

## The Immigrant Movement: A New Class of Workers on a Global Scale

Protestors, approximately six million strong, took to the streets this spring in a movement so large it surprised the politicians, the capitalists, and even the protestors themselves. It was something completely and obviously new – qualitatively new.

From Los Angeles to Chicago to Washington, D.C., from Denver to Miami and North Carolina to Wisconsin, people from all walks of life demonstrated their outrage against HR-4337, the draconian immigration legislation that proposes to make criminals out of the undocumented as well as those who aid them in any way. The chants of “We are not criminals!” and “We are America!” resounded across the United States.

Even the organizers were surprised at the extent of the mobilizations, which appeared to occur almost spontaneously and took on a life of their own. No one individual or organization could claim to have brought the demonstrators out, and none could claim to control them. Though some religious and labor leaders tried to dictate the form or substance of the mobilizations, they failed to do so – a lesson the ruling class did not fail to observe.

These tremendous protests for immigrant rights marked the beginning of a movement to insure the livelihood of the immigrant sector of the working class. Now it is time to take stock of the meaning of the movement around immigration reform, the lessons being learned, and what will keep it on course.

The brutal legislation passed by the House sparked the massive protests, but the problem about the “illegality” of 12 million immigrants here in the United States has been developing for years. And immigration is a problem not just in the United States – it is global. Many factors have led to the millions of people abandoning their countries. But the underlying processes are the worldwide introduction of labor-replacing technology and globalization’s generalization of its effects, including the outright destruction of social programs. These processes have

given rise to the qualitatively new character of the recent protests.

What is new is that we are witnessing a worldwide movement of workers fighting for their economic right to provide for their families with food, housing, education, and health care. Millions upon millions of workers are migrating from Mexico to the United States, from Guatemala to Mexico, from Bolivia to Chile, from Africa to Spain, France, and England, and from Poland to any country that will take them in. Capitalism in the age of electronics pushes people out of the labor market in their home countries. It forces them, in the millions, to migrate to foreign lands, searching for a buyer for their labor power at whatever price.

Inevitably, the class character of this movement becomes entangled with the extensive and profound civil- and human-rights violations to which immigrants are constantly subjected. But within this overall process, we can see the outlines of a new class in formation, one that exists across borders and has common interests by virtue of its common economic plight. The battle for immigrant rights is a crucial part of the fight for the ideological and organizational development of this class *as a class*.

The fact that approximately six million people took a stand – whether they realized it or not – for the undocumented workers to exercise their right to house, feed, and clothe their family – cannot be underestimated or forgotten. The immigration rallies and marches are a harbinger of future widespread mobilization by the rest of the U.S. working class, as it begins to fight in its class interests.

### MASS MIGRATION: OUTCOME OF GLOBALIZATION

Migration today is a complex issue which touches every country in the world. According to a United Nations report, 190 countries are now either points of origin, of transit, or of destination for migrants, often all three at the same time. The United Nations estimates that there are 175 million country-to-country migrants

in the world, and that does not count the migrants within countries – the dispossessed corn farmers of Mexico piling into Mexico City slums, the displaced Midwestern factory workers spreading out through the rest of the U.S. looking for anything that pays.

While some of the world’s immigrants have emigrated due to civil wars, the vast majority are in motion simply in search of their livelihood. This is a direct result of globalization and its laws of development – a modern mass exodus of peoples attempting desperately to escape poverty and starvation in their native countries.

Consequently, today’s migrants go where they can sell their only commodity – their ability to work – in order to support themselves and their families. Mexico is a prime example. Mexicans represent some 62 percent of the 12 million undocumented here in the United States as well as 85 percent of those detained by the Border Patrol. It is easy to see why. In Mexico the disparity between rich and poor translates into half of the population living in poverty and one-fifth living in extreme poverty in 2002. The bottom 40 percent of the population shares only 11 percent of the wealth. There is 40 percent unemployment or underemployment in Mexico, and those who work earn on average \$4 dollars a day.

It was not always so. According to the Minnesota Fair Trade Coalition-Resource Center of the Americas, three years prior to the enactment of The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), immigration from Mexico was actually decreasing. In the three years after NAFTA was implemented,

immigration to the U.S. increased by 61 percent, almost two-thirds.

Under such conditions, immigrants such as those from Mexico have no means to support themselves when they return home. This accounts for the chant heard throughout the country in immigrant protests: “Here we are, and we are here to stay. If you deport us, we will be right back.” Rather than face the dangers of going back and forth between Mexico and the U.S. and being caught and deported, or worse, of suffering the prospect of a slow death in the border deserts, the undocumented worker began to put down roots here in the United States. They began to integrate themselves into the American social fabric, buying homes, sending their children to school, and worshipping in the communities in which they settled. They have become an integral part of the working class of this country.

That is why the entire working class will suffer a serious setback if the immigrant worker is attacked today as being “the problem,” the cause of all that is wrong in America – instead of attacking the real problem, which is the government and the ruling class whose interests it serves.

### RULING CLASS SEEKS TO DIVIDE THE WORKERS

The capitalist class dares not close its border with Mexico. The “illegal status” of the immigrant worker reaps many benefits for the capitalists at home and abroad. Abroad, the “illegal” migration of particularly Mexican workers serves as a safety valve to re-

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## Globalization, Speculative Capital, and U.S. Hegemony

The dominance of speculative capital exacerbates economic instability, fueling the conditions for political struggle and world revolution.

## Revolutionary Work Today

The era of transition from one economic form to another is the moment when revolutionary activity evolves from skill to the level of art.

## The Role of New Ideas

History shows that fundamental change in society cannot take place without new ideas. Revolutionaries must bring the people a vision of what the new material conditions make possible.

## The Middle East and Our Tasks

US strategy is creating the conditions for catastrophic war. Only with political power can we solve the problems that threaten world destruction.

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lease social and economic pressures that otherwise would explode into revolution. And a revolution in Mexico would also greatly influence the workers of all Latin America – indeed, in the United States itself – and it would threaten U.S. interests worldwide. It is for this reason that some capitalists – and some politicians – are calling for “amnesty” for certain undocumented workers and a “guest-worker” status for others.

The capitalist class as a whole is united in its overall strategy to retain its class hegemony. The differences that have emerged in the political proposals all contribute to rallying different sections of the working class in opposition to the immigrants rights movement. By attempting to pit the rest of the U.S. working class against immigrants, capitalists seek to prevent the formation of a class conscious of itself as a working class, with class interests across borders, and with interests fundamentally opposed to those of capital. The ruling class has used the debate around HR-4437 to try to convince U.S. born workers that immigrants were to blame for their declining standard of living, despite the fact that the dismantling of social programs and various other policies have accelerated the race to the bottom for all workers.

Under the steadily worsening conditions faced by all workers, the ruling class must at all costs take steps to prevent them from uniting and acting in their own

interests. Thus, the capitalists are using the fears they have cultivated to win a section of workers over to support increased repressive measures, such as re-vamping the enforcement apparatus and strengthening new repressive government institutions like Homeland Security.

Connected to these efforts, we are witnessing instances where cities and states are taking the law into their own hands by passing their own versions of the House and Senate’s anti-immigrant legislation. For example, on July 13 the City Council of Hazleton, Pennsylvania approved a law to make the town the most hostile place in the U.S. for undocumented workers to live and work. In a 4-to-1 vote, the City Council passed what they are calling the Illegal Immigration Relief Act. This ordinance would deny licenses to businesses that employ undocumented workers, fine landlords \$1,000 for each undocumented immigrant renting their properties and require Hazleton to be an English-only city.

Some states are passing similar types of legislation. On July 10 Colorado state lawmakers approved legislation to discourage undocumented immigrants from passing through and/or settling in the state, which includes requiring adults to show valid identification to apply for nonemergency government benefits.

Already some 6,000 National Guard troops are being deployed to the U.S. Mexico border and the size of the Border Patrol is being doubled from 3,000 to 6,000 agents. And across the country, agents of Homeland Security are banging on doors and hauling off undocumented in the early hours of the morning, stopping school buses and taking off children on their way to school, and raiding workplaces and communities.

Though these measures appear to be against a section of the population, the truth is that the whole of the working class is the target.

However, sometimes the actions of the ruling class bring about the opposite to the effect desired. HR-4437 makes felons of those who are here “illegally,” but it also criminalizes anyone who extends them even the slightest assistance. As such, the impact has extended beyond the undocumented and has entangled all sectors of society – legal residents and citizens, church congregations, families, teachers, health-care workers, labor unions, human- and civil-rights defenders. As well, HR-4437 has made immigration more than just a Latino issue, bringing out other ethnic groups, such as the Chinese in New York, the Polish and Irish in Chicago, the Ethiopians and other Africans in D.C., etc.

Civil liberties and human rights cannot be denied to a sector of society without this condition ultimately extending to the rest of the population and in turn giving rise to increased discontent, agitation, and polarization. We have only to look to U.S. history for this lesson. In this country, the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 mandated the return of runaway slaves from the North to their slave owners in the South. Persons aiding and abetting runaways were arrested and fined. Free blacks were seized and carried away into bondage by unscrupulous bounty hunters. This law sparked civil disobedience and a series of actions and reactions that eventually led to the Civil War.

## CONCLUSION

The spontaneous movement is making a historic turn—going from the defensive to the offensive. The immigration protests have been part of a continuum of the education of the workers in this country. The Iraq war is teaching them that their government cares little about the U.S. troops or the Iraqi people as long as its interests are secured. With Hurricane Katrina, they learned that the government does not care for the poor of this country. The social destruction that is accompanying the shut down of industry in the Rust Belt is teaching the same to people in the Midwest.

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The struggle of the new immigrant for survival ties them to the rest of the working class who are also fighting for their livelihood. The motion around the immigrant issue is the social response of members of the new class of workers whose

labor power is needed less and less by capital. With the understanding that the immigration protests were a response of the U.S. working class, revolutionaries must play their role in pointing the way forward. The velocity of reactionary forces is demanding that revolutionaries step up their efforts to strategize and plan out the next step forward for this fledgling movement.

The rallying cry of the U.S. worker has become, now more than ever before, “An injury to one is an injury to all” – which in practical terms can only mean “Legalization to all, regardless of how long they have been in the U.S.” This will be the litmus test that all legislation, proposals, and positions will be tested against.

## EDITORIAL POLICY

### R a l l y

to bring back together and put in a state of order, as retreating troops [to return to attack]

### C o m r a d e

a person with whom one is allied in a struggle or cause

In this period of growing motion and developing polarization, *Rally, Comrades!* provides a strategic outlook for the revolutionaries by indicating and illuminating the line of march of the revolutionary process. It presents a pole of scientific clarity to the conscious revolutionaries, examines and analyzes the real problems of the revolutionary movement, and draws political conclusions for the tasks of revolutionaries at each stage of development in order to prepare for future stages.

It is a vehicle to reach out and communicate with revolutionaries both within the League and outside of the League to engage them in debate and discussion and to provide a forum for these discussions. Articles represent the position and policies of the League of Revolutionaries for a New America.

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# Globalization, Speculative Capital and U.S. Hegemony



The destruction of the economic foundations of capitalist society due to the fundamental breakdown in the circuit of capital is forcing millions into motion worldwide in defense of their survival. The conditions are emerging for political struggle and world revolution that will have to take as its task the destruction of all exploiting classes and the end of the capitalist system.

## SPECULATIVE CAPITAL

Just as the stage of monopoly capitalism and imperialism arose out of the quantitative stages of development of classic capitalism, speculative capital has emerged from finance capital as the dominant form of capital in the era of globalization. Classic finance capital, as described by Lenin, is the merger of bank capital and industrial capital under the control of the banks. This bank capital is lent to business owners and corporations for investment in production of commodities. Thus, finance capital is

Capitalism is resting on an increasingly weak foundation. The immense surplus value circulating globally is produced off the backs of a smaller and smaller percentage of workers. More and more workers are unable to purchase the commodities that are produced, either because they have been replaced in production by electronic technology or because they are paid wages that keep them and their families living in poverty. With fewer and fewer workers earning sufficient income to allow them to purchase commodities, the circuit of capital is threatened.

The declining rate of profits and the inability to turn over productive capital rapidly enough led to the rise of speculative capital as a means for investors to achieve higher rates of return. Speculative capital began as a means to mitigate risk in the investment of productive capital. However, in a brief period of about forty years, speculation has come to dominate capital.

Global capital uses the American state to prop up the whole system of capital. Together they serve to extend capitalism's life as labor-replacing electronic technology in production breaks down the circuit of capital. The global financial system, with the dollar as a key currency, creates the global credit and money necessary to sustain the activity of speculative capital. It provides capital with an alternative return on capital in the face of declining rate of profit.

This extension of capitalism's life in an era of instability provides a false sense of stability. The dominance of speculative capital exacerbates the economic instability and thus social and political instability. It accelerates the increasing polarity between wealth and poverty and intensifies the severity of the inevitable global collapse.

an essential part of the circuit of capital.

Speculation is the act of trading financial instruments (such as foreign currencies, stocks, bonds, and various financial derivatives) with the goal of making money. The amounts involved are staggering. Over \$25 trillion in currency moves through the world financial markets daily. Unlike finance capital, speculative capital is removed from the circuit of productive capital and does not create surplus value, but only "re-distributes" it. Speculative capital is not reinvested in hiring more workers, expanding plants and equipment, purchasing raw materials or new technology. Instead, these vast amounts are diverted into speculation where investors gamble on changes in the prices of financial instruments.

"Speculative capital is the culmination of the process of the formation of a general rate of profit, the overall system

of capital that Marx talked about, where all capitalists partake in the exploitation of labor even if they do not directly produce use values. Speculative capital cannot exist independent of productive capital, but rides on the shoulders of productive capital, overseeing and controlling it." (Jim Davis, <http://networks-dialectics.blogspot.com/2006/06/speculative-capital-as-dominant-sector.html>; See also, Jim Davis "Speculative Capital" [www.gocatgo.com/jdav.html](http://www.gocatgo.com/jdav.html)).

The dynamic of speculative capital is that it requires more and more money to satisfy its demands. By massive injections of liquidity into the U.S. banking system, Alan Greenspan, former chairman of the Federal Reserve and a loyal servant of the global capitalist class, was key in feeding the stock market and housing bubbles that have kept speculative capital expanding. "Greenspan presided over the greatest expansion of speculative finance in history" Henry C.K. Lieu, chairman of a New York private investment group, wrote in a series of articles for *Asia Times*, "including a trillion-dollar hedge-fund industry, bloated Wall Street firm balance sheets approaching \$2 trillion, a \$3.3 trillion

Whatever stability the global financial system derives from the combined interests of global capital and the actions of the US state pales in comparison with the instability created by this extremely predatory system

repurchase agreement market, and a global derivatives market with notational values surpassing an unfathomable \$220trillion." (<http://www.atimes.com/atimes/others/bubbleland.html>)

Pensions further feed the frenzy. At the end of 2003, retirement savings represented assets of over \$10 trillion, nearly half of which was held in stocks. These savings are by far the most important source of money on Wall Street. Speculative capital is stealing pensions from workers throughout Europe, Asia and the U.S. "[F]aced with a choice between living up to their pension promises or reporting higher net earnings, companies simply decided not to live up to their employee agreements." (Michael Hudson, *Harper's*, April, 2005). The proposed privatization of Social Security will destroy a secure source of income for older Americans while providing \$1.8 trillion to buoy up the stock market bubble. The failure to

pay pensions, and the aggressive attack on Social Security constitute a massive redistribution of wealth from working people to the capitalist class to continue its orgy of speculation.

The Federal Reserve, central banks, global economic institutions (such as the IMF, World Bank, and WTO), and the states of the major industrial countries work together to create the conditions for the expansion of speculative capital. The interests of an emerging global ruling class are served and protected by these national and international state institutions through a global system dominated militarily and politically by the U.S., as well as by U.S. domination of the global financial system through dollar hegemony.

## U.S. DOMINANCE OF THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL SYSTEM

U.S. dominance of the world's financial system has grown quantitatively since the end of World War II, setting the conditions for the qualitatively new world financial system of today. A brief history explains the unique position of the U.S. in the global economy.

The U.S. has dominated global finance since the end of WW II, when the major industrial powers established the institutions of global capital – the United Nations, GATT (precursor to WTO), the International Monetary Fund and World Bank. The Bretton Woods agreements (1944-1945) established a system of fixed exchange rates with the dollar pegged to gold at \$35 an ounce that secured U.S. financial dominance in line with its political and military dominance. Dollars became the reserve currency for the capitalist world. As the U.S. became a debtor country with its military spending far exceeding its exports, the growth of the world's monetary reserves came to depend on the foreign dollar balances created by the U.S. trade deficit.

In 1971, when international creditors lost confidence in the dollar and demanded payment for their dollars in gold, the U.S. defaulted on its payments, thus severing the link between gold and the dollar. During the 1973 Middle East crisis, the U.S. forced the oil-producing nations to denominate the sale of oil in dollars. This meant that other countries had to acquire sufficient quantities of dollars in order to purchase essential supplies of oil. The "petrodollars" accumulating in the hands of the oil producing countries were returned to the U.S. as investments, thus financing the U.S. deficit. Enabled by the international institutions of global finance, U.S. domination of the oil market and dollar hegemony, in a symbiotic relationship, have grown in significance over the years. The WTO imposes draconian free-market rules on everything

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The League of Revolutionaries for a New America is made up of people from all walks of life who are tied together by a common aim – the end of exploitation, the social ownership of the means of production, and the distribution of the products of society according to need.

This program for the reorganization of society is the only way to end the ecological, cultural, and spiritual devastation in our country and the world.

Society must be reorganized so that the abundance made possible by science and technology benefits all — a society that puts humanity above profits.

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except oil and currencies, and the IMF acts as the world's policeman in defense of dollar hegemony.

Since the advent of electronic technology and the rise of globalization, U.S. dominance of global finance has entered a qualitatively new stage. The federal government bailed out the Savings and Loan companies (1989) and Chrysler Corporation (1979) because their failure could have caused financial crisis and even depression. In a similar way today, any signs of faltering in the U.S. economy or sharp changes in the value of the dollar are met with rapid and decisive actions by the IMF and central banks of Europe and Asia to protect the dollar and the U.S. economy.

To do otherwise would put their own economies, and possibly the entire world economy, at risk of financial crisis and depression. "[T]he U.S. Treasury [has] run up an international debt of over \$600 billion, using the balance-of-payments deficit to finance not only its widening trade deficit but its federal budget deficit as well. To the extent that these Treasury IOUs are being built into the world's monetary base they will not have to be repaid, but are to be rolled over indefinitely. This feature is the essence of America's free financial ride, a tax imposed at the entire globe's expense." (Michael Hudson, *Super Imperialism*, 2003).

Contrary to the rhetoric of market fundamentalism and free trade that it imposes on the rest of the world, the

U.S. economy would be in its death throes if it had to live by the rules of the market and free trade.

The American market is an important source of profit for global capital. As wages decline and paychecks become inadequate to purchase the flood of commodities, consumer debt and fictitious wealth creation – through the stock market and housing bubbles – sustain the American consumer and the American market. Since the U.S. budget deficit is largely paid for by investment from foreign central banks, not by taxation, American corporations and labor have some protection from the intense competition of low-wage producing countries, such as China.

## **ECONOMIC POLARIZATION AND INSTABILITY**

Whatever stability the global financial system derives from the combined interests of global capital and actions of the American state pales in comparison with the instability created by this extremely predatory system of transferring wealth from the poorest to the wealthiest.

We are living in an epoch of change brought about by the introduction of digital electronic technology into production. The difference between the economic reality of this period of time and previous times is that every advance of technology into production now is labor-replacing rather than labor enhancing. The introduction of electronics into

production replaces human labor. When production can increase without an increase in labor, the value of labor power – and the value of life – begin to fall toward zero. Employed workers globally are competing with a "robot" that is not paid wages. Thus, capital is able to drive workers in production like slaves, with extended hours, intense exploitation, and starvation wages.

Directly or indirectly, every manipulation of money capital to expand speculation is at the expense of labor and the new proletariat. The interaction between speculative capital's world of "making money from money" and the real world of the common people – those of us who have to pay our debts and bills and buy commodities in order to survive – always leaves the common people gasping for breath, fighting to stay alive.

Capital's insatiable drive for more credit creation destroys the livelihood of the stable American middle-income working population that provides ideological and political support for American capital, and threatens the staples of the American dream – a steady job with benefits, home ownership, and retirement with pension and Social Security. The state institutions respond to this economic reality with callous indifference to human need. The inevitable social response is already underway worldwide. It is being – and will increasingly be – met with war, repression, and fascism.

## **AN EPOCH OF CHANGE**

History teaches us that classes ultimately determine the direction of social development. The emerging global capitalist class, dominated by speculative capital, is leading the motion to create a society based on a new form of private property and exploitation. As part of this process, we can also see the outlines of the formation of a fascist state imperialism that can operate to guarantee the interests of the capitalist while repressing all that seeks to challenge its rule.

The very same process of technological change and the restructuring of production is also creating a new global proletariat from the workers and potential workers replaced in production by electronic technology. The objective demand of this new proletarian class is for the distribution of the wealth of society according to the needs of the peoples of the world. Their objective demand is for communism. Whether war can be stopped and fascism prevented – with society reorganized around communal ownership and distribution according to need – will depend on the class consciousness, vision, ideological commitment, and organizational skills of the new global proletariat.

# Revolutionary Work Today: From Skill to Art

The era of transition from one economic formation to another is a time of social reorganization, or social revolution. It is the time when the fight for reform takes on the characteristics of revolution. It is the moment when revolutionary activity evolves from skill to the level of an art.

In the process of transition, the unity of social form and economic content that make up a society is broken. The old, static social organization becomes incompatible with the mobile changing economic content, which was its foundation. In such periods the revolutionary movement traditionally becomes disoriented. We should examine this process in order to avoid the organizational destruction that has decimated the Left.

First, what is the problem? Since social organization has not changed, problems such as racism, class political independence or labor union problems appear to be unchanged. However, since the economic content of society is undergoing change they are not the same old problems even though they appear to be.

Let us take the African American question as an example. In the not too

distant past African Americans were by law and custom second class citizens. The “No Colored Allowed” sign applied to the Black millionaire and pauper alike. Segregation, discrimination and

poverty were entwined. In 1938, 98% of African Americans lived in poverty. They were not discriminated against because they were poor, but because they were African American. Things have changed in seventy years. Changes in the means of production resulting in changes in political forces opened the door to changes in the African American question.

With a female Black Secretary of State, scores of Black Generals, corporate CEO’S, Mayors and Congresspersons, it is clear that the Black

bourgeoisie is thoroughly integrated into the general American bourgeoisie, African Americans no longer exist as a “People.” There is nothing in common to hold them together. Yet, the Black ghetto is as isolated, segregated and discriminated against today as a century ago. It appears that nothing has changed and we must fight the same old

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fight with the same old weapons.

There is still plenty of old fashioned racism to go around. In quantitative stages, the quality “poor” is replacing the quality “Black” in the new racism. The brunt of racism was directed against those who were Black and poor. Today, it is directed against those who are poor and Black. The new racism is not based on color and is not directed against the African Americans as a whole. Racism is not a scientific term. It is a political term. Therefore it changes with changing political circumstances.

Color and class are still intertwined.

The old is never abruptly replaced by the new. It is a question of which plays the leading role under what conditions. In 1960 a poor Black was denied the use of a restroom because he was Black. In 2006 the same poor Black is denied the use of a restroom because he is poor. Very probably it was a Black security guard that denied him permission.

Class and race are two different, but interconnected motions and cannot be fought out as if it were a single entity. Economically, the modern working class is monolithic. It includes all those who live by the sale of their labor or intellectual power. The social reality is another question. The class is composed of various, sometimes, warring groups. In America, the manipulation of “race” within and against “class” has kept the world’s potentially most powerful working class impotent and subservient to its masters. The question in America is not class or race, but class and race. As with all other phenomena, the interpenetration and transformation of these contradictory sides demand that revolutionaries concretely study the concrete problem and learn to “walk on two legs.” That demands paying strict attention to both aspects.

The lesson is that during this period of change the revolutionaries must consciously strive to think dialectically. That dialectic is based on the stubborn hanging on of the old against the irresistible quantitative development of the new.

## The Middle East and Our Tasks

*The Steering Committee of the League of Revolutionaries for a New America*

While the world watches in horror the bombing of Lebanon, the United States rushes a shipment of rockets and bunker-busting bombs to Israel.

The context of the conflict is the U.S. strategy to dominate the countries that produce energy resources, especially oil. To implement this strategy, the U.S. will destroy any country or people that gets in its way. This strategy is causing polarization and instability that can lead to catastrophic war. The suffering of the people in Gaza and Lebanon has galvanized the masses in the Middle East and is raising the moral indignation of everyone who respects humanity and justice.

The American people cannot depend on the Republican or Democratic Parties to change this strategy. They are the representatives of the corporations, the big

banks, and the ruling class. This ruling class is dragging the world into something horrible, a war of unimaginable destruction. It is our sons and daughters who have to do the fighting for these banks and corporations and our taxes pay for it. Already, in Iraq we have lost 2,600 soldiers dead and upwards of 18,000 wounded; Iraqi dead number over one hundred thousand. We cannot do it overnight, but we must put a stop to this madness.

Revolutionaries in the U.S must develop the independent thinking of the American masses by working with them in their fight against the corporations. Through this process the masses will understand that their interests and the interests of the corporations are not the same. This would be a first step in putting the American people along a path to confronting our true enemy – the 3% of the U.S. population that lives off the plunder and suffering of the rest of the American

people and the world.

As powerful as the U.S. is, it does have an Achilles heal: our government will not solve our lack of housing, jobs, health, destruction of the environment, and deteriorating living standards because the U.S. is pouring money into the war machine. Only a fight for power can make the rulers the ruled and put the “bottom rail” on top. Only then can we begin to solve the problems that threaten world destruction.

# Revolution and the Role of New Ideas

The history of revolution shows that fundamental change in society does not occur without the introduction of new ideas. What we have in our favor today, over any other historical period, is that the conditions are favorable for abolishing private property forever. Millions are being propelled into motion against the capitalist system, but revolutionary transformation cannot take place unless there is an understanding of the root of the problem and the solution. Poverty and oppression, or even the energy of a global movement against today's horrendous conditions – only create the opportunity for change. They have never on their own created revolution. Only a vision of what's possible can do that. That's what we mean when we talk about introducing new ideas. What's new today is that a society that nourishes the material, intellectual, spiritual and cultural needs of all its people is possible. The role of revolutionaries is to help align the people's thinking with the possibilities of today.

## HOW REVOLUTION COMES ABOUT

Once the objective conditions for revolution are in place, the intellectual development of the people is key to revolution. By objective, we mean those processes that exist independent of thought – the qualitative changes in the means of production that disrupt the economic and social order. In this era automation and globalization have created an explosion of destitute people who are living in urban slums.

Revolution comes about as a result of conscious revolutionaries utilizing the objective changes to develop the subjective side of the revolution. By subjective, we mean the ideological expressions in peoples' minds about the objective processes – their beliefs, hopes, and visions, their religious and spiritual life. This ideological process – that is, what people think and believe – is currently dominated by the ruling class. Revolutionaries focus their activity here.

Revolutionaries must bring the people a vision of what the new material conditions make possible. Today, a world of plenty is being created by the new technology. Without this vision, people will always fall prey to the ideas of their rulers who limit the struggle to reform. With new thinking, the people can play their role in making history. New ideas are therefore the most revolutionary thing there is. In this sense, the subjective is key.

## HOW DO WE KNOW REVOLUTION IS POSSIBLE?

Many see the changes in the economy today as only an intense stage of contradiction within the capitalist system. They see job loss, but also job creation. Their conclusion is that only reform is possible today. But an accumulation of facts doesn't make an objective analysis. It's the scientific understanding of what those facts mean that allows revolutionaries to make assessments that allow for correct strategy and tactics.

Revolutionaries use the scientific method to accurately estimate a situation and then align their propaganda and intellectual efforts to the task at hand.

The intellectual development of the people is key to revolution. With new thinking, the people can play their role in making history. New ideas are therefore the most revolutionary thing there is.

Based on the conclusions of observation, study and experimentation, they make political decisions on how to move history forward. Without this approach, they cannot accurately determine what ideas and organizational forms must be introduced to the movement at each stage of the revolution.

Scientific investigation relies on historical conclusions. Any investigation of society begins with the conclusions about social phenomena observed for centuries. That is, social revolution begins with the emergence of qualitatively new means of production in the economy and ends with the reorganization of society around the new tools.

Therefore, the League of Revolutionaries for a New America started its inquiry by asking – is something qualitatively new going on in the economy today? It became clear that production with labor replacing technologies such as robots and computers was setting in motion the destruction of a society based on wage labor.

Observation, experience and research showed that new labor-replacing technology – robots and computers – had been introduced into production. For example, Ford's River Rouge auto plant employed 60,000 workers in the late 1940s. In the early 1990s, after the introduction of new technology, it had greater production with only 16,000 workers. Michigan today is still the

leading auto-producing state, yet it has the highest unemployment in the nation. The robot is permanently replacing workers. The social effects have been devastating. In the wealthiest nation in the world, Detroit alone has 45,000 people too poor to afford water for their homes.

This was only one of the many indications that something qualitatively new was happening in society. We could see that production with robots is an antagonism to a society based on wage labor. The capitalist system, based on buying and selling of labor power, is being irreversibly destroyed.

As significant for revolutionaries, this process is creating a revolutionary new social force – a new class – which

forces and the world of plenty science and technology makes possible until a powerful, conscious mass of people makes it happen. Once again, this is why the subjective, intellectual process is the leading factor in revolution.

Our country's history offers ample warning of the consequences of failing to align peoples' thinking with the possibilities offered by the objective changes. After the Civil War, the possibility of a more democratic America existed for the American people. Despite the tremendous upheavals and opportunities offered, the workers never gave up the ideology of the capitalists and they never took the program of the Freedman as their program. The result was the concentration of wealth in the hands of a few, and the subjugation of all workers through the oppression of the African-Americans.

Today, the future of humanity is at stake. The task is clear. The new class must become conscious of its own interests as a class. It must become conscious of its own practical strivings for a world where the fruits of society are distributed to all regardless of ability to pay. It is the role of revolutionaries to utilize all possible means – through speaking, writing, and cultural expressions to point the way out of humanity's crisis. Armed with such an understanding, the new class can fulfill its historical mission to take society toward a new world. The League of Revolutionaries for a New America has taken up this task. Join us.

is being cast out of the capitalist system with no way to survive without fighting the system. It is this class that can provide the social energy to overturn the capitalist system.

These conclusions pointed to an even greater urgency that revolutionaries line their activity up with this new reality. The objective factors are in place. The only solution to the ills of today is to gain the political power to create a new society. A moment is coming when the people will be able to choose what kind of society that will be. Will they choose and fight for an economic paradise, or fall prey to the manipulations of the ruling class only to find themselves living in a fascist society? The answers will be determined by what revolutionaries do. Science helps us describe the new situation, stay on course, and provide the understanding and vision to insure victory.

## NEW IDEAS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

Capitalism, a system based on the buying and selling of labor power, is coming to an end, but there is no guarantee that private property will end. Private property has been in existence since the overthrow of primitive communal society. The rulers have no intention of giving up their age-old privileges. They won't unleash the privately owned gigantic new productive