by the bosses. They are used to sort students—into As, Bs, Cs, or Fs—and to determine which group of bosses will exploit which students when they join the workforce.

Grades, Big Fascists, and World War III

World War III is on the horizon and understanding what role the working-class students play is crucial. The U.S. ruling class is facing serious challenges to their ability to control the working-class students play is crucial. The U.S. ruling class is facing serious challenges to their ability to control the working-class students play is crucial. The U.S. ruling class is facing serious challenges to their ability to control the working-class students play is crucial. The U.S. ruling class is facing serious challenges to their ability to control the working-class students play is crucial. The U.S. ruling class is facing serious challenges to their ability to control the working-class students play is crucial. The U.S. ruling class is facing serious challenges to their ability to control the working-class students play is crucial. The U.S. ruling class is facing serious challenges to their ability to control the working-class students play is crucial. The U.S. ruling class is facing serious challenges to their ability to control the working-class students play is crucial. The U.S. ruling class is facing serious challenges to their ability to control the working-class students play is crucial. The U.S. ruling class is facing serious challenges to their ability to control the working-class students play is crucial. The U.S. ruling class is facing serious challenges to their ability to control the working-class students play is crucial. The U.S. ruling class is facing serious challenges to their ability to control the working-class students play is crucial. The U.S. ruling class is facing serious challenges to their ability to control the working-class students play is crucial. The U.S. ruling class is facing serious challenges to their ability to control the working-class students play is crucial. The U.S. ruling class is facing serious challenges to their ability to control the working-class students play is crucial. The U.S. ruling class is facing serious challenges to their ability to control the working-class students play is crucial. The U.S. ruling class is facing serious challenges to their ability to control the working-class students play is crucial. The U.S. ruling class is facing serious challenges to their ability to control the working-class students play is crucial. The U.S. ruling class is facing serious challenges to their ability to control the working-class students play is crucial. The U.S. ruling class is facing serious challenges to their ability to control the working-class students play is crucial. The U.S. ruling class is facing serious challenges to their ability to control the working-class students play is crucial. The U.S. ruling class is facing serious challenges to their ability to control the working-class students play is crucial. The U.S. ruling class is facing serious challenges to their ability to control the working-class students play is crucial. The U.S. ruling class is facing serious challenges to their ability to control the working-class students play is crucial. The U.S. ruling class is facing serious challenges to their ability to control the working-class students play is crucial. The U.S. ruling class is facing serious challenges to their ability to control the working-class students play is crucial. The U.S. ruling class is facing serious challenges to their ability to control the working-class students play is crucial.

Fascist bosses to implement wider fascism. Fascism is a capitalist system in decay where they can no longer maintain a liberal democracy and instead resort to more direct control and state terror. This includes disciplining their own ranks and building more nationalism and allegiance for the lesser-evil bosses to “save” workers from the Small Fascists.

In order to succeed, the Big Fascists need the open support of a necessary portion of the working class. When teachers and students alike are taught to blame students for their “bad” grades without understanding the system’s role in creating that reality, they are supporting the bosses’ potential for greater fascism in the future.

Healthy communist struggle and evaluation

In a communist education system, there would be no need for grades. Education and training itself would be tested in the real world and evaluated. The life-time process of fighting to learn, and learning to fight for the needs of the international working class would be our system of education. Join us! #RiseUptown: Workers need—safe, free, and decent—communist housing

Continued from page 1

In 2020, over 65,000 people experienced homelessness, close to a 12 percent increase from 2019 (Chicago Tribune, 9/20). Racist inequalities, inherent under capitalism, ensured that Black and Latin workers made up the majority of those workers without consistent housing.

In many cities across the U.S. and beyond, various liberal schemes pop up to try to soften the blow, but as expected fail way short. One example is the trend of “tiny houses” which more often than not are constructed of flimsy materials and lack running water, heat or electricity (Guardian, 3/23/17).

For students and teachers, silently accepting grades means accepting the type of self-fulfilling prophecy for Big Fascist bosses to implement wider fascism. Fascism is a capitalist system in decay where they can no longer maintain a liberal democracy and instead resort to more direct control and state terror. This includes disciplining their own ranks and building more nationalism and allegiance for the lesser-evil bosses to “save” workers from the Small Fascists.

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Under communism and a worker-run society, safe and equitable housing would be guaranteed and available to all without cost, just as it was when workers held power previously in the Soviet Union and China. We as workers naturally build all housing, so it should already belong to us! But to win that reality, we have to keep fighting for revolution.

Our class can run society!

The members in #RiseUptown are continuing to work hard, day and night despite much adversity to fight against capitalist-caused displacement and homelessness. Their efforts show that working people have the initiative and courage to organize so that we can continue to support these grassroots efforts as we advocate for communist revolution to build the world we all need and deserve.
Government and money. The U.S. is open to this. The government has also called on the U.S. to send the price of gasoline, which is now in short supply. Henry had recently cut fuel subsidies, doubling in Haiti to bring "order" to a society in upheaval. Called for international military forces to intervene supported by the Joe Biden White House—have led to hunger, deaths in the street and even the ship condemning inter-imperialist rivalry. A U.S. imperialist invasion of Haiti. Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members joined this action, making contacts with fighters and bringing revolutionary communist ideals to Haiti. The working class must reject the bosses' dead-end reforms or to remove one imperialist puppet or another. As long as the twin evils of capitalism and imperialism exist, workers will be trapped in a vicious circle of protest to elect new champions of exploitation and misery to do the bidding of the capitalist imperialist rulers into a class war for the best capitalist servant!

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The red wrecking ball: communists vs capitalist housing, Part 1

The following 7-part series is reprinted and lightly edited from the Communist Newspaper Daily Worker in September-October, 1932, written by famous Jewish communist Mike Gold.

Workers here are referred to as Black instead of the original "Negro" to reflect our antiracist princi- plies as well as the linguistic shifts that occurred over decades of antiracist class struggle.

Communists have a long history of fighting against racist attacks on our class. One such fight was against landlords and evictions. In the early 1930s, amid Jim Crow segregation, a great depres- sion with record unemployment levels that sunk the working class—particularly Black workers living in the urban industrial core—into deeper poverty and despair, the Communist Party in the U.S. (CPUSA) was fighting for revolution inside U.S. working. This period was a golden age of class-conscious fightback when communist ideas were popular and gripped the imaginations of the working class. Under the leadership of the CPUSA, workers organized militan- t housing, unemployment councils, tenant un- ions that led bold actions that weakened the power of gluttonous landlords.

Today our class is in a different period marked by increasing volatility. We are shocked by record-high inflation, rent hikes, food price gouging compound- ed by stagnant wages, high unemployment, and an eviction crisis worsened by a still-raging global pandemic. Though the CPUSA is a shell of its former self, decaying into a talkative, reformist party, their history is just as valuable as they were in 1932. This series highlights this antiracist revolutionary fight- back and contains kernels of working-class wisdom.

This unemployment is a famine, a Mississippi flood, a major disaster to the human race. More than 50 percent of the Black workers in the city are unemployed. But the Black and white capitalists of Chicago, like their fraternity the world over, have been concerned only with preserving dividends.

A year ago, they were throwing thousands of Black workers out into the naked streets to die. But then a revolt began. Unemployed Councils sprang up, under communist guidance, which fought the evictions. As fast as a poor worker's furniture was thrown into the street, the councils carried it back. The police used clubs, blackjacks and jail sentenc- es, but the revolt could not be stopped.

The landlords grew desperate. Oscar DePriest, the Black congressman, is also one of the chief landlords on the south side. He retains as lawyers certain other Judas-liberals from the National As- sociation of Advancement for Colored People.

Then he called a secret conference. That night a plot was set. The landlords evidently de- cided to create an atmosphere of fear, to demon- strate their power over our class. One such fight was against landlords and evictions. In the early 1930s, amid Jim Crow segregation, a great depression with record unemployment levels that sunk the working class—particularly Black workers living in the urban industrial core—into deeper poverty and despair, the Communist Party in the U.S. (CPUSA) was fighting for revolution inside U.S. working.

There was to be an eviction on Dearborn Street the next day. A 72-year old Black working woman was to be kicked out like a dog to die. But the Coun- cil arrived to stop the crime.

While they placed back the furniture, the po- lice appeared. This time they did not merely club, maim, gouge and crack skulls. With not the slightest warning, they shot their rifles again and again into the crowd. They killed three Black workers, one of them a communist, and wounded many others.

It was a murder plot. I found proof of this a year later when I came to Dearborn Street.

The brown ruined wooden shacks have not been painted or repaired for decades. They are allowed to rot away. It is the landlord-economy in America that allows up poor slums that should be burned, and rent them to Black workers. When the homes finally collapse they are torn down. Meanwhile they pay high dividends and cost nothing to maintain.

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On Dearborn Street the garbage is heaped eve- rywhere, foul as a landlord's heart. The city has not removed garbage for months; it is bankrupt. Gar- bage flies, stink, leaks through broken windows and doors, moldy wet shacks swarming with vermin; all the houses in crazy tatters and out of plumb.

This is Dearborn Street, which has sent so many landlord's wives to Paris, their sons to Harvard or Fisk. And women agonize in childbirth, and strong- men rot of hunger and despair, and babies' bones shrivel because there is no milk.

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LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

Street-vendor workers protest racist harassment

We were at a pro-street vendor coalition protest march. It was a re-organized protest, demanding that the city increase the number of licenses for these workers. These workers are harassed daily and persecuted by the police, with numerous fines, which they have to pay. This makes life more difficult for these workers since most of them are undocumented and depend on what they can earn from their daily sales to be able to survive in a city where life is becoming more and more expensive and impossible for the working class. Life is more difficult especially for undocumented immigrants, who are victims of harassment and racism.

Two members of Progressive Labor Party, who are doing the work within a community organization of the coalition, gave leadership several times during the march, shouting our slogans, putting forth our Party’s line, and at one point in the march, we very quickly placed a large blanket with the demands in a government office. We also distributed several CHALLENGEs that were enthusiastically taken by people who already knew our paper. It was a day of militant struggle, but only communism will save our entire working class from the atrocities of capitalism.

Looking forward to sharing vision of communism

Edward Bellamy’s book, Looking Backward, could have been titled “Looking Forward”. The first CHALLENGE review moved me to go to the library. I applauded Bellamy’s mandatory work for ages 21-45, inclusion of folks with physical or mental challenges. Equal credit cards are distributed for necessities and “luxuries”. Later, on reading our second review, I appreciated pointing out Bellamy’s weaknesses: attaining such a society peacefully, omitting racial issues and viewing women in a limited way.

However, the book’s best-selling reception indicated he speaks to human needs: 1) Work is a necessity and can be created for those with “lesser” abilities to develop their full potential. The threat of unemployment and cynicism of cutthroat competition is absent. 2) People realize the benefits of their labor when capitalist waste is eliminated: i.e., glut of oversupply and duplication of brand-name goods. I revered when Bellamy eliminated the monstrous military budget, politicians, and the court system.

Many folks I approach today with our paper agree that capitalism is violent and can only be fought with violence. But questions I hear often are, “How will you motivate people to fight for these values? How can you have a society without work?” I must remind myself to engage the working class to kill their predecessors all those years ago. Elizabeth’s death symbolizes something else for the workers of the world. Her death, coming long after the death of monarchy and feudalism, should remind us: there will be a day when workers see a headline commemorating the world’s last living capitalist succumbing to old age, and on that day we will shake our heads and say “good riddance.”

CHALLENGE response: Bellamy’s racist eugenics and his disgusting anti-communist, fascist, and sexist ideas outweigh any of his positive anti-capitalist ideas. Building a communist society requires the fight to eradicate these ideas and practices.

GLOSSARY

COMMUNIST TERMS

Fascism

CHALLENGE’s response to a crisis of their system, when the bosses can no longer sustain the chaotic regime of liberal democracies, they resort to direct control and state terror instead. Fascism is now practiced by new capitalists disciplining their own ranks to serve the urgent needs of the capitalist state and weather the crisis. To defend their system from internal and external threats, they use all the means available in their state apparatus, including violence. To build unity within their class and loyalty from workers, they rely on nationalist politics and calls for sacrifice. Their strategy is to mislead the working class to kill our working class sisters and brothers in the next hundred years or five thousand years. Edward Bellamy’s book, Looking Backward, could have been titled “Looking Forward”. The first CHALLENGE review moved me to go to the library. I applauded Bellamy’s mandatory work for ages 21-45, inclusion of folks with physical or mental challenges. Equal credit cards are distributed for necessities and “luxuries.”

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Continued from page 8

some measure of a decent life for workers in an in-
credibly short time, transforming a 90 percent illit-
eracy rate into one in which nearly everyone was literate.

Around 1938, without any official declaration, the Soviet Union had achieved the era of free bread. One could enter a cafeteria, order little or nothing, and be served. You needed, you received. Even during a drive for heavy indus-
try, living standards rose strikingly when the rest of the world was mired in the Great Depression.

The Soviet Union not only freed workers but also fought against racism and sexism. The battle against racism was particularly significant. As com-

munist Paul Robeson said about his trips to the So-

viet Union, he "felt like a human being for the first
time since I grew up. Here I am not a Negro but a human being with "new human."...[In]...[the]...[Soviet Union],...[I]...[felt]...[like]...[a]...[human...being]."

Heroic fight against the Nazis

In 1941, the bosses again tried to destroy the revolution. Hitler, using all European resources and the largest military machine ever assembled, invaded the Soviet Union with four million troops. They threatened to finish the devastations that had occurred in Western Europe. Hitler's predic-
tion — endorsed by western military "experts" — of capturing Moscow in six weeks went up in smoke.

Nazi troops found total destruction and depopula-
tion in every captured city or town — the "scarred earth" policy. As Soviet defenders retreated, they destroyed everything that the Nazi's might use. The communists then organized armed resistance be-

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The whole invasion war was the biggest in world history, involving millions of soldiers and

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Over 6,000 factories were dismantled and moved east of the Ural Mountains, re-assembled to produce weapons again, a feat requiring total unity and support of Soviet workers, unmatched by any
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Nazi invaders. Workers in arms factories produced weapons 24 hours a day for the Red Army, working 12-hour shifts. When Nazi troops captured facto-

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The entire German Sixth Army and 24 of Hitler's generals were surrendered and killed or captured

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Nazi's mount a successful offensive against the Red Army. Stalingrad was truly the turning point of the

Second World War. Not until the Nazis were on the run following their defeats at Stalingrad and in the

Battle of the Kursk — the biggest armored battle in

world history, involving millions of soldiers and

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All this was accomplished under the leadership of

Jofel Stalin. No wonder he is reviled to this day by

world capitalism.

Lessons learned

不幸的是，布尔什维克遭受了 许多政治不稳定性，包括 转向资本 主义的转变。从 beginnings to achieve communism, the first

socialism had been established, a belief Karl

Marx had advanced. We have learned from that ex-
périence that socialism retained capitalism's wage system and therefore failed to wipe out many

aspects of the profit system. Socialism put forward material incentives to the working class rather than political ones as the way to win workers to com-
munism. We must win masses of workers to abolish capitalism's entire wage system and direct fi-

Three Chinese workers were killed recently. The smell of violence was hazy in the air.

The move could lead to soaring en-
d prices, which would help Russia pay for its

defensive in Ukraine.

Biden has warned Saudi Arabia that there will be unspecified "consequences" for siding with Rus-

sia in supporting the cuts. The OPEC+ move un-

dermines Western countries' plans to impose a cap

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Lessons learned

Unfortunately, the Bolsheviks suffered from

many political weaknesses which led to the return

capitalism to the Soviet Union. From the begin-

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tor communism.

Today, this country is led by communists, but this is a temporary historical setback. While this long and volatile era of widening imperialist wars and fascist attacks on the working class is upon us, every dark night has its end.

The Progressive Labor Party is a product of both the old international communist movement and the struggle against its weaknesses. Pseudocomunist groups have not learned history's lessons and con-
tinue to fight for nationalist “sharing of power” with capitalists, a Venezuelan’s Hugo Chavez, not for the working-class seizure of power and the dicta-
torship of the proletariat.

Our movement is daily fighting to learn from the Soviet Union's great battles and achievements as well as its deadly errors that led to its collapse, mainly that reformism, racism, nationalism and all forms of concessions to capitalism only lead workers to defeat. Giving the ruling class an inch and they’ll grab a mile.

We honor the bold fight by the workers of the Bolshevik Revolution against capitalism and for a working-class communist world. Today, we must organize workers, students and soldiers to build a mass worldwide working class party that will turn the era of imperialist wars into a new, international communist revolution.
One hundred and five years ago, November 7, 1917, marked the beginning of the single most important event of the 20th century, the Bolshevik Revolution, which directly inspired the Chinese Revolution and anti-imperialist struggles around the world from Vietnam to Africa to Latin America.

Russia’s working class, headed by the revolutionary communists of the Bolshevik Party and its leader, Vladimir Lenin, freed one-sixth of the world’s surface from capitalism. They proved once and for all that it was possible to strive for a world without exploitation, where those who produce all value, the working class, can enjoy the fruits of their labor and not have it stolen by a few parasitical bosses and their lackeys.

The Bolshevik Revolution was the first serious attempt by workers and peasants to seize, hold and consolidate state power. Even though capitalism has returned to the former Soviet Union, workers will not forget that the Soviet working class defeated capitalism in 1917. They smashed the imperialist armies of 17 countries (including Japan, the U.S., Britain, France, among others) which invaded Russia in 1918 to try to crush the revolution. They freed the masses, especially women, from the yoke of capitalist, feudal and religious oppression. And then in 1945 the Soviet Red Army defeated the mightiest and most barbaric army the capitalists had ever organized: the Nazi Wehrmacht.

The revolution frightened the world’s bosses, who immediately sent armies from 17 countries to try—in Churchill’s words—to “strangle it in the cradle.” From 1918 to 1923, millions of workers led by the Red Army defeated the imperialists’ counter-revolution. Nearly five million died in that battle, many of whom were the most committed workers the revolution had produced. Lenin himself died because of injuries inflicted by a hired killer.

The masses showed great courage and determination to defend and build their revolution, under the leadership of their revolutionary party. They proved that revolutionary violence on the part of the working class and peasantry was vital to the seizure of state power.

Achievements of the Bolshevik Revolution

The Bolshevik Revolution brought the Soviet Union to heights of productive development that capitalism, given a similar time period and circumstances, could never have dreamed of. Bringing the working class to power, the Revolution coordinated their social-economic efforts for the production and exchange of the necessities, the comforts and even some luxuries of life, making them available to all. The Soviet system of production was for use, not for profit. This can only be accomplished by abolishing capitalist profits and the private ownership of property, with its exploitation, poverty, unemployment, racism, fascism and imperialist wars.

In the 1930s, when the entire capitalist world sank into depression, and tens of millions worldwide were left jobless and starving (much like today), the Soviet Union was forging ahead building a new society without unemployment. They created...