

Attention Shoppers!

Wal-Mart now allows unions at its *Chinese* stores. A change of heart for this anti-union retailer? Hardly.

Wal-Mart continues to spend millions to thwart union organizing campaigns in the United States and Canada. So, why the new policy?

With more than 5,000 supplier factories operating in China producing over 18 billion dollars worth of global inventory – and 40 big box stores just starting to scratch the surface of the country's 1.26 billion shoppers – Wal-Mart needs the Chinese Communist Party.

And a Chinese Communist Party which is facing labor unrest in province after province and a pool of 100 million unemployed workers needs to save face.

So, the Wal-Mart's big box stores get wrapped in a big red ribbon.

“Should associates request formation of a union, Wal-Mart China would respect their wishes and honor its obligation under China's Trade Union Law,” says Wal-Mart. What is left unsaid is that the Chinese Communist Party controls the All China Federation of Trade Unions and managers are routinely named by party hacks to oversee union affairs.

For the 123 million workers who belong the AFTCU, union membership is a sham. They have no independent voice and no control over wages or working conditions. Resistance to the party-controlled bodies results in brutal suppression and jail terms for labor activists brave enough to speak out.

Meanwhile, these fellow travelers – Wal-Mart and the Chinese Communist Party – are bent on world domination. China aims to dominate global manufacturing. Wal-Mart plans to dominate global retailing. It is an unholy alliance that workers and shoppers everywhere ought to fear.

The pennies saved shopping at Wal-Mart or the pennies earned as a Wal-Mart supplier come at a high price: Exploited workers in China and devastated communities here in North America.

Is it worth it?

